

Grace Lutheran Church

239 E North St
Hastings MI 49058



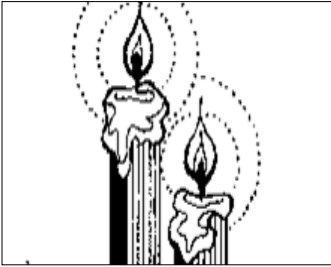
Website: www.grace-hastings.org
Facebook: Grace Lutheran Church-ELCA Hastings, MI

Phone: (269) 945-9414
(269) 945-2645

Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
December 10, 2023

Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2023



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.

Gathering Music

Welcome/Worship Instructions

Arise in body or spirit

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.

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 strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Please be seated

In grand, flowing, poetic lines, the prophet announces that the exile of God's people in Babylon is over. God will deliver Israel and will care for her as a shepherd cares for the sheep. This word can be trusted, because the only enduring reality in life is the word of God.

📖 A reading from **Isaiah**:

¹Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

³A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" ¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

📖 The Word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

Prone to Wander

Pastor Ken Scheck II

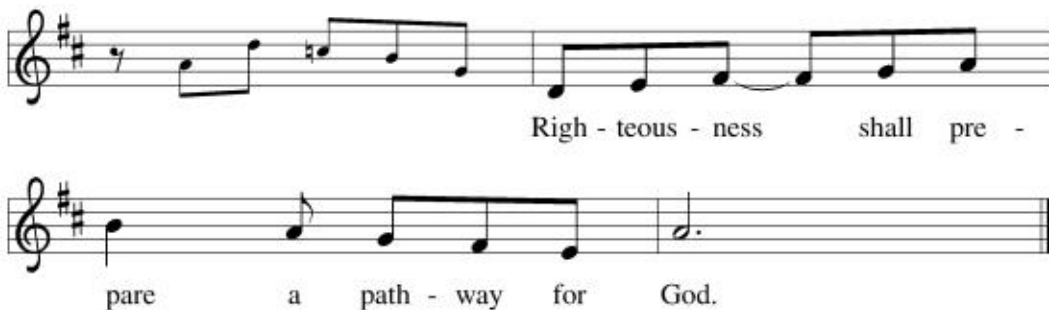
Reflection

Pastor Ken Scheck

Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13




Refrain



¹You have been gracious to your | land, O LORD;
you have restored the good for- | tune of Jacob.

²You have forgiven the iniquity | of your people
and blotted out | all their sins.


⁸**I will listen to what the LORD | God is saying;
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their | hearts to you.**

⁹**Truly, your salvation is very near to | those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell | in our land.** 

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have | met together;
righteousness and peace have | kissed each other.

¹¹Faithfulness shall spring up | from the earth,
and righteousness shall look | down from heaven.

¹²**The LORD will indeed | grant prosperity,
and our land will | yield its increase.**

¹³**Righteousness shall go be- | fore the LORD
and shall prepare for | God a pathway.** 

Waiting for You

Lydia Markwart

Reflection

Pastor Ken Scheck

Hymn of Yearning

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Stanza 3 & 4

ELW 257

3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's

Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,

Refrain
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!

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

From Bethlehem to Every Zip Code

Bill Freedlund

Reflection

Pastor Ken Scheck

Arise in body or spirit
Song of the Day
Please be seated

Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding!

ELW 246

Welcome to the Neighborhood

Gannon & Elizabeth Markwart

Reflection

Pastor Ken Scheck

Vocal Solo (10:45 only) ***Away in a Manger Medley***

Kate Watson, soloist
Cindy Olson, piano

You may sit or kneel for prayer.

Prayers

*We pray the prayer response after each petition. You will hear, **We lift our hearts to you.** The assembly prays, **Come, Lord Jesus.***

☐ With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

A brief silence.

☐ Send forth your faithful people with words of promise and forgiveness. Teach your church to be bold in revealing your good news in word and in deed. Guide the faith of our bishops and congregations and all the servants of your church, including *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants Chrisy and David, our synod companions Trinity Lutheran Church, Kalamazoo; Lakewood United Methodist, Lake Odessa; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* We lift our hearts to you.

☐ **Come, Lord Jesus.**

☐ Reveal your majesty in mountain peaks, flowing rivers, and blossoming wilderness roads. Heal the earth where it longs for renewal. Bring wholeness to the earth and all its creatures. We lift our hearts to you.

☐ **Come, Lord Jesus.**

A Turn the hearts of the nations toward righteousness and peace. Increase cooperation for justice between countries, commonwealths, political parties, and diplomatic leaders. In times of prosperity, direct leaders to be generous for the sake of all. 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 Comfort your people with tender words of love and healing. Surround all who are grieving, all who know depression or anxiety, or all who feel lonely or forgotten. Be a steadfast presence when all else feels uncertain. We lift our hearts to you.

C Come, Lord Jesus.

A Grant holy patience to all who are waiting this season. Give hope to those seeking employment. Bring reassurance to people awaiting new diagnoses or treatments. Protect expectant parents. Watch with those who keep bedside vigil. We pray for those who suffer especially, *especially, Pastor Michael Anton, Veronica Baarson, Bob Bolton, Diana Brown, Doug Brown, Chris Bush, Cherie Clements, Kristen Cove, Jet Cover, Pat DePew, Ann and the English Family, Lisa Golnek, Lorraine Handsbarger, Norma Ludlow, Martha Misak, Virginia Moomey, James Neiderheiser, Lisa Nurenberg, Corrina Palmer, Shirley Peterson, Annette Poholski, Jennifer Rohr, Mike Shoemaker, Jeanette Ulrich, Al Throop, and Brenda Watson*. We lift our hearts to you.

C Come, Lord Jesus.

A With you a thousand years is like a day. Bless the memory of the saints from ages past and the anticipation of saints yet to be born.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A Inspire us to live with faith as we await your new heaven and new earth. 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.

Please be seated

Our Perfect King

Lexie Watson

Reflection

Pastor Ken Scheck

Arise in body or spirit.

Offertory Song

He Came Down

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.

G Bless all that we offer, that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing. In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray. Amen

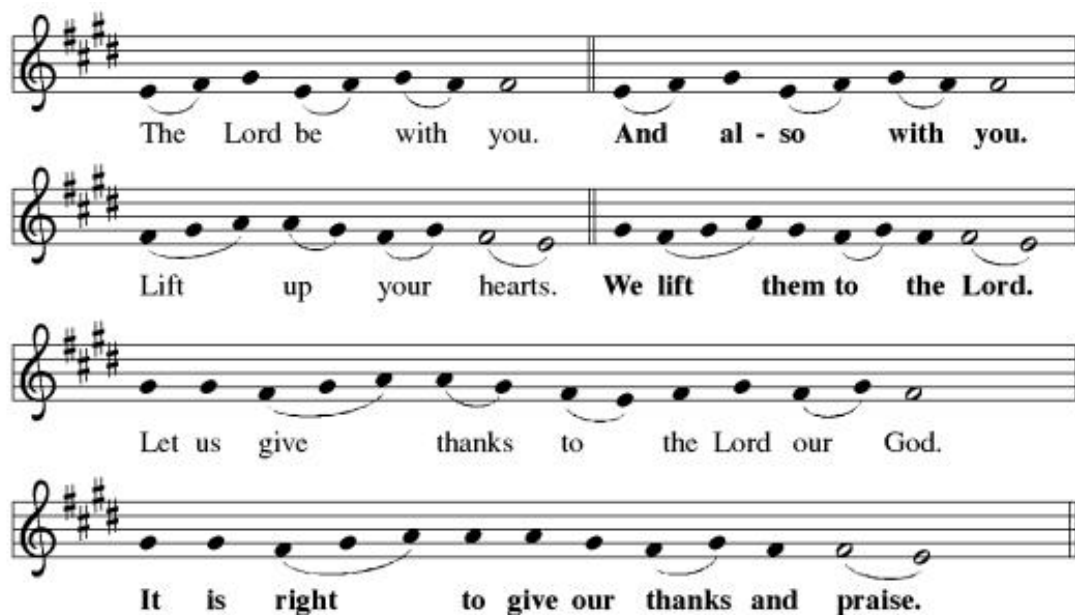
Sharing the Peace of God

P The peace of Christ be with you.

G And also with you.

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

Great Thanksgiving



☐ It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Table Prayer

- ☐ Holy God, the Beginning and the End, our Salvation and our Hope, we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.
- ☑ **When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair, you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy. At this end of the ages your Son Jesus came to bring us your love and to heal all the suffering 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. Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await Christ's coming again in righteousness and peace.
- ☑ **Send your Spirit on us and on this bread and wine we share.**
- ☐ Strengthen our faith, increase our hope, and bring to birth the justice and joy 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, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

☞ Come to the table of grace.

☞ Thanks be to God.

Sit.

Lamb of God

ELW page 154

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on

us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the

sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Songs

We Are Waiting for Jesus

ACS 905



1 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
2 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise.
Lov - ing Shep - herd, walk be - side us; stir our hearts, and gent - ly guide us.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

ELW 254

Prayer after Communion

- A** God of promise, you give food to those who hunger and justice to those who are oppressed.
- C** As you have nourished us in this meal, send us to proclaim the coming of your righteous reign; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Mission Minutes

Arise in body or spirit

Blessing

- P** The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting, the long-expected Savior fill you with love, the unexpected Spirit guide your journey, ✚ now and forever.
- C** Amen.

Sending

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

G Thanks be to God.

Postlude**New Beginnings**

There are lots of ways to open a story, perhaps most famously “Once upon a time . . .” Similarly, the gospel-writer Mark starts out, “The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ,” even though his narrative lacks the birth, angelic announcements, and childhood stories Matthew and Luke tell about Jesus. And John’s gospel starts even farther back, at the beginning of creation, before skipping to Jesus’ adult years. What we can take from these varying opening narratives is that the story of Jesus does not have one beginning, but many beginnings—each a new entry point into the old, old story of God’s love breaking into the world.

Mark starts with an invitation to baptism, repentance, and forgiveness of sins. Even so, John the baptizer declares that another new start is coming, with the baptism of the Holy Spirit that Jesus will bring. What’s more, while his baptism by John is clearly not the first event in Jesus’ life, it marks a new beginning just before he heads off to the wilderness and then on to start his public ministry.

We celebrate Advent every year at this time, but each time is a new experience, a new beginning of the church year, a new chance to anticipate grace. What has changed for you since last Advent? What has changed for your family and community? What expectations or hopes do you have for God’s presence with us? What new beginning would be a blessing?

Every Sunday is a celebration of the resurrection, and each time we take part in confession and forgiveness we experience a fresh start. Mark opens with baptism, which is a new beginning for each of us. Remembering our baptism offers us daily assurance of the new things God is always unfolding around us. Today as we worship, we pray for the Holy Spirit to stir up something new in, with, and among us.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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The Advent devotional THE LIGHT OF GRACE is available on the table in the Gathering Area. Compliments of the Outreach Committee.

Advent Worship. Join us this Wednesday night at 7:15 pm in the sanctuary for **Holden Evening Prayer**. This Wednesday we continue to share in scripture and sing the message of salvation. There is a short time of reflection. If you are able to come earlier for a meal, please join us at 6:15. Proceeds go to Family Promise.

Christmas Family Adoptions. We are adopting 5 families again this year. Watch for the donation board to be posted in the Gathering Area. Take a reminder tag for one of the gifts you would like to donate for one of the children in a family. Instruction sheets will be available on the board for wrapping, identifying, and returning your gift. Plan to return your donation by **Sunday, Dec. 17th. 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 16, 2023. Carpooling is available.

Brothers of Grace Christmas Dinner Night Out will be on **Thursday, December 14 at 6:00 p.m.** This year we are celebrating at Yankee Bills on M179.

Happy Birthday Jesus Party is **today** following the 10:45 service. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the service and meal to follow! **Secret Santa** reveal is **today** at the Jesus Birthday party. Please make it a point, if you cannot be there to tell your Secret Santa at another time.

Giving Tree. The Giving Tree in the Gathering Area is up. This year we will be gathering items of donation to the **Alpha Women's Center** and **Family Promise of Barry County**. Tags with suggested donations will be hanging on the tree for you take with you as a reminder. Please do not wrap these donations so the organizations can easily identify each donation. **Donations can be received through January 7th.**

Adult Forum Join us this week, as we continue our study of Galatians. We meet in the Gathering Area Sundays at 9:30 am. Join us next week for the book study.

Christmas Eve Service 7:00 p.m.

8:00 am

Assisting Minister – Mark Anton
Lector – Dave Neeb
Cantor – Cindy Olson
Pastor – Ken Scheck II
Musician – Cindy Olson

10:45 am

Assisting Minister – Kate Watson
Lector – Jack Vos
Cantor – Ken Scheck II
Pastor – Ken Scheck
Musician – Cindy Olson
Percussion – Clyde Watson

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 are here among us to worship the ONE who has come to us, and we await Christ's physical return. Let us enjoy the Christmas story anew.

Please use this QR Code to access online giving.



Stewardship Information

Attendance: 66

Views: 228

Weekly Giving: \$3,600.00

Budget Amount: \$4,366.17

November Online Giving: \$2,147.32

Prayer Chain Grace has an activated prayer chain. If you want to be a part of the prayer chain, or have a request for prayer, please text or call Patti Comp at 248.408.5613.

Book Study entitled Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist. The next study session is NEXT SUNDAY, December 17.

Noisy Offering will be collected today to benefit Barry County Cares. You may place coins and other money into the silver bowl located in the front during the singing of the offertory song. Noisy Offering is taken every second Sunday.

The nursery is available weekly 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.

Hand2Hand Program provides food over the weekend to students at Hastings schools. We are collecting donations of Yoo-Hoo Chocolate Milk, pudding cups, Slim Jims, granola bars, individual size instant oatmeal, ramen noodles, and ready-to-eat mac and cheese. In addition, December items are chicken noodle soup, saltine crackers, individual apple sauce cups, and individual snacks. **The deadline for this month is December 31st.**

Women of Faith meet Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m. All ladies are welcome.

On the Fourth Sunday of Advent will have a combined morning service at 10 am on December 24th.

Christmas at Clearstream On Thursday, December 14 you are invited to join the handbell choir as they bring cheer to the residents of Clearstream. Meet at Grace at 4:00 to walk across the street to ring and sing from 4:14-4:45. There will be pizza, cookies, and snacks back at Grace following the fun. Please let Kim Domke know by December 10 if you plan to join at 269.908.0024.