

*Grace Lutheran Church
Welcomes You!*



By Grace you have been saved!

*Everyone is Welcome!
Taste and See that the Lord is Good,
Let us rejoice together!*

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 6, 2020

Pastor Jim Helgren

Prelude & Announcements

Opening Hymn "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid; Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

Kyrie: **C: response... "Lord, have mercy.**

C: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Prayer of the Day

See Insert

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

"Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel"

The First Lesson: Isaiah 40:1-11

See Insert

Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13

See Insert

Second Lesson: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

See Insert

C: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

See Insert

P: The Gospel according to St. Mark, the 1st chapter

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P:The Gospel of the Lord"

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Message

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”

Nicene Creed

**C: 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:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

**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.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic 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.**

Prayers of the Church

P: Lord in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

Offering

C: Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather the harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

Offertory Prayer

P: Merciful Father,

C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – ourselves, our time, our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Chris our Lord. Amen

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right and salutary..... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosana. Hosana. Hosana in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosana in the highest.

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

**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, the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen**

continued on inside of bulletin

C: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Distribution

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen

C: Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell everyone what he has done. Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name. He recalls his promises and leads his people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Prayer – P: Let us pray...

C: Amen

Benediction

Closing Hymn “Fling Wide the Door”

Dismissal

We pray always for . . .

*Robert Armknecht, Luetta Bruns, Linda Daniels, Eldon Dieckgrafe,
Mary Goudie, Casey Holsing, Erin Ebeler Rolf, Bruce Gerking,
Larry Naber, Axl Walters,*

our military men and women, their families and their leaders.

We also remember in our prayers . . .

Grace, Oscar & Sabra, orphans we are sponsoring in Tanzania.

*Please put items for the bulletins & newsletter in the secretary’s box
in the south office. You may email the church office
grace68329@gmail.com NOTE NEW EMAIL ADDRESS*

***You may contact Pastor Helgren by calling 402-864-4201 (church)
402-864-2113 (home) or 402-826-0613(cell)***

Today 12/6/20

Worship with communion – 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday 12/9/20

Confirmation – 6:00 p.m.

Saturday 12/12/20

Santa to visit in the alley behind the

Cook Fire Dept. – 1:00 p.m.

NEXT SUNDAY 12/13/20

Worship – 8:30 a.m.

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Weekly Budget | \$2,038.00 |
| Received Last Week | \$1,975.00 |
| Tanzanian Orphans (3 Orphans!) | \$1,350.00 |

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS! WE WERE ABLE TO SPONSOR 3 TANZANIAN ORPHANS AGAIN THIS YEAR. MORE INFORMATION ON THE ORPHANS TO BE COMING.

We have included a blue piece of paper in your bulletin to place on the pew when you leave.

This way we know which specific pew to clean/disinfect since we have untapped the pews for seating. So please leave the blue page on the pew where you sat.



Today's Readings

Second Sunday of Advent
December 6, 2020

Prayer of the Day

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

First Reading

Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, 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.

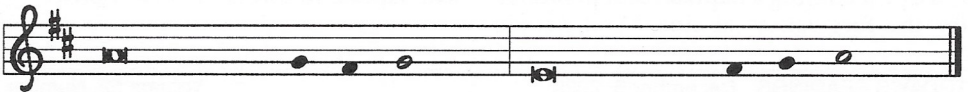
⁹Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
"Here is your God!"

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.

Psalm

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; tone 6



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

²You have forgiven the iniquity
¹of your people
and blotted out ¹all their sins.

continued

⁸I will listen
to what the LORD ¹ God is saying;
for you speak peace
to your faithful people
and to those
who turn their ¹ hearts to you.
⁹Truly, your salvation is very near
to ¹ those who fear you,
that your glory
may dwell ¹ in our land.
¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness
have ¹ met together;

righteousness and peace
have ¹ kissed each other.
¹¹Faithfulness shall spring up
¹ from the earth,
and righteousness
shall look ¹ down from heaven.
¹²The LORD will indeed ¹ grant prosperity,
and our land will ¹ yield its increase.
¹³Righteousness
shall go be- ¹ fore the LORD
and shall prepare for ¹ God a pathway.

Second Reading

2 Peter 3:8-15a

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

¹¹Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons

ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ¹⁵and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

Gospel

Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,
“See, I am sending my messenger
ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;
³the voice of one crying out in the
wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,’”
⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people

from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

TODAY’S READINGS December 6, 2020

Volume 52, Number 1

Next Sunday’s Readings: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126 or Luke 1:46b-55; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28.

TODAY’S READINGS (ISSN 1069-0166, USPS 009628) is published quarterly by Augsburg Fortress, 510 Marquette Ave, Suite 800, Minneapolis, MN, 55402. Periodicals postage paid in Twin Cities, MN and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to Today’s Readings, Augsburg Fortress Publishers, P.O. Box 1553, Minneapolis, MN 55440-8730. Printed in U.S.A. Price per weekly part \$3.90 per 100 copies; price in Canada subject to exchange rates. Minimum order 50 copies of each issue; all orders must be in multiples of 50. Copyright © 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May not be reproduced. Revised Common Lectionary © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts. Readings from New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha © 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Prayer of the day and psalm from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* © 2006, admin, Augsburg Fortress. Psalm tone accompaniment is in *Psalter for Worship, Year B* (Augsburg Fortress, 2008). Please visit our Web site at augsburgfortress.org. Lectionary year B.

Santa Claus is Coming to Town!

Saturday, December 12 at 1 pm

A drive up to see Santa in the alley behind the Cook Fire Department will be set up, and goodie bags will be given out for children and adults.

Children are invited to drop off a wish list letter to Santa in a special mailbox on site. If they include a self-addressed stamped envelope Santa will send a reply.

If you would like to bring a **Poinsettia** to share with the church, you can bring them at any time. If the poinsettia is in memory or honor of someone, please add that information to the sheet on the counter in the SE Church Office where you can leave your Poinsettia. Be sure to label your poinsettia with your name for when you come to pick it up.

The following poinsettias have been donated

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <i>The Brinkman's</i> | <i>In Memory of Verna Brinkman</i> |
| <i>Kathy Varnado</i> | <i>In Memory of Verna Brinkman</i> |
| <i>Dean & Jody Wellensiek</i> | <i>In Memory of our Parents</i> |
| <i>Gene & Diane Ekhoﬀ</i> | <i>In Memory of our Parents & sister Barb</i> |
| <i>Eleta Eisenhower</i> | <i>In Memory of David & Jill Eisenhower</i> |
| <i>Russell & Kate Dietz</i> | <i>In Memory of our Grandparents and Russell's Dad</i> |

++*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*

We are trying Sunday School – Grab N Go style. There is a basket at the back of the church with individual packets of Sunday School materials for you to take home.

Kate Dietz recently started working at The Bridge Behavioral Health in Lincoln. The Bridge is an alcohol and drug treatment facility. They offer medical detoxification and residential treatment for individuals who live in Southeast Nebraska. Many of their clients come in with little to no items or clothing and are not prepared for the cold weather. Most of their clients are males, but they do offer detoxification services to females. With COVID-19, the usual donations have gone down. They are seeking donations of the following items.

Men's Coats, Women's Coats

Winter Hats and Gloves

Men's Clothing – sweatshirts, sweat pants, jeans,
t-shirts, shorts

Underwear, Socks, Shoes

Hygiene Items – especially African American
hair care products

Shower Shoes – Old Navy Sandals work great!

Kate will be collecting donations at Grace Lutheran Church the first two Sundays in December. There will be a bin in the back of the church. If you are unable to get items to church but would like to donate call Kate at 402-335-7809 to arrange a pick up/drop off.

*Please be sure to **send in any updates** (new addresses, phone numbers, email address, etc.) for all family members on the Church membership list, and for the ELCW Yearbook. Also **please** let us know if you are not receiving the Tower Echoes – we would like you to be on the list, either mail or by email.*