

Grace Lutheran Church

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Hastings MI 49058



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Office Hours: Tues, Wed, & Thur 9:00am - 3:00pm

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Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
November 28, 2021

First Sunday of Advent

November 28, 2021

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.

Welcome/Announcements

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Gathering Music

Wake, Awake, for the Night is Flying

Philipp Nicolai/J.S. Bach

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.
- G** And also with you.
- A** In the darkness we light a flame of hope.
- G** 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.
- G** 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.
- G** Let this Advent season, now beginning, bring us a new birth of hope in the ancient promise of God.

ADVENT HYMN

“Angels Singing in the Heavens”

TUNE ELW #275

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.

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

Please be seated.

First Reading

Jeremiah 33:14-16

📖 A reading from **Jeremiah**.

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 God is even now working salvation for Israel.

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.”

📖 The Word of the Lord.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

The psalm is spoken. The leader will read the light text. The assembly will read the bold.

Psalm 25:1-10

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 compassion 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 goodness, O LORD.

⁸**You are gracious and upright, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

⁹You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly 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

📖 A reading from **1 Thessalonians**.

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.

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.

📖 The Word of the Lord.

👏 **Thanks be to God.**

Arise in body or spirit. All speak the Gospel Acclamation in unison.

Gospel Acclamation Spoken

Alleluia!

Alleluia. Alleluia. Stand up and raise your heads — your redemption is drawing near. Alleluia.

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.**

Children's Time

Message

Silence for reflection

Hymn of Day

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Stanzas 1-4

ELW 257

Prayers of Intercession

*We pray the prayer response after each petition. You will hear, **Come Lord Jesus.** The assembly prays in song, **Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!***

The musical score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano and Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first system covers the lyrics 'Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.' and the second system covers 'Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!'. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final cadence on a whole note in the key of G major.

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

A In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

A brief silence

A God of presence and peace, strengthen your church around the globe to proclaim the message of your love coming to the world. Open our hearts to recognize your face in all people and in all of creation. We thank you for our church leaders especially, *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David and Roseanne, our synod companion Trinity Lutheran Church, Kalamazoo, Doster Community Reformed Church, Plainwell, Minister of Music Cindy, and Pastor Ken.* Come Lord Jesus.

C **Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!**

A God of mighty redwoods and microscopic plants, fields and city parks, the wind and the waves, be a healing balm to our wounded planet. May we nurture what you have lovingly created. Come Lord Jesus.

C **Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!**

A God of equity and compassion, bring righteousness and goodness to all peoples of the earth. Give a heart of discernment and integrity to leaders in our communities. Be with those who serve in the military, especially *Parker Stancil (Freedlunds), Cody and Myrina Crawford (Clements), Brady and Cynthia Rudesill (Hansen), Joel Taggart (Varkulas) and Julia Ehredt (Schrieners, Halsteads)*. Come Lord Jesus.

G Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

A God of comfort and care, be present with those who watch and wait. Come to all who await births, deaths, divorces, new unions, new jobs, retirements, healing, and life transitions of every kind. Send healing and relief to all who are sick, especially *Doris Allerdine, Amber Andrews, Vickie Argo, Gerrie & Veronica Baarson, Ron Bush, Donna Buehl, Cherie Clements, Ann Cusack, The family of Joyce Daugherty, Mary Dawson, Pat Wales Depew, Ray Depew, Mike Fruth, Lorie Gladyness, Karl Golnek, Lisa Golnek, The family of Dawn Goodrich, The family of Don Granzow, Nick Hobert, Mike Hoppe, The family of Jay Joseph, Bill Melcher, Darlene Olson, Cynthia Rudesill (healthy pregnancy), Jane Secor, Mike Shoemaker, George Ulrich Jr., Sharon Varkula, Cheri Wilke, Deborah Wilke, Kristi Winick, Eve Wright, Lynnze, Kaylee F., Lily & Ali B. and Laney F.* Come Lord Jesus.

G Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

A God of promises kept and new dreams awakened, shelter your people from destructive storms. We pray for those whose lives have been upended by natural disasters, for the work of Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran World Relief, and other relief organizations.

*(You may share your prayers at this time)
Here other intercessions may be offered.*

A God of companionship and community, we give you thanks for the saints who journeyed with us and now abide in you. Even in distress and uncertainty, make us confident that your promises endure forever. Come Lord Jesus.

G Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

P God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

G Amen.

Arise in body or spirit. The pastor and the assembly greet each other giving a sign of Christ's peace.

Sharing the Peace

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

(We share the peace of the risen Lord with one another.)

After a sign of Christ's peace is given the prayer is prayed, as the assembly continues to stand.

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**

Great Thanksgiving

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also 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 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.

C **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

P Gathered by the Holy Spirit, let us pray how Jesus first taught:

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.**

Invitation to Communion

P Holy food for Holy people.

C **Thanks be to God.**

We partake of the Body and Blood of Christ

Please be seated. You are invited to come forward to receive the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. At this time, we only offer the pouring chalice and prefilled grape juice cups. There is a gluten-free option for the bread. Please let the pastor know.

Please remain seated.

Prayer after Communion

- ☞** Let us pray . . . Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation.
- ☞** **Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Mission Minutes

After the Mission Minutes are shared, we arise in body or spirit, as the pastor shares the blessing.

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 Hymn

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

ELW 244

Dismissal

- ☞** Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.
- ☞** **Thanks be to God.**

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Expectant Waiting

A pastor once summarized the way God answers prayers with three categories: yes, no, and not yet. To his young audience, these categories made sense and served as a simple way to think about their prayer life. But having clear categories does not dismiss the fact that it is often easier to receive the answer “yes” or “no,” compared to the answer “not yet.” After all, the answer “not yet” often involves waiting. And waiting can be exhausting!

Whether it be waiting for a medical diagnosis, longing for healing in a relationship, expecting a child, or enduring another situation beyond our complete control, it can be challenging to be patient, accept the unknown, and trust God’s promises in the meantime.

This is a reality Jesus understood, and one that is at the heart of his parable of the fig tree in today’s reading. The early believers needed encouragement as they waited for the coming of the Lord. Patience, endurance, and trust did not come any easier to them than they do to many of us today. Yet that is precisely what followers of Christ are invited to do during the season of Advent: to remain prayerful and expectant as they await the birth of Jesus.

Perhaps that is why Jesus gives his followers something to do in their waiting. Jesus’ words urge us to be on the lookout for signs of God’s kingdom, even as we await the fulfillment of God’s promises in the future. The sign you see may be a neighbor helping another in need, a child growing and thriving, or a card received from a friend. God’s promise is that even as we wait for the fulfillment of God’s kingdom, it is drawing near—and is, in fact, already among us.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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Stewardship Information

Attendance: 48 Views: 68 Weekly Giving: \$600.00 Budget Amount: \$4,163.28

Adult Forum continues to gather in the Gathering Area and will continue its study on the book of **Genesis** at 9:30 am. Hope to see you there!

God’s Creation 2022 Calendars. Available for \$5.00 each. This is not a fundraiser, but you can pick them up for a very reasonable price. These are made available by the Outreach Committee.

Miracle on 34th Street presented by the Thornapple Players is actually at the **Dennison Performing Arts Center**. See you there! If you have signed up, your tickets will be there under Grace Lutheran Church at the ticket table.

Seeking readers, fellowship providers (*make coffee and lemonade for our fellowship time*), **ushers, greeters, and Assisting Ministers.**

Advent Worship. Join us this Wednesday night at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary for **Holden Evening Prayer.** The first three weeks we share in scripture and sing the message of salvation. There is a short message and a gospel hymn each week.

Mask wearing. The Worship Committee is asking you to wear your mask during singing. You are welcome to wear your mask at all times if it makes you more comfortable. *Thank you for your flexibility, as we keep needing to adjust to the virus changing.*



The 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering will be held July 24-28, 2022, in Minneapolis. Three youth and two adults are signed up. Other youth are welcome to join but will need to pay an additional \$100.00 fee at this point.

The Advent devotional WAIT UPON THE LORD is available on the table in the Gathering Area. Compliments of the Outreach Committee.

Increase Your Savings And Increase Your Comfort With A FREE Energy Analysis from Consumers Energy. Sign up by **DECEMBER 12, 2021.** You can have a virtual or in-person appointment. Please use POMO CODE: **GLEE**. If you have electric only call (833) 685-1312. If you have gas only or a combination of gas and electric call (888) 316-8014.

Christmas Family Adoptions. There is a signup sheets to help provide groceries and gifts to families in need. The Children's Gift purchasing board is posted in the gathering area. The grocery signup is posted on the bulletin board. Please have grocery and gift donations to the church **Sunday, Dec. 19th.**

Please fill out a survey about worship practices on the back of your participation card. We will have this survey for several weeks. The congregation council asks you to fill only 1 survey per person. Thank you for your partnership in ministry.

Caroling for the Homebound. Meet at the church at 1:00pm, as we set out to spread some cheer on December 11, 2021. Carpooling is available if it desired.

8:00 am

Assisting Minister – Chris Bush
Lector – Dave Neeb
Cantor – Cindy Olson
Musician – Cindy Olson
Pastor – Ken Scheck

10:45 am

Assisting Minister – Vickey Argo
Lector – Joe Longcor
Cantor – Cindy Olson
Musician – Cindy Olson
Pastor – Ken Scheck
Fellowship – Laura Scheck