

Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
December 1, 2019
First Sunday of Advent

Hurry! Hurry! Slow! Slow!

“Yalla! Yalla! Hurry!” shouted Yusef in a friendly, if impatient, order to his laggardly collection of travelers. He was their Palestinian guide. His Arabic “Yalla! Yalla!”—a plea as predictable as breath itself—urged them with the honking determination of a mother goose prodding disoriented goslings. Through the old city’s ancient labyrinth of streets, shopkeepers’ cries of “Schwei! Schwei!” (“Slow! Slow!”) prefaced their own seductive plea for these same travelers to come in and spend. But the shopkeepers’ mixed hopes of calculating and managing the day and its hours were lost in the fray of “yalla” and “schwei.”

About the day and the hour no one knows.

Predictions are pointless, Jesus tells his disciples. What they wanted to know, he says, neither angels nor even the Son could tell them. Upon their first hearing, these words of Jesus may whistle by, their sharp edge of warning falling on the dull side of awareness. In our attempts to manage the unknown, we miss the unexpectedness of the Son of Man’s coming.

Jesus’ cosmic alert, among the last of his teachings before his death in Jerusalem, leads the church’s Advent procession toward his very earthly birth in Bethlehem. Jesus’ coming to us is beyond our attempts to manage, exempt from schedules, and unaffected by our pleas. “Yalla! Yalla! Schwei! Schwei!” To no avail.

Yet, we are still prompted to be ready for the unknown. How can that puzzle be solved? Only fools and charlatans compute the hours that even angels cannot assign. The answer to the divine riddle will not be revealed by asking “When?” Perhaps the question is “How?” Or, better yet, we may begin with “Where?” The rough and ragged chill of a Bethlehem stable is a good place to begin . . . a clue for the mystery ahead.

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 1, 2019



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, which means source of day.

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Welcome/Worship Instructions

Arise in body or Spirit

Gathering Hymn

Joy to the World

ELW 267 (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 save us from the threatening dangers of our sins and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Sit

First Reading

Isaiah 2:1-5

The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshipping community responds: "Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!"

L A reading from **Isaiah:**

¹The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. ²In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. ³Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ⁴He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. ⁵O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

I was glad when they said to me,
 "Let us go to the house of the LORD."

Psalm 122

- ¹I was glad when they | said to me,
 "Let us go to the house | of the LORD."
- ²**Now our | feet are standing
 within your gates, | O Jerusalem.**
- ³Jerusalem is built | as a city
 that is at unity | with itself;
- ⁴**to which the tribes go up, the tribes | of the LORD,
 the assembly of Israel, to praise the name | of the LORD. ☩**
- ⁵For there are the | thrones of judgment,
 the thrones of the | house of David.
- ⁶**Pray for the peace | of Jerusalem:**
 "May they pros- | per who love you.
- ⁷Peace be with- | in your walls
 and quietness with- | in your towers.
- ⁸**For the sake of my kindred | and companions,
 I pray for | your prosperity.**
- ⁹Because of the house of the | LORD our God,
 I will seek to | do you good." ☩

Second Reading

Romans 13:11-14

Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ's coming in the future.

☐ A reading from **Romans**:

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

☐ The word of the Lord.

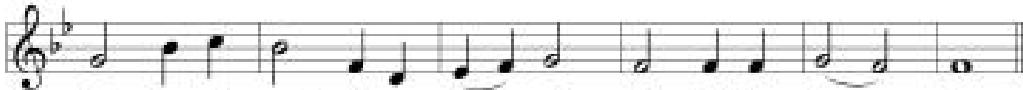
☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia



☑ 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

Matthew 24:36-44

Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives. Therefore, he urges people to stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced.

☐ The Holy Gospel, according to **Matthew**:

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be

taken and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

☞ 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

Arise in body or spirit

Song of the Day

My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness

ELW 251

Kneel or sit as able.

Prayer

☞ Keeping awake as we watch for Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

☞ Not knowing the day or hour of your coming, O Lord, the church cries to you. Strengthen the church in the land of Jesus’ birth. Wherever Christians gather, empower them to proclaim love and defy the powers of sin and evil. Guide the faith of our bishops and congregations and all the servants of your church, including *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David and Roseanne; our synod companion churches Mamrelund Lutheran Church, Kent City; Peace Church, Middleville; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* We lift our hearts to you,

☞ **Come, Lord Jesus.**

☞ Not knowing the day or hour of your coming, O Lord, your creation cries to you. Sustain the balance of all living things. Protect the earth from drought, bitter cold, eroding coastlines, and fires and floods, that the earth may flourish. We lift our hearts to you,

☞ **Come, Lord Jesus.**

☞ Not knowing the day or hour of your coming, O Lord, the nations cry to you. Bring justice to the marginalized, courage to peacemakers, wisdom to leaders, and hope to generations who have only known conflict, oppression, or poverty. Protect the lives of those who serve in the military, including *Zack Green (Mikolajczyks), Parker Stancil (Freedlunds), Cody and Myrina Crawford (Clements), Alexis and Dylan Kelmer, Austin and Aaron Endsley (Burdicks), Brandon and Stevi*

Kay Miller (McManaway), Brady Rudesill (Hansen), Joel Taggart (Varkulas), Kayla and Lance Champaco (Pohls), and Julia Ehredt (Schrieners, Halsteads). We lift our hearts to you,

☩ Come, Lord Jesus.

Ⓐ Not knowing the day or hour of your coming, O Lord, your people cry to you. God of all generations, we praise you and thank you for children of all ages. From those who are days old to our oldest member here at Grace of 100 years old. We ask you to help us be open to your direction as we seek a Youth and Family Committee chair. We thank you for our interim chair. We lift our hearts to you,

☩ Come, Lord Jesus.

Ⓐ Not knowing the day or hour of your coming, O Lord, your people cry to you. Comfort those separated from loved ones by distance, estrangement, or loss. Help us as we care for others and rely on others' care. including, *Gary Burdick, Penny Burdick, James Colvin, Irene Corr, family of Sharon Curd, Mark Furrow, Karl Golnek, Cathy Hallaxs, Delmer Hansen, Norma Ludlow, Tom Marlow, Kalie Triick, George Ulrich Jr., Pat Wagner, Rusty Wilkins, Cameron, Lynnze, and Vicky.* We lift our hearts to you,

☩ Come, Lord Jesus.

Ⓐ Not knowing the day or hour of your coming, O Lord, this congregation cries to you. Guide our worship, service, and outreach, that our hearts and hands may be opened in generosity toward others. We lift our hearts to you,

☩ Come, Lord Jesus.

Ⓐ 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.

Ⓐ Not knowing the day or hour of your coming, O Lord, we remember those whose days on earth have ended, who live now in your eternal love. Remind us of their faithful witness, that their example might inspire our daily living. We lift our hearts to you,

☩ Come, Lord Jesus.

Ⓟ You hear the cries of our hearts, O Lord. Fill us with hopeful expectation, that in each day and hour we may love and serve our neighbors, in Jesus' name.

☩ Amen.

Sit

Offering of Gifts and Music

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

Arise in body or spirit

Offertory

Create in Me



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me.
Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take not your
Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up -
hold me with your free Spir - it.
Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me.

Offering Prayer

- Ⓐ Let us pray . . . God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives.
- Ⓑ Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen

Table Prayer

- Ⓟ Holy God, our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food, you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance.
- ☞ **You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life, and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven. You sent your Son to eat with sinners and to become food for the 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. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

- ☞ **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**
- Ⓟ Remembering, therefore, Christ's life given for us and his rising from the grave, we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast.
- ☞ **By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal: strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want.**
- Ⓟ By this bread and cup make of us the body 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

- Ⓟ Taste and see that the Lord is good.
- ☞ **Thanks be to God.**

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

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

Come, Let Us Eat

ELW 481

Come to the Table

ELW 491

Let Us Break Bread Together

ELW 471

Sending of Communion *(only if needed)*

- Ⓐ Gracious God, as you raised Jesus from the dead, you give new life through bread and wine: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are *homebound*. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- ☒ **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

- Ⓐ O God, our life, our strength, our food, we give you thanks for sustaining us with the body and blood of your Son.
- ☒ **By your Holy Spirit, enliven us to be Christ's body in the world, that more and more we will give you praise and serve your earth and its many peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Mission Minutes

Arise in body or spirit.

Blessing

- Ⓐ God's blessing be with you, Christ's peace be with you, the Spirit's outpouring be with you all, now and always.
- ☒ **Amen.**

Sending Song

Soon and Very Soon

ELW 439

Dismissal

- Ⓐ Surrounded by God's people of every time and place, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
- ☒ **Thanks be to God.**

Week at a Glance

Sunday, December 1	Worship Services at 8 am and 10:45 am Church School 10:45 am
Monday, December 2	Social Activities 5:00 pm
Tuesday, December 3	Executive 6 pm Flute Choir 7 pm
Wednesday, December 4	Advent Meal 6 pm; Special Music/Flute Choir 6:50 pm Prayer Service 7:00 pm
Thursday, December 5	Clapper Kids 3:45 pm Grace Notes 5:45 pm

Today's Worship Leaders

	8:00 am	10:45 am
Assisting Minister	Randy Teegardin	Ethan Scheck
Cantor	Jack Vos	Vickey Argo
Lector	Carol Vos	Sandy Mosteller
Communion Server	Jan Schreiner	Mark Anton
Acolyte/Crucifer	Volunteer	Lance Ogden
Usher	Tom & Cheryl Drumm	Joe Longcor / Gwen Hansen
Greeter/Coffee Hr.	Tom & Cheryl Drumm	Eve Wright / Jeanette Markwart
Children's Church	~	Kate Watson
Table Guild	Lisa Golnek	
Bread Maker	Laura Scheck	

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders, December 8, 2019

	8:00 am	10:45 am
Assisting Minister	Chris Bush	Mark Anton
Cantor	Pastor Ken	Mark Anton
Lector	Jack Vos	Carol Morgan
Communion Server	Brenda Teegardin	Sandy Mosteller
Acolyte/Crucifer	Volunteer	Volunteer
Usher	John Burdick / Kay Marsh	Ed Domke / Sandy Mosteller
Greeter/Coffee Hr.	Jack & Carol Vos	Doug Neeb
Children's Church	~	Shayna Gibbons
Table Guild	Lisa Golnek	
Bread Maker	Laura Scheck	

Stewardship Information

Worshippers last week: 101 Weekly Giving: \$3,969.00 Budget Amount: \$4,617.93

Vern Allarding entered the Church Triumphant Tuesday, November 26. Funeral services will be held tomorrow morning at 11:00 am with visitation at 10:00 and a luncheon following the service.

Adult Forum will begin a study on the book of *Romans* today. Come join us in the conference room at 9:30 am.

Social Activities Mtg tomorrow at 5:00 pm.

Executive Mtg Tuesday at 6:00 pm.

First Wednesday Advent Service on December 4th. There will be Lasagna, salads and desserts. The *Barry County Flute Choir* will perform. Our meal will begin at 6:00 with the proceeds going to the choir. Our theme for worship Wednesday will focus on *Reflected Light*. The following week we will have tacos, the Bell Choir will perform, and our theme will be *Healing Light*.

Christmas Family Adoption – Gifts and Christmas dinner boxes. We plan to adopt 6 families this year (18 children total). Gift boards are set up in the gathering area with tags for each child (2 gifts each) and instructions for returning gifts to the church

Bell Choirs will be performing next Sunday during both services.

Calling all men to join us for our annual B.O.G. Christmas Dinner Night Out on Tuesday, December 10th at 6:00 pm. Be sure to see the sign up sheet in the gathering area. Hope to see a lot of you there!

Holly Trolley – Thurs., Dec. 12, 5:00-8:00 PM We will again be handing out hot cocoa and cookies to people waiting to board the Holly Trolley on the evening of Dec. 12. Sign-up sheets are posted for donations of cookies (about 12 dozen needed) and volunteers to serve or transport items from the church to the courthouse lawn.

Do you sing? Do you read in public? Do you love Jesus? The worship committee is preparing an intergenerational presentation of Christ's birth on **December 15, 2019**. At the 10:45 am worship we will experience *All Ye Faithful*. Share your talent to the glory of God. There will not be a full run through or rehearsal, but on that morning, you can come early to practice your speaking part, sing in your group or play your instrument after the 8:00 am ADVENT worship. *We are asking the congregation to purchase and bring packages of diapers that will be presented to the Holy Child.*

Women of Faith – Mark your calendars! We are having our December gathering at Applebee's on Tuesday, December 17th at 1:00 pm. Please put your name on the sign up sheet in the gathering area for a table count.

Kristi Winick is our mutual ministry contact for the week, please use the following cell phone number to reach her or leave a message: 269.953.6638.

Nursery Now Available! Grace now has a Nursery Attendant for your children during both worship services. We are pleased to welcome *Heather Albright* to our staff for the loving care of God's young ones!