



Grace Lutheran Church

Hastings, Michigan

First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2020



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

Gathering Music

Arrival of the Queen of Sheba

Handel

The CELEBRATION OF LIGHT ON THE ADVENT WREATH - Prophecy Candle

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

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

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

- Ⓐ This dancing flame sings out that the reign of God, that pure light is slowly dawning in our world.
- Ⓞ **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 awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

First Reading

Isaiah 64:1-9

This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.

L A reading from **Isaiah:**

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—²as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! ³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. ⁴From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. ⁵You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. ⁶We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. ⁷There is no one who calls on your name or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. ⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**



☞ = Refrain

Let your face shine up - on us and
we shall be saved, and we shall be saved.

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph | like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- | on the cherubim.

**²In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, | and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and | come to help us.**

³Restore | us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

**⁴O LORD | God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your | people pray? ☞**

⁵You have fed them with the | bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of | tears to drink.

**⁶You have made us the derision | of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh | us to scorn.**

⁷Restore us, O | God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

**¹⁷Let your hand be upon the one at | your right hand,
the one you have made so strong | for yourself. ☞**

¹⁸And so will we never turn a- | way from you;
give us life, that we may call up- | on your name.

**¹⁹Restore us, O LORD | God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved. ☞**

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.

☐ A reading from **1 Corinthians**:

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

ELW 257

Stanza 1 & 2

The musical score is written on four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are printed below the notes. The first two staves contain the main melody with two verses of lyrics. The third staff is marked 'Refrain' and contains the chorus. The fourth staff concludes the piece with a double bar line.

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;

Refrain
un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!

Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Gospel Reading

Mark 13:24-37

Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.

📖 The Holy Gospel, according to **Mark:**

🔊 **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] ²⁴“In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

📖 The Gospel of the Lord.

🔊 **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children’s Time

Message

Silence for reflection





1 Soon and ver - y soon
 2 No more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
 3 No more dy - in' there,
 4 Soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon
 no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
 no more dy - in' there,
 soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon
 no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King.
 no more dy - in' there,
 soon and ver - y soon



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!

Coda after stanza 4



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu -



jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

Apostles Creed

A We confess our faith as one body in Christ Jesus:

C **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayer

A God of power and might, tear open the heavens and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

A brief silence.

A We pray for the ministry we share in Christ’s name. Open our hearts to your call for justice, peace, and healing. Attune us to the needs of the world as you draw near. 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 Zion Lutheran Church, Woodland; Lakewood United Methodist Church, Lake Odessa; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* We lift our hearts to you,

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

A We pray for this planet in need of restoration: for devastated habitats, polluted waters, thawing ice, blazing fires, swelling floods, and long-lasting droughts. Renew the face of the earth and our relationship to it. We lift our hearts to you,

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

A We pray for all people who care for others in our community and around the world. Fill them with compassion and the power to respond with justice for those who are oppressed, with welcome for those who are excluded, and with relief for those who suffer. Protect the lives of those who serve in the military, including *Parker Stancil (Freedlunds), Cody and Myrina Crawford (Clements), Austin and Aaron Endsley, Alexis and Carlos Garcia (Burdicks), Brandon and Stevi Kay Miller (McManaway), Brady and Cynthia Rudesill (Hansen), Joel Taggart (Varkulas), Kayla and Lance Champaco (Pohls), and Julia Ehredt (Schrieners, Halsteads)*. We lift our hearts to you,

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

A We pray for people who are in crisis as the seasons change: for those without homes facing severe weather, for those who are unemployed or underemployed, and for those in poverty or facing food insecurity. Relieve their burdens, sustain their bodies, and ease their minds. We lift our hearts to you,

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

A We pray for the people in our families and congregation who live with depression, anxiety, chronic pain, addiction, and other invisible illnesses, including, *Armstrong family (healing and wholeness), Walter Brown, Gary Burdick, Penny Burdick, Joyce Domire, Mike Fruth, Karl Golnek, Lisa Golnek, Don Granzow, Delmar Hansen, Jerry Hansen, Larry Hansen, Lee Hoppe, Joe Longcor, Carol Morgan, Ron Neil, Hope Peck, Vicky Saucier, Mike Shoemaker, Tim Sullivan, George Ulrich Jr., Jeanette Ulrich, Traci Wales, Kristi Winick and Eve Wright*. Ease their suffering and support them when they struggle. 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 give thanks for the lives and witness of those who died while waiting for justice, peace, or healing, those whose names we know and those whose names are known only to you. Sustain all who still yearn for the completion of your redeeming work. We lift our hearts to you,

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

P Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

Offering of Gifts and Music
Offertory

Gloomy Winter
He Came Down

Bonnie Rideout
ELW 253



- 1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
- 2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
- 3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
- 4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



- he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have light; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have joy;

Offering Prayer

- A** Let us pray . . . Generous God, you have created all that is, and you provide for us in every season.
- C** **Bless all that we offer, that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing. In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray.**
Amen

Sharing the Peace of God

- P** The peace of Christ be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**

Lord's Prayer

- P** Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- C** **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.**

Mission Minutes

Blessing

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



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
 3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
 4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for
 man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is
 all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
 dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
 qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
 qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing,
 crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less,



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
 mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -
 Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
 Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
 kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
 won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
 sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
 shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
 weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

Dismissal

A Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Postlude

O Christ the Same

George Sigerson Arranged by Elisabeth Lepak

Learn from the Figs

Fig trees mature slowly. They don't require much maintenance, but they do require plenty of time to grow. Some fig trees take years to start producing fruit. It may be tempting to give up on a fig too soon, but the patient gardener knows to wait and watch for the subtle signs that the fig tree is about to produce.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson,” Jesus says in today’s gospel (Mark 13:28). Just as the gardener watches for indications that a bud is about to unfold, so should believers watch for where God’s presence is emerging in the world.

Jesus’ words in this passage paint a picture of God’s arrival as unsettling and fearsome, with darkening skies and shaking celestial orbs. It is hard to imagine how anyone could miss such an arrival, yet Jesus warns his listeners that those who are not vigilant will be caught unaware. We must watch with care and patience for the signs of the coming of the Son of Man, like the gardener who watches for the ripening fig. If you think such signs can be ignored, you will miss the surprising, gentle cry of the incarnate God come as a tiny, vulnerable baby.

Today, at the beginning of Advent, we enter a season of waiting and watching as we anticipate with hope the coming of Christ’s light into the world. Yet, even as we wait, there are active signs of God’s presence all around us now—in water and word, in bread and wine, in the assembly gathered for worship. These signs remind us of God’s gracious love toward us. At the same time, the lesson of the fig tree reminds us to stay curious and attentive, open to what might surprise us. God is always up to something new.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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Assisting Minister – Chris Bush
Lector – Ethan Scheck
Cantor – Anna Scheck
Musicians –Vickey Argo, Chris Bush, Dave Carr,
Kim Domke, Beth Lepak, Carla Neil,
Cindy Olson, Anna Scheck
Pastor – Ken Scheck



Stewardship Information

Attendance: N/A Views: 191 Weekly Giving: \$4,345.00 Budget Amount: \$4,227.24

Grace Lutheran Church has suspended onsite worship. Please join us for **Sunday virtual worship** at www.grace-hastings.org. We invite you to also for **Advent virtual Worship** on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm beginning on December 2, 2020, which will also be found on the Grace website. We hope that you are being blessed by our worship of God each week. The council will vote at a future date to reimplement onsite worship.

COMMUNION OF TWO KINDS is available thanks to a donation of grape juice (wine was not available) from Joe Longcor and Vickey Argo. Please call the church office (269.945.9414) or Pastor Ken directly to set up a time.

Adult Forum continues a study on the book of **Acts** Sundays at 10:00 am. Since there are fewer than 10 people who attend, we will continue to meet in the Gathering Area for the study.

We need your plastic shopping bags! Grace is beginning a new ministry for the homeless. We are collecting shopping bags and a group is weaving them into mats. Please place your clean plastic shopping bags into a box marked shopping bags in the coat closet near the entrance and the office. Thanks for your ministry to those who can use these mats.

Mask Chains Take time to look at the chain necklaces that Erin Everly is making! The proceeds will go toward the parking lot project. Chains will be available and displayed on the Coffee Bar from November 29 — December 20 and will sell for \$8.00 each. They are colorfully beaded chains that will clamp on to your face mask to be used as you would for eyeglasses. They can also double as necklaces when we are done with our “mask era”.



The Advent devotional **PRAYING THE JESSE TREE** is available on the table in the Gathering Area. Compliments of the Outreach Committee.

Advent Worship

Join us this Wednesday night at 7:00 pm for our online stream of our beloved:
Holden Evening Prayer

Each week we share in scripture and song the message of salvation. There is a short message and a presentation of special music. The Worship Committee hopes you can join us.

When you are in the building, we ask you to wear a mask. To help keep the larger community safe, we also ask that you maintain at least a 6-foot distance from those who are not part of your household. **Thank you for loving your neighbor.**

2021 God's Creation calendar is once again available for \$5.00 each. Please pay in the office or place \$5.00 in an envelope and place it in the offering plate with your name and CALENDAR on it.

Children's Gifts

As was done last year, a gift tag board will be set up in the narthex with family's number, children's ages, suggested toys and clothing sizes, etc. **Be sure to write your name on the board by the child/children you are planning to help.**

Refer to the list provided on the back of this page and either call the church office to have your name added to the gift donation board or call Mike Kemper (269 569-1484) who will take care of your sign up.

Gifts may be dropped off in the same Sunday School room where grocery donations are being collected. **Wrap the gift.** Place a sticky note with the child's information printed on it (i.e. family no., child's gender and age)

Leave in collection room. **Bring to church by Wed. Dec. 16th.**

2020 GIVING TREE



The Giving Tree will be set up in the gathering area after the Thanksgiving holiday.

Local schools are in need of items that make learning more fun, and this year more safe. Learning doesn't happen as easily when students are distracted by hunger. Teachers often have to supply the daily snack for their classrooms because families do not or cannot send it in. More individual art supplies are needed as students are not supposed to share items this year.

Please come select a tag or two, or share a donation earmarked 2020 Giving Tree. You may also call the church to find out what is still needed or check the Grace Facebook page for more ideas.

What is needed most are family or large-sized containers of snacks for students, disinfecting wipes/spray, and paper towels. PLEASE do not wrap; just place near the tree. **Return by January 3, 2021.**

Thanks for your partnership in ministry.

Food Baskets

Items and amounts needed:

Ham (2-4 lbs) family of 2-4	3
Ham (5-6 lbs) family of 5-6	2
Macaroni and Cheese	10 boxes
Adult Breakfast cereal	6 boxes
Kid friendly Breakfast cereal	10 boxes
Canned corn	12 cans
Canned beans	12 cans
Peanut butter (1g size)	5 jars
Jelly	5 jars
Cake mix and frosting	5 sets
Brownie mix or holiday cookie mix	5 boxes
Applesauce (family size)	5 jars
Hamburger helper or Rice A Roni	12 boxes
Toilet paper (6 roll pack)	6 packs
Laundry soap	6 jugs
Liquid dish soap	5 bottles
Shampoo and Conditioner (Adult)	5 sets
Shampoo and conditioner (child)	5 sets

