

Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Ken Scheck II

Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music

November 27, 2022

First Sunday of Advent

November 27, 2022



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

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

ELW 240

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.**

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.**

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.**



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

*This Little Light of Mine
Stanza 1*

ELW 677

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.**

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. After reflection,
Arise in body or in spirit to sing the hymn.*

Song of the Day

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

ELW 257

Prayers

☞ As we prepare for the fullness of Christ’s presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

A brief silence.

☞ God of all, your children everywhere cry out for mercy. Awaken the global church to the urgent needs of our time. Break down barriers of culture and custom and unite people of all faiths in your redemptive and healing work. Guide the faith of all the servants of your church, especially *Bishops*

Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David and Roseanne, our synod companion St. John's Lutheran Church, Three Rivers; Solid Rock Bible Church, Delton; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.
We lift our hearts to you,

☞ Come, Lord Jesus.

▲ God of wonder, the earth's beauty and abundance is your gift. Teach us your ways of sharing resources and caring for life. Guard fragile habitats, preserve the wild places, and protect endangered plants and animals. We lift our hearts to you,

☞ Come, Lord Jesus.

▲ God of peace, you judge the nations. Beat our weapons into tools for serving the neighbor. Strengthen the resolve of all who work for an end to war. We pray for lasting peace in the land of Jesus' birth. Be with those who safeguard the world, *Parker Stancil (Freedlund), Cody and Myrina Crawford (Clements), Cynthia Rudesill (Hansen), Joel Taggart (Varkula), Julia Ehredt (Schreiner, Halstead), and Seth Domke (Domke).* We lift our hearts to you,

☞ Come, Lord Jesus.

▲ God of loving kindness, you desire fullness of life for everyone. Fill those who hunger. Comfort the grieving and attend to those near death. Bring help and hope to any who are sick or needing your care *especially The Family of Vivian Allerding, Frances Ann, Veronica Baarson, Keith Busheé, John Charles, Cherie Clements, Bob & Bonnie Ehredt, Greg Franks, Bill Frutiger, Mike Gibbons, Amanda Haddix (pregnancy), Larry Hansen, Henry Heil, Norma Ludlow, Alexis Markwart, Mattea Markwart, The Family of Doug Mephem, Carolyn Moffit, Terri Neeb, Ron Neil, Ken Plourde, Annette Poholski, Cynthia Rudesill (pregnancy), Al Throop, Lindsay Varkula (pregnancy), Maryellen Wammock, and Cheryl Wilke.* We lift our hearts to you,

☞ Come, Lord Jesus.

▲ God of community, you are present when we gather in your name. Guide congregations in transition or conflict. Give wisdom to congregational councils, call committees, and ministry leaders. Keep us alert to unexpected opportunities for mission. We lift our hearts to you,

☞ Come, Lord Jesus.

▲ God of promise, your goodness is everlasting. We give thanks for the lives of the faithful who now rest in you. We trust that you will bring us into the company of all the saints with rejoicing. We lift our hearts to you,

☞ Come, Lord Jesus.

▲ God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A 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,

G **Come, Lord Jesus.**

P 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.

G **Amen.**

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.

G **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.

G **And also with you.**

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

The Great Thanksgiving

P The Lord be with you.

G **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

G **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

G **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:

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 *pouring chalice*. Take an empty cup from the tray and have it filled by the Assisting Minister. Return the individual chalice/cup to the basket provided.
- ✠ If you need gluten free bread, please let the Pastor know when you come forward.
- ✠ **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 Pastor.

Come to the Table

ELW 481

By Your Hand You Feed Your People

ELW 469

Prayer after Communion

- A** O God, our life, our strength, our food, we give you thanks for sustaining us with the body and blood of your Son.
- C** **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

- 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.**

Sending Song

Open Your Ears, O Faithful People

ELW 519

Dismissal

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

Time to Wake Up

Advent is a season of waking up. Even as the days grow darker, we are awoken to the light of truth about our lives, the world, and, ultimately, God. But no one really *likes* being woken from sleep, real or metaphorical. No one likes being pulled from a cozy blanket to a crowded commute, from dreams to reality, from what's comfortable and "always has been" to what's actually happening right now. It's why when we have pivotal, perhaps painful moments in our lives in which we become aware of something previously hidden, or about which we shed the veil of denial, we refer to them as "wake-up calls."

Yet it is never God's intent to hurt us by rousing us from sleep. It is not to punish us for our past mistakes, to expose our inner failings to the world, or to add to the already deep well of shame that so many of us carry. *It is for our good* that God comes to reveal that which was hidden, breaking into our world as human flesh and blood. And it is for our good that, through our baptism, we are able to "put on the Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 13:14). The divine image is revealed in you, and in every friend and stranger. God knows, loves, and takes delight in each of us.

That is why nations will beat their swords into plowshares, their spears into pruning hooks, and their guns into gravel to build a highway for our God. We won't *need* to learn war anymore, as the prophet says (Isaiah 2:4), because you can't raise arms against your own kin, another person in whom the living Christ dwells.

This season is a time for us to awaken to this new reality: at any moment, and at every moment, Christ lives among and within us, helping us rub the sleep out of our eyes, and revealing a different way. Welcome to Advent.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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8:00 am

Assisting Minister – Mark Anton

Lector – Mark Anton

Cantor – Chris Bush

Musician – Chris Bush

Pastor – Ken Scheck

10:45 am

Assisting Minister – Anna Scheck

Lector – Paul Kuhlman

Cantor – Chris Bush

Musician – Chris Bush

Pastor – Ken Scheck

Fellowship – Paul Kuhlman

Christmas Eve Service begins at 5:30 on Saturday, December 24th.

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

Replace, Repair, Renew Campaign. As you can tell by the above numbers, we have paid off all of these items. Now we enter into the Renewal phase of the campaign which has a goal of raising \$4842.00 toward a new HVAC system for the Fellowship Hall. Thanks again for your continued generosity.

Stewardship Information

Attendance: 0

Views: 190

Money counters did not come to count until after the worship folder was printed. Next week the offering report for November 20 and November 27 will be given separately.

Welcome to worship today! We hope you find what we have found - a loving Jesus who welcomes all. No matter your background or faith tradition, you will find that Grace Lutheran Church is a place that is full of love, care, and support. We are pleased that you come and wait for God's complete grace to be revealed to us.

Called to the Church Triumphant our sister in Christ, Vivian Allerdig.

WELCOME TO ADVENT You are invited to join us for a special service on the first three Wednesdays. We gather for a Soup Supper benefitting CPR Class at 6:30 followed by worship at 7:15 pm. This year we are having *Holden Evening Prayer with a Flare!* We hope you can join us for this unique worship and educational event. **This week we feature as our special music Bows and Buddies.**

PASTY PICK UP - DATE CHANGE TO THIS SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3 between 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

God's Creation 2023 Calendars. Available for \$5.00 each.

Jesus Birthday Party after the 10:45 Worship Service on Sunday, December 11. We will be having a lasagna dinner. Please sign up so we have enough food for everyone.

Caroling for the Homebound Meet at the church at 1:00pm, as we set out to spread some cheer on December 11, 2022. Carpooling is available if it desired.

Christmas Food Baskets There will be a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area for those who wish to contribute the food basket campaign. Donations need to be dropped off at the church by Sunday, December 18. Monetary donation s are also being accepted. Please place your donation in the collection plate and identify it by marking "Christmas Food Baskets" on the envelope.

Brothers of Grace will be having their annual Christmas Dinner Night Out on Tuesday December 13,2022 beginning at 6:00 p.m. We are meeting at Yankee Bills Wood Fired Saloon. We hope that all of you can make it for good food and fellowship.

Adopt-a-Family We are adopting 5 families this year. The Gift Board has been set up in the gathering area and the Grocery Donation List is posted on the bulletin board. Instructions for children's gift donations are available on the Gift Board. Please return your donations of gifts and grocery items to the designated Sunday School room by Sunday, Dec. 18.

GraceGrams are in your mailboxes for pickup.