

Grace Lutheran Church
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FIRST SUNDAY IN
ADVENT

“A REAL CHRISTMAS
REQUIRES REMEMBERING
WHY CHRIST CAME”



December 1 & 2, 2024

In the name of our Lord Jesus, welcome to one and all! We pray that here at Grace you will find the warmth of Christian hospitality, the abiding truth of God’s Word, and the quiet assurance of peace in Christ. If we can assist you in any way, please ask.

Listening Assist aids are available—ask an usher. A Parents’ Room is available next to the mailboxes in the Fellowship Hall. Come worship with us again!

Our Communion Practice

In obedience to God’s Word and in loving concern for the spiritual welfare of others, we practice closed communion, participating in this wonderful supper. By limiting communion at our altar to those of our faith and fellowship we are not trying to judge non-members’ personal faith. We are acting in accord with the Lord’s will concerning the administration of the Sacrament. Those of our faith and fellowship, Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) or Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS), but not of our congregation, should announce to the pastor personally prior to taking Communion with us for the first time.

It is easy to get so caught up in the imagery—a tiny newborn baby, lying in the straw filled manger under a star-filled sky—that we forget the why. Why did the Son of God come into our world and take on human flesh? So that he might die as the sacrifice for our sins. One Christmas carol puts it this way. “Neither crib nor cross refuses, all he suffers for your good to redeem you by his blood.” Advent marks the start of a new Church Year. We begin at the end, watching Jesus ride into Jerusalem on a donkey colt, knowing full well that he would be killed before the end of the week. The events of Palm Sunday serve as a microcosm for all Jesus’ work, proving the Son of God was willing to humble himself and endure anything for our salvation. That is precisely why Christ came. And a real Christmas requires remembering why Christ came.

302 Prepare the Royal Highway

CW 302

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Confession

God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up. *James 4:6,10*

Dear friends, the season of Advent is a time of preparation as we await Christ's second coming on the Last Day. We prepare our hearts to meet him as we humbly seek his forgiveness.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

If you, Lord, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand?

But with you there is forgiveness; therefore, you are feared. *Psalms 130:3,4*

Soloist sings Hymn 975 st. 1

975 My Soul Will Magnify the Lord – st. 1

CW 975

1 My soul will mag-ni-fy the Lord; I re-joice in God my
Sav-ior, in the won-der of his fa-vor.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.



For he has done great things for me, he was mind-ful
of his ser-vant; ev-'ry age shall call me bless-ed.
The hope of A - bra - ham come in the
giv - ing of a Son; for he who prom-ised is
might - y in re - mem - ber - ing his mer - cy.

God's promise to Abraham and his descendants was fulfilled in the coming of his Son. Jesus Christ humbled himself by submitting to God's law. He humbled himself by becoming obedient to death on a cross. God promises to lift up the humble and fill the hungry with good things because of the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Though he was rich, yet for our sakes he became poor, so that we through his poverty might become rich. *2 Corinthians 8:9*

Even as we await Christ's second coming, he comes to us here and now in the words he gives his messengers to speak: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Soloist sings Hymn 975 st. 2



2 My soul will mag-ni-fy the Lord for his grace to those who
fear him through ev-ry gen-er-a-tion.
The proud he scat-ters to the wind as the rul-er's
strength is bro-ken, and the rich are left with noth-ing.
The hum-ble lift-ed high, and the
hun-gry sat-is-fied; our por-tion and our
treas-ure, our hope and help for-ev-er.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

We light one Advent candle, remembering Jesus, who will come again. He will gather his people from everywhere, both the living and the dead.

We remember Jesus, who will come at the end of time. None of us knows what day that will be.

We hear his call to watch.

We light one Advent candle as a sign of our watchfulness and waiting.

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blest.

Congregation sings as comfortable



1 My soul will mag - ni - fy the Lord; I re - joice in God my
Sav - ior, in the won - der of his fa - vor.

The Word

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength, and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading

Jeremiah 33:14-16

¹⁴“The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will fulfill the good promise I made to the people of Israel and Judah.

¹⁵“In those days and at that time

I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David’s line;
he will do what is just and right in the land.

¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved
and Jerusalem will live in safety.

This is the name by which it will be called:
The LORD Our Righteous Savior.’

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

24C Lift Up Your Heads

Psalm 24C

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 3:9–13

⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith.

¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. ¹²May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. ¹³May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Zechariah 9:9

Alleluia.

See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious,
lowly and riding on a donkey.

Alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 19:28–40

²⁸After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. ²⁹As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, ³⁰“Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ say, ‘The Lord needs it.’ ”

³²Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. ³³As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, “Why are you untying the colt?”

³⁴They replied, “The Lord needs it.”

³⁵They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. ³⁶As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road.

³⁷When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:

³⁸"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

³⁹Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!"

⁴⁰"I tell you," he replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

301 Savior of the Nations, Come

CW 301

Sermon

Luke 19:28-40

Christ Came to Be Our King

Humble

Exalted

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially for the gift of your Son, through whom you have revealed your gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working through the means of grace.

Plant your Word in our hearts, and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.

Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.

Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.

Keep our children in the grace of their baptisms. Enable their parents to train them in lives of faith.

Raise up Christians to serve you in the ministry of the Word and in all godly walks of life.

Preserve our nation in justice and honor. Guide and bless all who make, administer, and judge our laws.

Give them wisdom that they may promote justice and hinder evil.

Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, the arts and culture. Protect all who travel, and care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.

Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.

Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those for whom death draws near.

Grant them your love, and take them into your tender care.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you, who now rest from their labors. Console those who are mourning or living with sadness.

Keep us in the true faith, and bring us at last to the joys of heaven.

Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again.

Amen.

Offering: Hymn 749 st. 3

CW 749

The Sacrament

Preface

CW 165

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

CW 167

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you.

As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

O Christ, Lamb of God

CW 169

360 Behold, a Branch Is Growing

CW 360

672 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

CW 672

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

Thank you to our Worship Team.
Worship Music Leader: Amibeth Olderman

Last Week's Attendance:
Sunday: 93; Monday: 29; Total: 122

Acknowledgements

Setting One from Christian Worship

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WORSHIP SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

9:00AM

No worship Monday, December 23

WORSHIP CHRISTMAS EVE

1:30PM & 5:00PM

WORSHIP CHRISTMAS DAY

9:00AM

WORSHIP SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

9:00AM

No worship Monday, December 30

WORSHIP NEW YEAR'S EVE

6:30PM

No worship New Year's Day