

*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 5, 2021

Pastor Jim Helgren

Prelude & Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

“Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,

That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to you, O Israel”

“Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might, Who to your tribes

On Sinai’s height, In ancient times once gave the law, in cloud

And majesty, and awe. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to you, O Israel”

Opening Hymn “Prepare the Royal Highway” LBW Hymn #26

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

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Kyrie: C: response... “Lord, have mercy.

C: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.
Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Power, riches, wisdom and strength, and honor, blessing and glory are his. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing, honor, glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

The Prayer of the Day

See Insert

The First Lesson: Malachi 3:1-4

See Insert

Psalmody Luke 1:68-79

See Insert

Second Lesson: Philippians 1:3-11

See Insert

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

Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

See Insert

P: The Gospel according to St. Luke, the 3rd 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 "On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry" LBW Hymn #36

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.

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Offering

C: Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and the dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now. 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**

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 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" LBW Hymn # 30
Dismissal

We carry the "light" out into the world! Depart to serve!



Today's Readings

Second Sunday of Advent
December 5, 2021

Prayer of the Day

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; 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

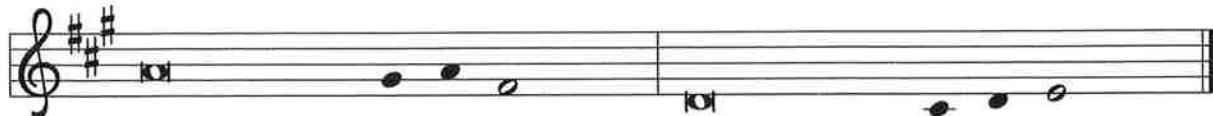
See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

Malachi 3:1-4

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

or Baruch 5:1-9 [not printed]

Psalmody



Blessed are you, Lord,
the ¹ God of Israel,
you have come to your people
and ¹ set them free.

⁶⁹ You have raised up for us
a ¹ mighty Savior,
born of the house of your
¹ servant David.

⁷⁰ Through your holy prophets,
you promised of old to save us
¹ from our enemies,

⁷¹ from the hands
of ¹ all who hate us,
⁷² to show mercy ¹ to our forebears,
and to remember your
¹ holy covenant.

Luke 1:68-79; tone 3

⁷³ This was the oath you swore
to our ¹ father Abraham:
⁷⁴ to set us free from the hands
of our ¹ enemies,
free to worship you ¹ without fear,
⁷⁵ holy and righteous before you,
all the days ¹ of our life.

⁷⁶ And you, child, shall be called
the prophet of ¹ the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord
to pre- ¹ pare the way,

⁷⁷ to give God's people knowledge
¹ of salvation
by the forgiveness ¹ of their sins.

continued

⁷⁸In the tender compassion ¹ of our God
the dawn from on high
shall ¹ break upon us,

⁷⁹to shine on those who dwell
in darkness and the shad- ¹ ow
of death,
and to guide our feet
into the ¹ way of peace.

Second Reading

I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense

Philippians 1:3-11

and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Gospel

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

Luke 3:1-6

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.
⁵Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill
shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made
straight,
and the rough ways made
smooth;
⁶and all flesh shall see the
salvation of God.'”

Today 12/5/21

Worship with communion – 8:30 a.m.

Christmas Program Practice – 9:30 a.m.

Luther League to collect cans following worship

Wednesday 12/8/21

Confirmation – 4:00 p.m.

NEXT SUNDAY 12/12/21

Worship with Sunday School Christmas Program – 8:30 a.m.

Birthday Party for Jesus to follow the program

We pray always for . . .

*Robert Armknecht, Bill Bohling, Jodell Bridgmon, Luetta Bruns,
Linda Daniels, Eric Fass, Mary Goudie, Jan Rader, Joan Staack*

We also remember in our prayers . . .

Erick, Diana & Meshack, 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*

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

The **Children's Christmas Program** will be presented next Sunday, December 12th during the morning service at 8:30 a.m., and will be followed by the Birthday Party for Jesus.

***The Community Cantata "The Road to Bethlehem"
will be at Grace Lutheran the evening of
December 19th at 7:00 p.m.***

The **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** at Grace Lutheran will be at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, December 24th. The Christmas Eve Offering has been designated for Lutheran Family Services.

We are again hosting Tanzanian orphan Scholarships. The cost for each child this year will be \$450 and includes tuition and board. The last few years we raised \$1,350.00 - enough to host 3 children. Donations towards this project should be designated on your offering and then one check will be sent to Sheridan Lutheran in Lincoln. These donations must be in NO LATER than December 28th.

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

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 at the back of the church. Be sure to label your poinsettia with your name for when you come to pick it up.

The following poinsettias have been donated

Bill & Alta Bohling	<i>In Memory of Our Parents & Brother David</i>
Gene & Diane Ekhoff	<i>In Memory of Parents, Sister Barb & Brother Herb</i>
Gayleen Eden	<i>In Memory of Mike & Our Parents</i>
Russ & Kate Dietz	<i>In Memory of our Grandparents & Russ's dad</i>
Larry & Cheryl Grundman	<i>In Memory of Loved Ones</i>
Carl & Sarah Purcell	<i>In Memory of our Parents & Grandparents</i>
Dean & Jody Wellensiek	<i>In Memory of our Parents</i>

The Luther League will once again be collecting pop cans to help raise money for the trip to the National Youth Gathering. Cans will be collected on the first Sunday of every month. TODAY the youth will be in the parking lot to collect your donations after the church service. Please make sure cans are rinsed, crushed and in a bag to make collection easier. Thank You! Luther League