

Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
December 2, 2018
First Sunday of Advent

Waiting with Hope

Today we begin the season of Advent, a season of expectation, watching, and waiting for the coming birth of Christ. Waiting is often the last thing we want to do. Waiting requires trust; it requires acknowledging our lack of control; it requires restraint and delayed satisfaction. Waiting is *hard*. We much prefer certainty, control, and immediacy over the uncertainty and vulnerability of waiting.

In the gospel text for today, Jesus speaks of a time of great uncertainty, when even the celestial bodies will be unmoored from their orbits. He speaks of people waiting in great fearfulness for what these signs might portend—and then he indicates that all the chaos and tumult are actually signs that the kingdom of God is near. What are we to make of such a statement?

When Jesus describes chaos as a sign of God's reign, it is not because God's reign brings destruction. Rather, it is a sign because God chooses to be born in the middle of the tumult and uncertainty that is this world. When all seems lost and like our waiting is hopeless, God's kingdom comes. When our lives seem wildly uncertain and when waiting seems unbearable, our need for a savior *will* be fulfilled in Christ. As we prayerfully anticipate the birth of Jesus in a world that is unstable and broken, Jesus assures us that we can wait with true hope, not uncertainty and fear. Hope because God's promises far outlast everything in heaven and on earth. Hope because Jesus' love encompasses even the biggest storm we may wait through. Hope because God's reign brings us a completeness that we can anticipate with joy. Hope because the kingdom of God will always be far more surprising than we can imagine.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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BEFORE WORSHIP

Please fill out our Participation Card and place it in the offering plate every Sunday. This card helps the ministry of both the Congregational Care and Community Outreach Committees. Sometimes there are additional questions on the back of the card, so don't forget to check both sides of the card.

First Sunday of Advent

December 2, 2018

The season of Advent is a time of preparation for the expected Messiah, who came in an unexpected way, as the baby Jesus. The color of the season is blue (like the night sky), representing the Christ who is called Dayspring (source of day).

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Pre- Service Music

Grace Notes (8 am)
Come All Ye Shepherds

Clapper Kids / Grace Notes (10:45 am)
Gentle Mary

Welcome/Worship Instructions

Arise in body or Spirit

Gathering Hymn

Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying

ELW 436 (red book)

The CELEBRATION OF LIGHT ON THE ADVENT WREATH - Prophecy Candle

- P** From the one who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty God: grace, light and peace be with you all.
- C** **And also with you.**

- A** In the darkness we light a flame of hope.
- C** **May it dance not only upon our Advent Wreath but within each of our hearts.**

- P** Hope is the flower that blooms from the ground of faith.
- C** **With joy we celebrate the light on this Advent Candle in prayerful expectation.**

- A** This dancing flame sings out that the reign of God, that pure light is slowly dawning in our world.
- C** **Let this Advent season, now beginning, bring us a new birth of hope in the ancient promise of God.**

I

Angels singing in the heavens of the Savior promised long.
 Ev’ry heart shall op-en to God, ev’ry voice li-ft high in song.
 Come and worship, Come and worship. Ev’ry voice lift high in song.

II

Through the darkness of these da-ys, Christ shall come and enter in.
 With the message of salvation; we no more are slaves to sin.
 Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We no more are slaves to sin.

III

We have come to seek God’s presence. In this place to worship Christ.
 We await Christ’s new returning. Seeking God’s redeeming grace.
 Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Seeking God’s redeeming grace.

IV

Glory, laud, all honor, blessing to the King whose reign shall come.
 Praise and thanks and adoration, Father, Son and Spirit, One.
 God is coming! God is coming! Father, Son and Spirit One.

The RESPONSIVE LITANY of HOPE

P With open hearts we await you
C Come, Lord Jesus.

A With open arms we beckon you
C Come, Lord Jesus.

P With open mouths we greet you
C Come, Lord Jesus.

Prayer of the Day

A Let us pray, Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.
C By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Sit

First Reading

Jeremiah 33:14-16

In the Old Testament, “righteousness” often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today’s reading, Jerusalem’s future name—“The Lord is our righteousness”—proclaims that the Lord is even now working salvation for Israel.

📖 A reading from **Jeremiah:**

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The LORD is our righteousness.”

📖 Lord God, your Word is a lamp to our feet,

🎵 we give you thanks and praise.



Psalm 25

¹To | you, O LORD,

I lift | up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**

³Let none who look to you be | put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your | ways, O LORD,
and teach | me your paths. 🎵**

⁵Lead me in your | truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.

⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,
for they are from | everlasting. 🎵**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your good- | ness,

O LORD.

⁸**You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.**

⁹You lead the low- | ly in justice
and teach the low- | ly your way.

¹⁰**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast | love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your | testimonies. **

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Upon Timothy's report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church.

 A reading from **1 Thessalonians:**

⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

 Lord God, your Word is a lamp to our feet,

 **we give you thanks and praise.**

Arise is body or Spirit

Gospel Acclamation



 Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel Reading

Luke 21:25-36

God will fulfill God's purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption.

☞ The Holy Gospel, according to **Luke**.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] ²⁵“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

☞ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sit

Children's Time

All children [including infants] and youth who desire to come forward for the children's sermon are welcomed and encouraged to do so. Parents/caregivers are welcome to accompany their child during the children's message. There may be a time of dance and celebration that is offered.

Message

Silence for reflection

Hymn of the Day

Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding

ELW 246

Kneel or sit as able.

Prayers

A With messengers of hope from heaven and earth, and standing in the presence of God, let us offer our prayers.

A brief silence.

A Equip your church, merciful God. Secure our roots in the soil of your eternal word. Ease our worries and remove our shame. Grow our faithfulness and let your steadfast love blossom among us. Embolden your church to take up the cross against the powers of oppression and death, and guide the faith of our bishops and congregations and all the servants of your church, including *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants Chrysanne, David and Roseanne; our synod companion churches, Zion Lutheran Church in Woodland, Nashville Baptist Church; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* We lift our hearts to you,

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

A Sustain your creation, holy God. Water the parched soil. Restore depleted fields. Send farmers, forest rangers, and gardeners to care for fig trees and wheat fields, gardens and arboretums. Increase our love for the land. We lift our hearts to you,

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

A Grow peace within us, abundant God. Raise up leaders in every community grounded in your justice and mercy. Increase their love for all people. Protect the lives of those who serve in the military, including *Zack Green (Mikolajczyks), Parker Stancil (Freedlunds), Alexis and Dylan Kelmer, Austin and Aaron Endsley (Burdicks) and Kayla and Lance Champaco (Pohls).* We lift our hearts to you,

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

A Feed the hungry, living God. Gather our harvest into a feast for our neighbors. Move us to nurture those who are bereaved and lonely. Empower those living with HIV/AIDS and all who are sick We pray especially for *Dan Anderson, Ellie Clark, Vicky Dame, Colleen Endsley, Opal Gillons, Wes Gillons, Karl Golnek, Nikki Haddix, Cameron Haddix, Charlene Hall, Delmer Hansen, Larry Hansen, Mary Jane Hayner, Tim Lowe, Kailie Triick, George Ulrich Jr., and Sue Walker.* We lift our hearts to you,

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

A Increase our joy, wondrous God. Plant thanksgiving in our hearts and multiply the good fruit of our outreach ministries and creation care programs. Guide us in our service to local and global neighbors. We lift our hearts to you,

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

A Be attentive, gracious God, to the individual petitions we lift to you in loud voice or in the silence of our hearts.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A We lift our hearts to you,

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

☐ In thanksgiving, we remember all who have died and now rest in your glory. Hold all who mourn in the comfort of your eternal light and bring us to delight in the new life you promise. We lift our hearts to you,

☑ **Come, Lord Jesus.**

☐ Confident that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we bring to you these prayers and those unspoken, in the name of Christ, our Savior and Lord.

☑ **Amen.**

Offering of Gifts and Music

Grace Notes (8 am)

Clapper Kids (10:45 am)

Huron Carol

Joy Bells

Everyone at worship is encouraged to fill out a Participation card and place it in the offering plate every Sunday morning.

Arise in body or spirit.

Let the Vineyards

☑ Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed, we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,
and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Offering Prayer

A Let us pray . . . God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives.

C Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

Sharing the Peace of God

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

(We share the peace of Christ with one another.)

Great Thanksgiving



P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.



P Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
 Lord God of pow'r and might, heav-en and earth are
 full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed, bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the
 Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Eucharistic Prayer

- ☐ Holy God, the Beginning and the End, our Salvation and our Hope, we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.
- ☑ **When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair, you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy. At this end of the ages your Son Jesus came to bring us your love and to heal all the suffering world.**

- ☐ In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await Christ's coming again in righteousness and peace.

- ☑ **Send your Spirit on us and on this bread and wine we share.**

- ☞ Strengthen our faith, increase our hope, and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.
- ☞ **Through Christ all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. Amen**

Lord's Prayer

- ☞ Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- ☞ **Our Father in heaven, holy be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

- ☞ Come to the table of grace.
- ☞ **Thanks be to God.**

Sit

Communion at Grace

All who are present are invited to receive Holy Communion. This sacrament is a gift to all who come with open hands and open hearts to the presence of Jesus.

✠ **Bread** is served by the Pastor. **Wine** is served from a *common cup* by the Assisting Minister.

✠ If you need gluten free bread, please let the Pastor know when you come forward.

✠ If you prefer wine from the *pouring chalice* in an **individual cup**, take an empty cup from the tray and have it filled by the Worship Assistant. Return the individual chalice/cup to the basket provided.

✠ **Grape Juice** is provided in the pre-filled cups in the center of the serving tray.

✠ A **Verbal Blessing** may be given by the Pastor, if you do not wish to commune.

✠ If you wish **communion brought to you** in the pew, please notify the usher.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
 have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, have mer - cy.
 Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
 have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, have mer - cy.
 Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

My Lord, What a Morning

ELW 438

What Feast of Love

ELW 487

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

ELW 490

Prayer after Communion

- Ⓐ God of promise, you give food to those who hunger and justice to those who are oppressed.
- Ⓑ As you have nourished us in this meal, send us to proclaim the coming of your righteous reign; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Congregational announcements

Arise in body or spirit

Blessing

☐ God grant you harmony as you live with one another in accordance with Jesus Christ, as we live in the blessing of almighty God, Father, † Son and Holy Spirit, now and always.

☑ **Amen.**

*All children and youth, as well as the young at heart and playful spirits, are invited to come forward to make music and dance during the Sending Hymn. Please choose one instrument to play or one scarf to use for waving and dancing. **In the weeks to come this will end and be replaced during Children's Time.***

Sending Song

People, Look East

ELW 248

Dismissal

☐ The night is far gone, the day is near. Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Students and adults are invited to come up for a closer look at the bells & chimes during the closing music. Your participation is encouraged and welcomed.

Closing Music

Grace Notes (8 am)
Ding Dong Merrily on High

Clapper Kids (10:45 am)
In the Bleak Midwinter

Week at a Glance

Sunday, December 2nd	Services at 8:00 am and 10:45 am Bells Ring Pageant Practice 9:15 am Adult Forum 9:30 am Children's Church 10:45 am
Monday, December 3rd	Social Activities 6:30 pm
Tuesday, December 4th	Executive 6:00 pm
Wednesday, December 5th	Advent Service 6 pm Meal (Bells Ring) 7 pm Service
Thursday, December 6th	Clapper Kids 3:45 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:15 pm
Saturday, December 8th	Holly Trolley 6-8 pm

Today's Worship Leaders

	8:00 am	10:45 am
Assisting Minister	Randy Teegardin	Mark Anton
Cantor	Mark Anton	Vickey Argo
Lector	Carl Schoessel	Sandy Mosteller
Communion Server	Brenda Teegardin	Laura Scheck
Acolyte/Crucifer	Mark Anton	Lance Ogden
Usher	Tom & Cheryl Drumm	Joe Longcor & Gwen Hansen
Greeter/Coffee Hr.	Tom & Cheryl Drumm	Eve Wright & Jeanette Markwart
Children's Church		Kim & Lydia Markwart
Table Guild	Lisa Golnek	
Bread Maker	Laura Scheck	

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders, December 9, 2018

	8:00 am	10:45 am
Assisting Minister	Chris Bush	Traci Wales
Cantor	Jack Vos	Mark Anton
Lector	Chris Bush	Carol Morgan
Communion Server	Jan Schreiner	Diane Neeb
Acolyte/Crucifer	Volunteer	Hope Peck
Usher	John Burdick & Kay Marsh	Doug & Diane Neeb
Greeter/Coffee Hr.	Jack & Carol Vos	John & Mary Kleinbrink
Children's Church		Doug & Diane Neeb
Table Guild	Lisa Golnek	
Bread Maker	Laura Scheck	

Stewardship Information

Worshippers last week: **81** Weekly Giving: **\$2,623.00** Budget Amount: \$4,576.53

Adult Forum will study today the book of Matthew, where Jesus is proclaimed a Hometown Prophet. Next week, we will study how Jesus is Pure Through and Through.

We welcome the Grace Notes and the Clapper Kids, as the bell choirs ring today during worship. The bells will also ring this Wednesday evening, December 5th at our Advent Service.

Advent Services *Journey into the LIGHT* on three Wednesdays. Wednesday nights of December 5, 12 and 19 we gather for a meal and worship. The meal begins at 6:00 pm followed by worship at 7:00 pm. If you cannot make the meal, please join us for worship.

Brothers of Grace Christmas Dinner Night Out. Attention all men you are invited to join BOG at the Seasonal Grille on Tuesday December 11, 2018 at 6:00 p.m., for the annual Christmas Dinner. If you haven't done so yet please sign-up on the sheet in the gathering area.

Vocal choir rehearsals will begin this Thursday, December 6th at 7:15 pm. Grace Choir will sing December 9th and Christmas Eve. If you want to sing and Thursday evening rehearsals do not work for you, please talk to Cindy Olson, so that we can make other arrangements.

Cards for Homebound: Please sign up for sending cards out to our homebound on the sheet hanging on the side of the mailboxes.

Holly Trolley December 8th from 6:00 – 8:00 pm on the Court House Lawn. We will have Christmas cookies, hot chocolate, carols and fellowship! We hope that you can come and join in the festivities as we share the love of Jesus in this special way.

The Social Activities Committee would like to invite you to **Jesus' Birthday Party**; a pot luck luncheon after the 10 a.m. service on December 16th. A sign up sheet has been posted on the board in the Gathering Space. Help us celebrate **the reason for the season!**

Giving Tree is ready to accept articles such as mittens, scarves, hats, socks, shoes and cleaning supplies, such as paper towels, ammonia, bathroom spray cleaners, etc. Just bring in what cleaning supply you like to use, and it will be appreciated.

Mutual Ministry is here for you. If there is a ministry concern, please contact Brenda Teegardin. Brenda is the chair of the Mutual Ministry Committee and can be reached by a phone call or a text message at 616.560.5910. Each week there will be a featured different member to contact. Pre-Service Hymn Sing December 30th!