Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
November 29, 2026

First Sunday of Advent
November 29, 2026



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

Gathering Music

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.
C **And also with you.**

A In the darkness we light a flame of hope.
C **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.
C **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.
C **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.

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 awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

First Reading **Isaiah 64:1-9**

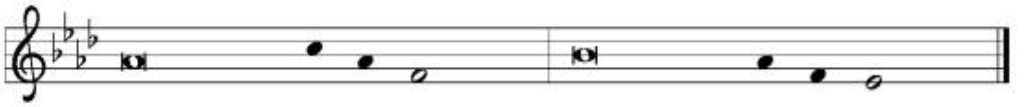
This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.

L A reading from **Isaiah:**

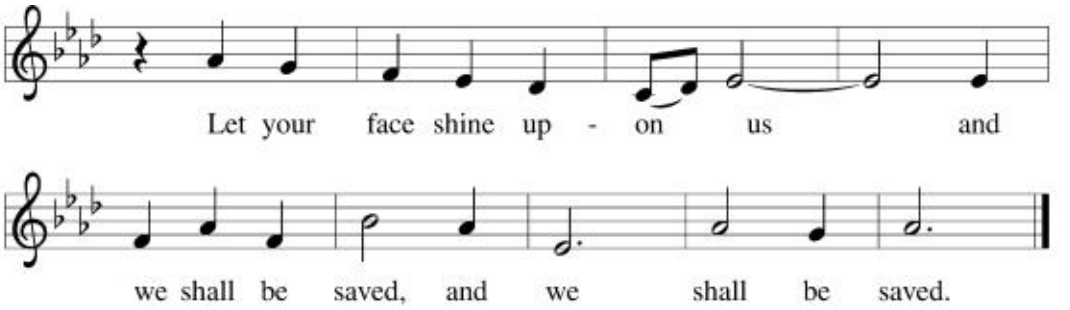
[1]O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
[2]as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
[3]When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
[4]From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
[5]You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
[6]We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
[7]There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
[8]Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
[9]Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

L The word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19



℟ = **Refrain**



[1]Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph | like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- | on the cherubim.
[2]**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, | and Manasseh,**
stir up your strength and | come to help us.

[3]Restore | us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.
[4]**O LORD| God of hosts,**
how long will your anger fume when your | people pray? ℟

[5]You have fed them with the | bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of | tears to drink.
[6]**You have made us the derision | of our neighbors,**
and our enemies laugh | us to scorn.

[7]Restore us, O | God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.
[17]**Let your hand be upon the one at | your right hand,**
the one you have made so strong | for yourself. ℟

[18]And so will we never turn a- | way from you;
give us life, that we may call up- | on your name.
[19]**Restore us, O LORD| God of hosts;**
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved. ℟

Second Reading **1 Corinthians 1:3-9**

As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.

L A reading from **1 Corinthians:**

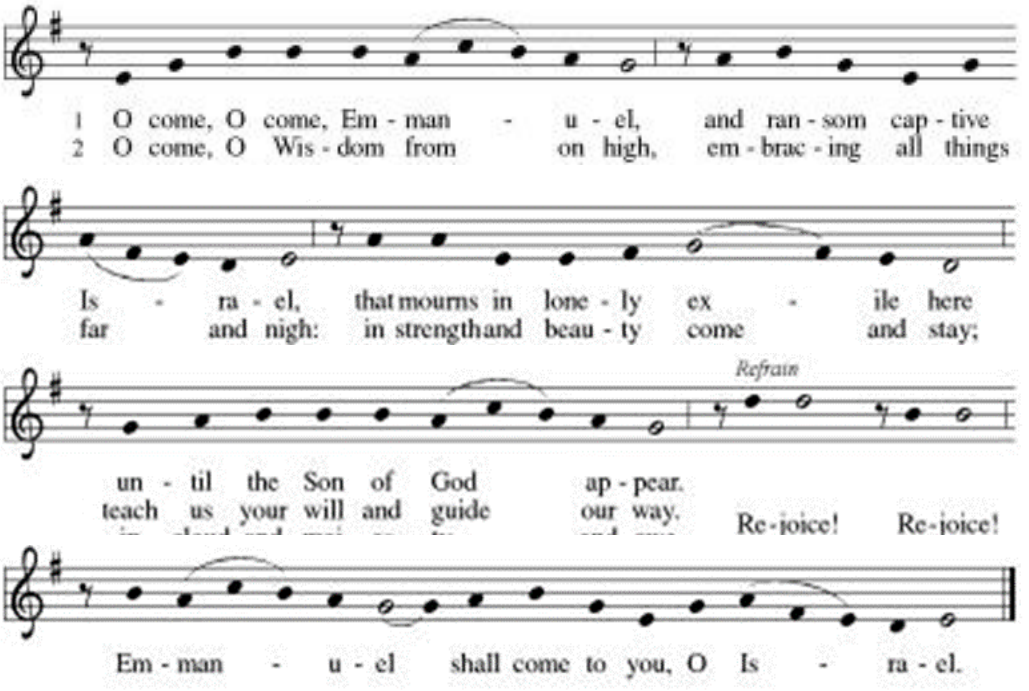
3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in
Christ Jesus, 5 for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every
kind— 6 just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— 7 so that you are not
lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8 He will also
strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God
is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

L The word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation ***O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*** **ELW 257**

Stanza 1 & 2



Gospel Reading **Mark 13:24-37**

Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.

℗ The Holy Gospel, according to **Mark:**

℃ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] 24"In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
25and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
26Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. 27Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

28"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. 29So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. 30Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. 31Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

32"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 33Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. 34It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. 35Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, 36or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. 37And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

℗ 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

Arise in body or in spirit to sing the hymn.

Song of the Day ***Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn*** **ELW 242**

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.**

A In hope and expectation, we bring to God our prayers for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

A Strengthen your church in this season of anticipation. Nourish all people who gather around word and water, bread and cup. Reassure any whose faith feels dry that you are always near. Bless our leaders and partners, *including Bishops Yehiel and Julie, Assistants Scott and Kate, our synod companion Zion Lutheran Church in Cadillac; Solid Rock Bible Church in Delton; St. Ambrose Catholic Church in Delton; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken*. We lift our hearts to you.

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

A Come and restore the earth. Give rest to weary lands and renewed life to species at risk. Make us wise stewards of the places we call home. We lift our hearts to you.

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

A Bring peace among all nations and communities. Embolden leaders to seek creative and sustainable resolutions to war and conflict. Show us new possibilities in places where peace has been elusive. Be with those who safeguard the world, *including Parker Stancil (Freedlund), Cody and Myrina Crawford (Clements), Cynthia Rudesill (Hansen), Joel Taggart (Varkula), Seth Domke (Domke), Hudson Schick (Markwart) and Leopold Schick (Markwart)*. We lift our hearts to you.

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

A Sustain all who are heavy with weariness, grief, illness, or worry*, especially Jennie Anderson, Vickey Argo, Bob Bolton, Frank Bolton, Chris Bush, John Charles, Cherie Clements, Kay Corrigan, Kim Domke, Celina Eichler, Greg Franks, Melanie Franks, Lisa Golnek, Larry Griswold, Bill Halstead, Amy Hansen, newly born Dalton Heise, Walker Heise, Autum Henion, Christine Jenkins, Joy Jenks, Martha Klenk, Gabby Kriebiehl, Ricky Long, Ed Markwart, Cathy Martell, Dick Melcher, Carrie Miller, Virginia Moomey, Jody Neagle, Corey Normandin, Lyle Proksch and family, Samantha Replogle, Steve Sensiba, Rob Smelker, Payton Stancil, Kathy Surratt, Al Throop, Claudia Throop, Linda Trongo, George Ulrich Jr., Jeanette Ulrich, Ron Waege, Kay Wagner, and Clyde Watson Jr.* Comfort families who are estranged from one another and any who are separated from loved ones. We lift our hearts to you.

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

A Inspire liturgists, preachers, musicians, and all who lead our worship and prayer. May we be prepared as we await Christ's coming this Advent season. We lift our hearts to you.

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A You embrace all the saints from the far reaches of the earth. We remember with care all who have died and now abide in their eternal home. We lift our hearts to you.

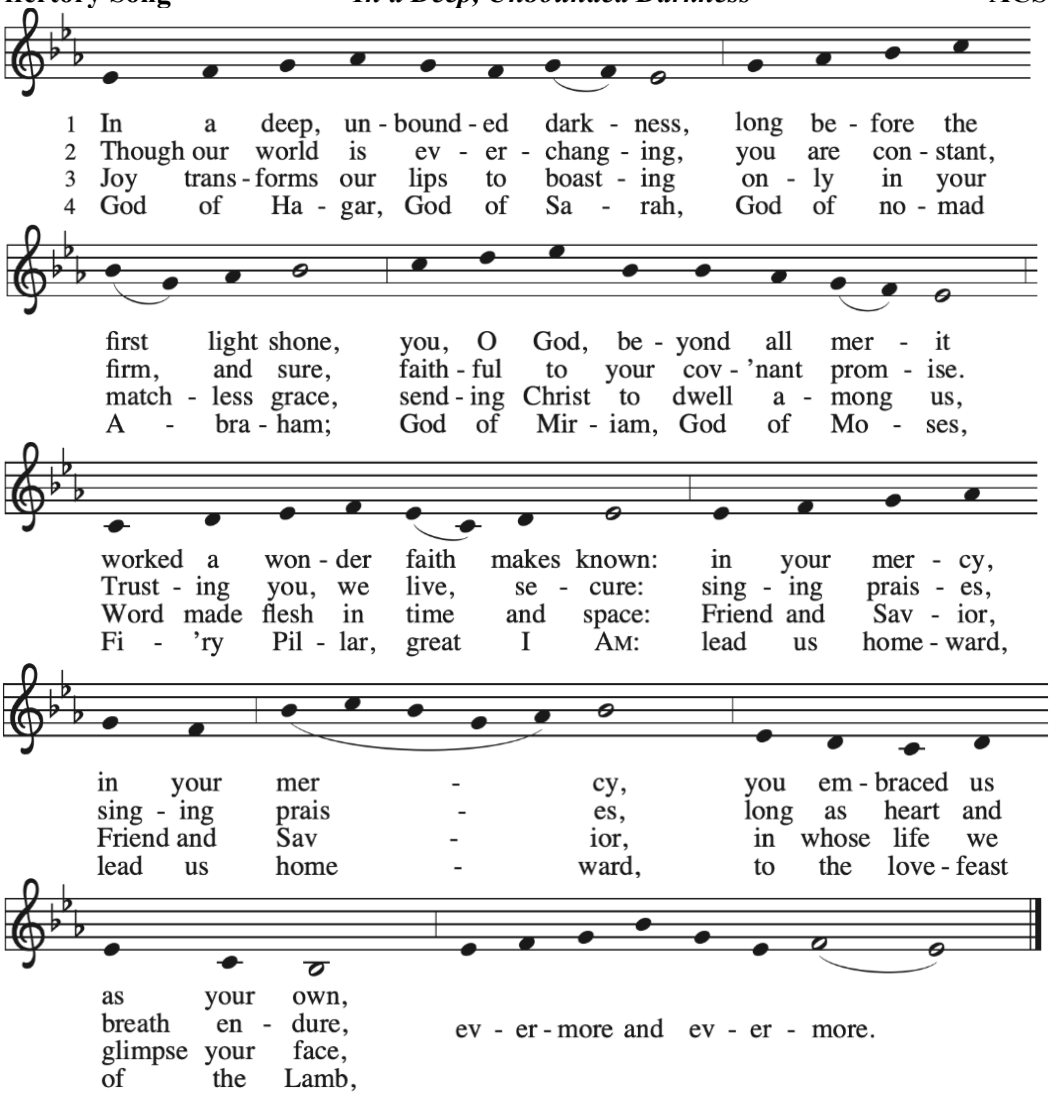
C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

P We entrust these and the prayers of our hearts to you, most holy God, in the name of Christ Jesus our Savior.

C **Amen.**

Arise in body or spirit.

Offertory Song ***In a Deep, Unbounded Darkness*** **ACS 1093**



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.**

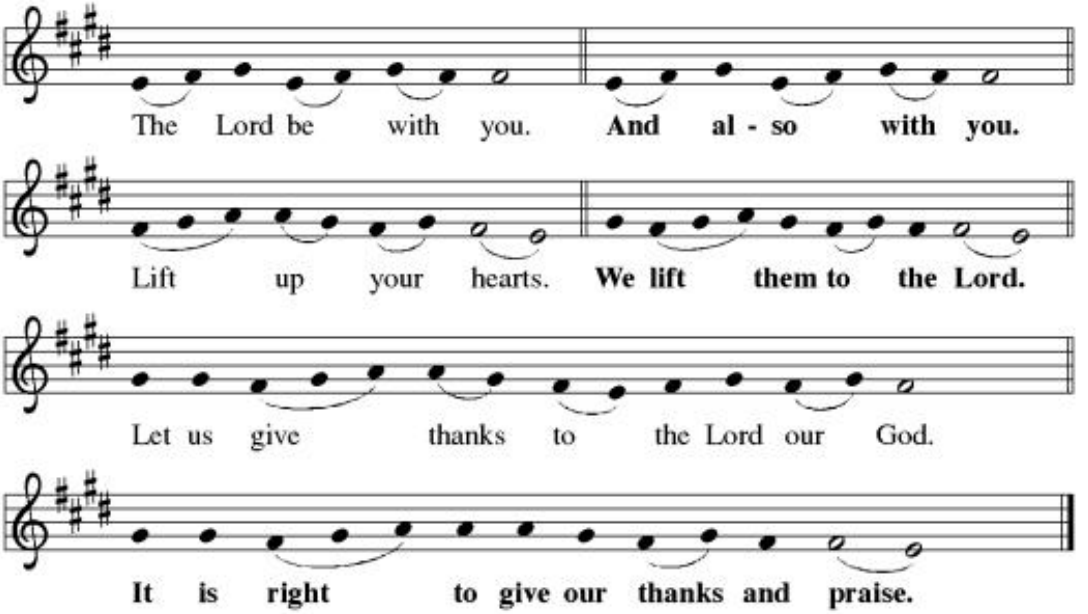
Sharing the Peace of God

P The peace of Christ be with you.

C **And also with you.**

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

Great Thanksgiving



P 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:

Holy, Holy, Holy **ELW 190**

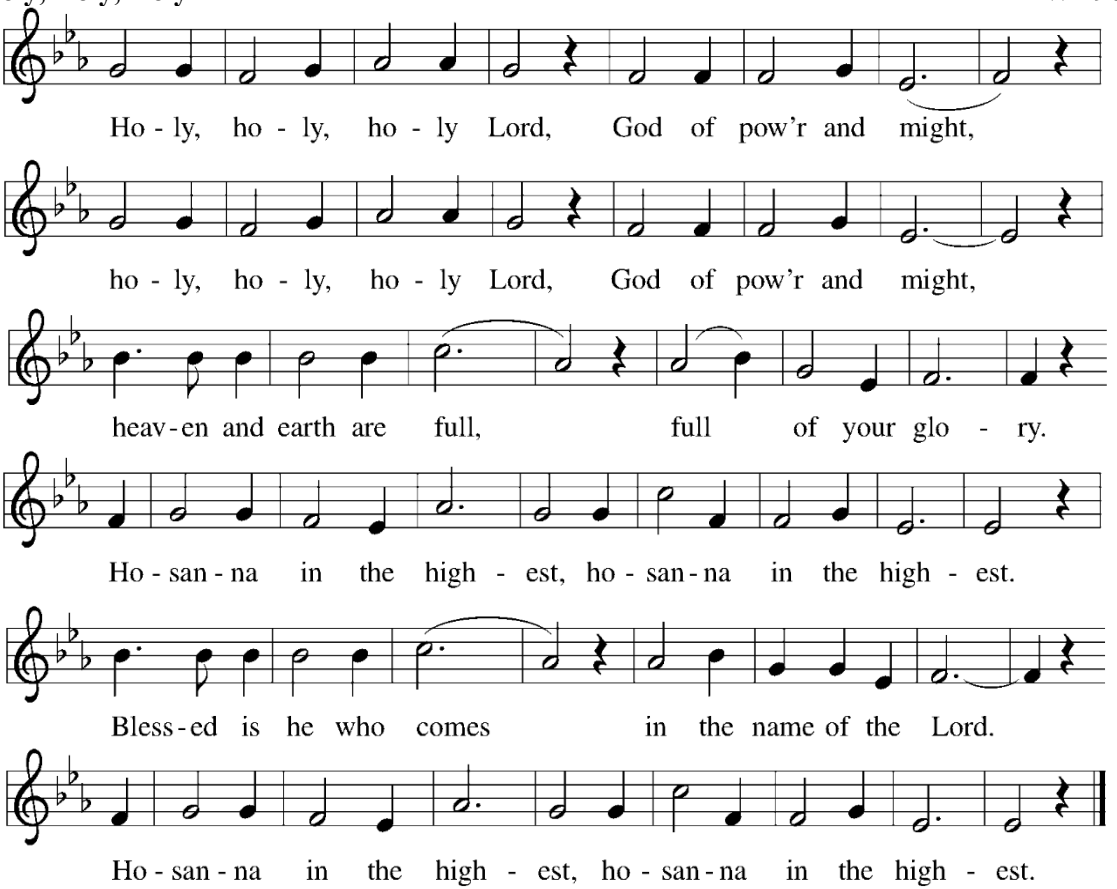


Table Prayer

℗ 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.**

P Strengthen our faith, increase our hope, and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.

C **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

P Gathered by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus 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 Come to the table of grace.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Sit.

Communion Songs

My Lord, What a Morning	**ELW 438**
Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Calling	**ELW 246**

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

A 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 Song ***Rejoice, Rejoice Believers*** **ELW 244**

Sending

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

C **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

9:30 am
Assisting Minister – Vickey Argo
Lector – Mark Anton
Cantor – Anna Scheck
Cupbearer – Phil Poholski
Musician – Cindy Olson
Pastor – Ken Scheck
Usher – Deb Watson
Fellowship – Laura Scheck

Keeping Alert

Our Advent season begins this year with the Gospel of Mark and the warning words of Jesus: "Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come" (Mark 13:33). This may seem confusing. Isn't Advent meant to prepare us for Christmas? Isn't the anticipation we are to feel related to the celebration of Christ's birth? Yes—and also to his second coming.

In today's reading, Jesus urges his disciples, and us, to keep alert for the coming of the Son of Man, by which we understand that he means his own return. But Jesus shares that even he and the angels do not know the time of this event; only God the Father knows. Still, the promise is there: Jesus will come again. And when Jesus comes, we are to be awake and ready.

As the body of Christ, before we receive holy communion, we declare, "Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again." Christ was born, died, rose from the grave, and promised to return. We do not pretend to know the "when" of his return, but we trust that it will happen. We just don't talk about it much. Very few of us would say we are ready.

In our busy world, with so many distractions and too few hours in the day, we often go to bed in exhaustion and wake up again fatigued. Parents of children, caregivers of others, teachers, pastors, laborers of all kinds—our daily tasks and lists are never-ending, and each day rolls into another, especially the busy days before Christmas. These are the days when Mark's words ring true. As exhausted as we may be at times by simply living, we are always called to "keep awake" (Mark 13:35, 37), seeking Jesus. Even in chaos or mundane tasks or work, we are to keep alert and ready. Mark proclaims the real joy of Christmas: Jesus will come again. In Advent, we can dwell in this space and appreciate the season more deeply.

From sundaysandseasons.com.
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Photos taken for the directory are available online for purchase. If you have not received the link by email, please let Cindy know. Another Picture Day will be scheduled for January.

God's Creation 2026 Calendars. Available for $5.00 each. There are only 9 calendars left. We thank the Outreach Committee for making these available. They make excellent gifts, as each calendar has the word of God and several pictures of God's beautiful world.

The Advent devotional PEACE, HOPE, LIGHT is available on the table in the Gathering Area. Compliments of the Outreach Committee.

Advent Reflections "Bringing the Light of God to All" are taking place on Wednesdays at noon and include lunch. This week's message is by Bryce Feighner, held at Hastings Nazarene Church.

Advent Worship. Join us this Wednesday night at 6:00 pm in the sanctuary for **Holden Evening Prayer.** This Wednesday is the first mid-week service as we share in scripture and sing the message of salvation. There is a short time of reflection. There isa meal following the worship service. Proceeds go to Green Gables Haven.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE IS AT 7:00 PM this year with Prelude beginning at 6:30. If you are interested in providing music for prelude, or being part of Grace Singers, especially if it'd be your first time, please let Cindy know.

Christmas Family Adoptions. We are adopting 5 families again this year. Watch for the donation board to be posted in the Gathering Area (to be put up tomorrow). 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. 13th. THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTNERSHIP IN MINISTRY.**

Brothers of Grace Christmas Lunch Out will be on **Saturday, December 14** at 12 noon. This year we are celebrating Walldorff downtown Hastings.

Happy Birthday Jesus Party will take place **SUNDAY** on **December 20.** The Social Activities Committee will have cake. Looking forward to making homebound gifts that day.

Giving Tree. The Giving Tree in the Gathering Area is up. This year we will be gathering items to donate to school children. We ask you to bring food items for snacks. **Donations can be received through the end of December.**

Christmas Eve Service 7:00 p.m.

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 finds us, even when we miss the coming of the Lord. Jesus guards us and helps us through our difficult days.

Stewardship Information

Please use this QR Code to access

Attendance: 36 Views: 204
Weekly Giving: $975.00 Budget Amount**:** $4,363.00

Offerings received to date through November 15	$ 65,477.86
Offerings received on November 22	+ $ 975.00
Year to date total offerings *(fiscal year)*	$ 66,452.86

Non-Budget (Mission): $60.00 (Calendar)
Non-Budget (Outreach): $127.00 (Pasties)

Budget Focus Item

Snow Plow	$ 1,500.00	Office Supply	$ 4,900.00
Given toward line	-$ 1,500.00		- $ 250.00
Still needed to meet goal	$ 0.00		$ 650.00

The nursery is available weekly during the 9:30 worship service. Aurora Hawkins 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 will meet Tuesday, December 1, 11am – noon. All ladies are welcome.

Brown Bag Bible Study is at noon on Thursday, December 3. All are welcome.

Brothers of Grace & Women of Faith are hosting Lunch at Grace this Saturday, December 5, at noon. All are welcome for lasagna, salad, and pie. Please sign up in the Gathering Area so we know how much food to prepare.

Social Activities Committee will not meet in December.