

Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
December 4, 2022

Second Sunday of Advent

December 4, 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 (source of day).

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Pre-Service Music

Welcome/Worship Instructions

Arise in body or spirit.

Gathering Hymn

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

ELW 244

The CELEBRATION OF LIGHT ON THE ADVENT WREATH - Bethlehem Candle

- P** With joyful hearts filled with hope,
- C** we delight as the circle of light grows wider in the darkness of winter.

- A** In this season when we decorate our towns and homes with lights and color,
- C** may we also be busy decorating our hearts as well.

- P** Let us deck the halls of our hearts with deeds of compassion for the poor, with acts of love and service to one another, and with kindness to our friends and strangers.
- C** Let the preparation and decoration of our hearts rival the joyous beauty of our homes and cities.

Advent Hymn

The Advent of our God

tune ELW 279

I

The advent of our God we seek,
The coming of our Lord.
We seek the Lord of Grace who saves:
the Savior - loved - adored.
We pray for Jesus' coming
into our world of sin.
We hope for life, we pray for Christ,
our God, who dwells within.

II

All glory be to Christ, the Son
who died upon the tree.
All praise to God the One who makes,
creates and made us free.
Sing to the Holy Spirit
who moves among us still.
We hope for life, we pray for Christ,
our Lord Emmanuel.

The RESPONSIVE LITANY of SEEKING

P What do you seek?

C We look for God's presence.

A Where do you seek the coming of God?

C We look for God's presence here in this place.

P We come seeking the Lord of grace.

A We look for God's gift of love.

Prayer of the Day

A Let us pray, Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son.

C By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Grace Singers – 10:45 Service

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Taylor Davis

First Reading

Isaiah 11:1-10

Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.

📖 A reading from **Isaiah:**

¹A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ²The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. ³His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. ⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. ⁷The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ⁹They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. ¹⁰On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

📖 The Word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

May the righ - teous flour - ish;
 let there be an a - bun - dance of peace.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of three staves of music in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of text. The second staff contains the melody for the second line of text. The third staff contains a bass line with a few notes. The lyrics are: 'May the righ - teous flour - ish; let there be an a - bun - dance of peace.'

Psalm – 72:1-7, 18-19

¹Give the king your jus- | tice, O God,
 and your righteousness to | the king's son;
²**that he may rule your | people righteously
 and the | poor with justice;**

³that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people,
 and the | hills, in righteousness.
⁴**Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people,
 rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor. ☩**

⁵May he live as long as the sun and | moon endure,
 from one generation | to another.
⁶**Let him come down like rain upon | the mown field,
 like showers that wa- | ter the earth.**

⁷In his time may the | righteous flourish;
 and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall | be no more.
¹⁸**Blessed are you, LORD God, the | God of Israel;
 you alone do | wondrous deeds!**

¹⁹And blessed be your glorious | name forever,
 and may all the earth be filled with your glory. A- | men. Amen ☩

Second Reading

Romans 15:4-13

God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.

☒ A reading from **Romans**:

⁴Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name”; ¹⁰and again he says, “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people”; ¹¹and again, “Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him”; ¹²and again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.” ¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

☒ The Word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Arise in body or spirit.

Gospel Acclamation

This Little Light of Mine

Stanza 1

ELW 677

Gospel Reading

Matthew 3:1-12

Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.

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

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’”

⁴Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

☐ 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.*



1 Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veil is grow - ing thin.
 2 Heav - y clouds that block the moon - light now be - gin to drift a - way.
 3 Christ, e - ter - nal Sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of wis - dom's seed,



Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten to the stir - ring, faint with - in:
 Dia - mond bril - liance through the dark - ness shines the hope of com - ing day.
 come to bless with fire and fra - grance hours of yearn - ing, hurt, and need.



seed of prom - ise, deep - ly plant - ed, child to spring from Jes - se's stem!
 Christ, the morn - ing star of splen - dor, gleams with - in a world grown dim.
 In the lone - ly, in the strang - er, in the out - cast, hid from view;



Like the soil be - neath the frost - line, hearts grow soft to wel - come him.
 Heav - en's em - ber fans to full - ness; hearts grow warm to wel - come him.
 Child who comes to grace the man - ger, teach our hearts to wel - come you.

Prayers

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

A brief silence.

☞ God, you renew the church in every age. We give thanks for hymn writers and theologians. Inspire teachers, writers, and musicians to delight and instruct your people, including *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David and Roseanne; our synod companion churches, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Traverse City; St. Ambrose Catholic Church, Delton; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* We lift our hearts to you,

☞ **Come, Lord Jesus.**

A You give us a vision of creation in harmony, when hurting and destruction will be no more. Teach us to be stewards of the earth and companions to its creatures. Restore to balance and wholeness what human greed has harmed. We lift our hearts to you,

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

A You defend the cause of all who are poor and oppressed. Raise up leaders who will govern with equity and serve the common good. Guide judges, lawmakers, and public officials to protect the rights of those who cannot advocate for themselves. Be with those who safeguard the world, including *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,

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

A You deliver those in need from suffering and fear. Come to the aid of any who are exploited or abused, especially children, elders, and victims of human trafficking. Provide safety and help to our neighbors without shelter, refugees, and those fleeing violence. We lift our hearts to you,

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

A You urge your people to welcome one another as you have welcomed us. Nurture ministries of hospitality and care in this and every congregation. We pray for people who are homebound, hospitalized, or separated from loved ones, especially *The Family of Vivian Allarding*, *Frances Ann*, *Veronica Baarson*, *Keith Busheé*, *John Charles*, *Cherie Clements*, *Bob & Bonnie Ehredt*, *Greg Franks*, *Bill Frutiger*, *Mike Gibbons*, *The family of Sue Gibbons*, *Amanda Haddix (pregnancy)*, *Larry Hansen*, *Henry Heil*, *The Family of Cenda Hoogerland*, *Norma Ludlow*, *Alexis Markwart*, *Terri Neeb*, *Ron Neil*, *Ken Plourde*, *Annette Poholski*, *Cynthia Rudesill (pregnancy)*, *Al Throop*, *Lindsay Varkula (pregnancy)*, *Maryellen Wammock*, and *The family of Cheryl Wilke*. We lift our hearts to you,

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

A You embrace all who have died trusting in your promises, and we give thanks for their faithful witness. Sustain us in hope until we are united with them in the joy of your eternal presence. 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 God of eternal life, you promise to take away our sin and gather us in your care forever. We give thanks for those who now rest from their labors on earth, freed from pain and the power of death. We lift our hearts to you,

G **Come, Lord Jesus.**

P 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.

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 always.

G **And also with you.**

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

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.

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.

*Lo, how a Rose e'er Blooming
Comfort, Comfort Now My People*

ELW 272
ELW 256

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

O Day of Peace

ELW 711

Dismissal

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

Postlude

Second Sunday of Advent - Page 12

An Impossible Vision?

Today's image from the Old Testament reading of a world at peace—a peace so full and universal that it extends to every living creature—may feel as comforting as it does unbelievable, at least by our logic (Isaiah 11:1-10). Wolves and lambs aren't friends. Lions don't eat straw. Children should not play with snakes. In the animal kingdom—and *we are animals*—there are predators and prey. Whether we take it literally or metaphorically, "Eat or *be eaten*" is how we've been taught to survive in the wilderness.

And yet here, on this wilderness morning, we hear the prophet telling us that it does not have to be this way—indeed, that it *will* not be this way forever. In the new world God is coming to bring, we won't need to tear each other apart just to survive. Somehow we will be able to live together in peace.

No wonder that of all the ways God could have revealed the depths of holy love and brought reconciliation to the world, God chose to come as a little child, a child no one thought possible, a branch from a tree that was seemingly long dead.

Beholding this child moves us to repentance, turning us from all the ways we demonize and hurt each other, and calling us instead to offer peace. Rather than taking the bait set to keep us fighting, we come together to eat the bread and drink from the cup set at the Lord's table.

In the new creation, our identity is no longer defined by our lineage or status, as those who came to be baptized by John imagined, or by being enemies, prey, or predator. Instead, in Christ's baptismal waters we are given a new life as beloved kin. With God all things are possible!

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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8:00 am

Assisting Minister – Randy Teegardin

Lector – Dave Neeb

Cantor – Cindy Olson

Musician – Cindy Olson

Pastor – Ken Scheck

10:45 am

Assisting Minister – Vickey Argo

Lector – Traci Wales

Cantor – Mary Kuhlman

Musician – Cindy Olson

Pastor – Ken Scheck

Fellowship – Diane Neeb

Stewardship Information for 11/20/22

Attendance: No Service	Views: 300
Weekly Giving: \$705.00	Budget Amount: \$4,301.04
Renew Campaign Needed	\$2,100.00
Renew Campaign Received	\$ 0.00
TOTAL Outstanding	\$2,100.00

Stewardship Information for 11/27/22

Attendance: 49	Views: 246
Weekly Giving: \$1875.00	Budget Amount: \$4,301.04
Renew Campaign Needed	\$2,100.00
Renew Campaign Received	\$ 0.00
TOTAL Outstanding	\$2,100.00

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.

WELCOME TO ADVENT You are invited to join us for a special service on the first three Wednesdays. We gather for a Picnic of Hot Chicken Sandwiches, relishes, dessert and more benefitting the Renew Campaign for a new HVAC 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 for our special music Grace Notes Bell Choir.**

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.

Executive Committee meets this Tuesday at **6:30 pm.**

Social Activities meets this Saturday at **10:00 am.** for Jesus Birthday Party decorating and putting together goody bags.

Outreach meets next week on Monday at **5:30 pm.**

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

Christmas Day Service is at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, December 25th.

The nursery is available during the 10:45 worship service. Aurora Collins is the Nursery Attendant. She would love to have some little ones visit her. Please spread the word that Grace provides childcare during this worship service.

Jesus Birthday Party after the 10:45 Worship Service is NEXT 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 next Sunday. Carpooling is available if it desired.

Lakewood Area Choral Society Concert The Lakewood Area Choral Society is having its annual Christmas Concert at Lakewood High School on **Sunday, December 18 at 3:00 p.m.** The event is free; however, a freewill offering will be collected.

Giving Tree for 2022 is up. Please come select a tag or two, or share a donation earmarked 2022 Giving Tree, and someone will shop for you. You may also call the church to find out what is still needed or check the Grace Facebook page for more ideas.

Replace, Repair, Renew Campaign. As you can tell by the above numbers, we have paid off all of these items. We are 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.

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 donations are also being accepted. Please place your donation in the collection plate and identify it by marking "Christmas Food Baskets" on the envelope. **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 among us, as a person who needs God's repair.**

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Giving Tree for 2022 is up. Please come select a tag or two, or share a donation earmarked 2022 Giving Tree, and someone will shop for you. You may also call the church to find out what is still needed or check the Grace Facebook page for more ideas.

Christmas Family Adoptions. There is a signup sheet to help provide groceries. The grocery sign up is in the Gathering Area.

We need the following...

- 3 4-5 lb. Hams
- 10 cans of Green Beans
- 20 cans of Corn
- 5 family sized jars of Jelly
- 5 box of Brownie Mix or Holiday Cookie Mix
- 5 family sized jars of Apple Sauce
- 10 boxes of Hamburger Helper or Rice-A-Roni
- 5 Jugs of Laundry Soap
- 5 bottles of Liquid Dish Soap
- 5 Packages of 6-roll pack of Toilet Paper
- 5 sets of kid-friendly Shampoo and Conditioner

Please have grocery and gift donations to the church by Sunday, Dec. 18th. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTNERSHIP IN MINISTRY.**

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