

# Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Ken Scheck II  
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music  
December 18, 2022

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 18, 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

*The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*

ELW 265

### The CELEBRATION OF LIGHT ON THE ADVENT WREATH - Angels' Candle

- ☐ Wrapped in Winter's darkness, many circles of Christmas lights point the way to the birthplace of Emmanuel.
- ☑ **Those circles of light that shine everywhere are holy symbols of unity more brilliant than any galaxy.**
- Ⓐ For when we are one with each other,
- ☑ **then Emmanuel is among us.**
- Ⓐ Let us treasure beyond all gifts and all riches the sacred circle of unity that is always the mystic manger for the birth of God-among-us.
- ☑ **In the busy days of Christmas, let us not break the circle of communion that was Jesus' great wish for us disciples.**

### The HYMN of PRAISE

*Creator of Stars of Night*

tune ELW 289

**Cre-a-tor of Stars of night.**

**You're the people's lasting light.**

**Christ, redeemer of us all.**

**We pray you will hear us all. (refrain)**

**When this world drew on toward night,**

**You came without flashing light.**

**Not as monarch, but as Child.**

**Mary mother meek and mild. (refrain)**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo;**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

## The RESPONSIVE LITANY of PRAISE

**P** Sing to the Lord a new song.

**C** **Sing to the Lord, all the earth.**

**A** Sing to the Lord and bless God's name.

**C** **Proclaim the Good News of God's salvation from day to day.**

**P** Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving,

**C** **and raise a loud shout with psalms.**

**A** For the Lord is a great God,

**C** **and a great king above all gods.**

**P** Declare God's glory among the nations,

**C** **and God's wonders among all people.**

**A** Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands.

**C** **Lift up your voice, rejoice and sing.**

**P** Sing to the Lord a new song,

**C** **for God has done marvelous things.**

### Prayer of the Day

**A** Let us pray, Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might,

**C** **Free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

## First Reading

Isaiah 7:10-16

*An Israelite and Aramean military coalition presented a serious threat to King Ahaz of Judah. In response, Ahaz decided to secure his throne and kingdom by seeking Assyrian help. Isaiah reminds Ahaz that human attempts to establish security will fail. The prophet gives the sign that is the only source of true safety: Immanuel, God is with us!*

📖 A reading from **Isaiah:**

<sup>10</sup>The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, <sup>11</sup>Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. <sup>13</sup>Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. <sup>15</sup>He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup>For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

📖 The Word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**



## Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

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

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

<sup>3</sup>**Restore | us, O God;**  
**let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.**

<sup>4</sup>**O LORD| God of hosts,**  
**how long will your anger fume when your | people pray? 📖**

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

<sup>6</sup>You have made us the derision | of our neighbors,  
and our enemies laugh | us to scorn.

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

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

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

<sup>19</sup>Restore us, O LORD| God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved. ☒

## Second Reading

## Romans 1:1-7

*Most of the Christians in Rome do not know Paul. In this letter's opening he introduces himself as an apostle divinely appointed to spread God's gospel. The gospel's content is the promised coming of Christ, and Paul's mission is to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations, including his Roman audience.*

☒ A reading from **Romans**:

<sup>1</sup>Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup>which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, <sup>3</sup>the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup>and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup>through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, <sup>6</sup>including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

<sup>7</sup>To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

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

☒ 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 1:18-25

*Matthew's story of Jesus' birth focuses on the role of Joseph, who adopts the divinely-begotten child into the family of David and obediently gives him the name Jesus, which means "God saves."*

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

### ☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup>"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us."<sup>24</sup>When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, <sup>25</sup>but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

☒ 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.*

## Hymn of the Day

*Awake! Awake and Greet the New Morn*

**ELW 242**

## 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 our shepherd, let your Spirit move with power throughout the church. Give discernment and wisdom to our bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay leaders. Take away our fear, so that we serve and love, confident that you are guiding us. Watch over your servants *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David and Roseanne, our synod companion Saint Peter Lutheran Church, Unionville; Saint Cryil Catholic Church, Nashville; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken*. We lift our hearts to you,

☩ **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Ⓐ God our source, awaken us to the beauty of the earth and the marvelous variety of life. Unite humankind in repairing and caring for your creation. Protect creatures and habitats in peril due to rising seas and warming temperatures. We lift our hearts to you,

☩ **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Ⓐ God our vision, raise up leaders in every nation who dream of freedom and justice for all people. We pray for the work of international organizations that promote peace and human rights, especially Amnesty International. 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,

☩ **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Ⓐ God our helper, come to the aid of all who cry out to you. Shelter migrants, refugees, and those fleeing war and famine. Bring relief to individuals and families experiencing hunger, homelessness, or impoverishment. Comfort any who are isolated or lonely. We lift our hearts to you,

☩ **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Ⓐ God our Emmanuel, you are with us in our life together. We give you thanks for gathering us in worship and fellowship, and we remember those who cannot be present. Watch over those who travel. Heal the sick and speed their recovery especially *Frances Ann, Veronica Baarson, Bob Bolton, Keith Busheé, John Charles, Cherie Clements, Victor Crowder, Bob & Bonnie Ehredt, Greg Franks, Bill Frutiger, Mike Gibbons, Amanda Haddix (pregnancy), Larry Hansen, Henry Heil, David Hills, Mike Kemper, Norma Ludlow, Alexis Markwart, Mattea Markwart, Terri Neeb, Ken Plourde, Annette Poholski, Randy Post, Roy Richards, Cynthia Rudesill (pregnancy), Al Throop, Lindsay Varkula (pregnancy), and Maryellen Wammock*. We lift our hearts to you,

☩ **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Ⓐ God our hope, you bring life out of death, and you promise to be our God forever. Shine upon the faithful who now rest in the fulfillment of your promise and bring us also into your blessed reign of peace. We lift our hearts to you,

☩ **Come, Lord Jesus.**

**A** 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.

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Eternal God, we rejoice that all who die in Christ are raised to new life. We thank you for the lives of those who have prepared the way for us and have now joined the great cloud of witnesses. 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 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.**



☞ 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, thou Long Expected Jesus  
Savior of the Nations, Come*

**ELW 254  
ELW 263**

## 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

*The King Shall Come*

**ELW 260**

## 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

### 8:00 am

Assisting Minister – Chris Bush

Lector – Jamie Heise

Cantor – Cindy Olson

Musician – Cindy Olson

Pastor – Ken Scheck

### 10:45 am

Assisting Minister – Kate Watson

Lector – Mark Anton

Cantor – Vickey Argo

Musician – Cindy Olson

Pastor – Ken Scheck

Fellowship – Bill and Lorraine Freedlund

## Messenger in the Night

What did you dream about last night? Is there really any meaning in these vivid storylines that our brains assemble while we sleep? If you think dreams are essentially random firings of our neurons, you might just laugh them off. If you think they do tap into something real, you might try to unpack them. But almost no one makes *important life decisions* based solely on their dreams, right?

The stakes couldn’t have been higher for Joseph and his dream, in which an angel tells him about Mary’s unexpected pregnancy by the Holy Spirit. If he stays, he’s got a story to tell that nobody is going to believe. But if he goes, if he “dismisses her quietly” as the gospel writer puts it, *what’s going to happen to her?* What’s going to happen to the baby?

It might seem that a message in a dream would be the *worst* possible way to make a decision as consequential as this. But if the purpose of our dreams is to put us in touch with what we already know, if it’s to help us sort out our tangled-up emotions and give us some clarity, then perhaps a dream whose message is “Do not be afraid” is exactly what Joseph needs.

The dream-angel, in quoting the prophet Isaiah, helps Joseph connect his present reality with God’s past faithfulness and promises. The angel reminds him that even in this terrifying situation, *God is with him*. We need such assurances as well when it feels like our world is falling apart: messengers to remind us who we really are and to whom we belong. Today we celebrate that Joseph trusted that message, and Mary before him. In them we see that God is faithful, and fear is cast out by the birth of this child.

From [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com).

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## Stewardship Information

Attendance: 78	Views: 248
Weekly Giving: \$2324.00	Budget Amount: \$4,301.04
Renew Campaign Needed \$2,100.00	
Renew Campaign Received <del>-\$2,101.00</del>	
<b>Surplus!</b>	\$ 1.00

**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.**

**Replace, Repair, Renew Campaign.** As you can tell by the above numbers, we have achieved the goal of raising \$4,842.00 toward a new HVAC system for the Fellowship Hall. Look for Council's next phase of fundraising, as we are facing a deficit. Thanks again for your continued generosity, and the support you give to further the mission of Jesus Christ at Grace Lutheran Church.

**Christmas Adopt-A-Family and Christmas Food Baskets** Thank you to everyone helping with Adopt-A-Family this year. Don't forget that your donations are **due today** and can be placed in the classroom collection area. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTNERSHIP IN MINISTRY.**

**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.

**Lakewood Area Choral Society Concert** The Lakewood Area Choral Society cordially invites you to its annual Christmas Concert, Hosanna In the Highest!, at Lakewood High School **TODAY at 3:00 p.m.** In lieu of tickets, 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.

*Christmas Eve Service* begins at 5:30 on Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>.

*Christmas Day Service* is at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>.