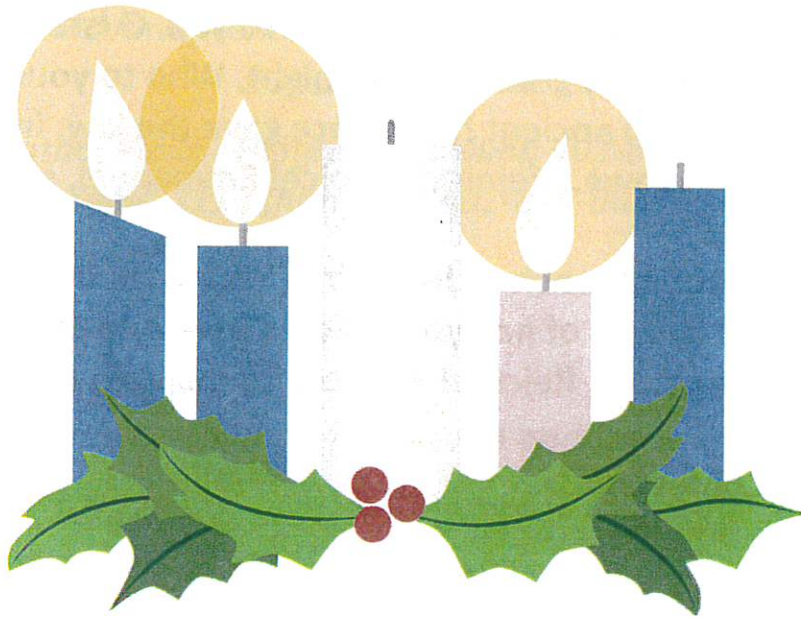


*Grace Lutheran Church  
Welcomes You!*



THIRD SUNDAY  
OF  
*Advent*

*By Grace you have been saved!*

*"We have decided to follow Jesus and  
There's no turning back!"*

# GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

\*\*\*\*\*

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 11, 2022

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Prelude & Announcements

Opening Hymn            "The Advent of Our God"            LBW # 22

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"**

**"Oh, come, strong Branch of Jesse, free Your own from Satan's  
tyranny; From depths of hell your people save And give them  
vict'ry o'er the grave. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, Shall come to  
you, O Israel"**

Brief Order of Confession            Page 77

Invocation & Kyrie            Page 78

Glory to God            Page 79

The Prayer of the Day            See Insert

The First Lesson: Isaiah 35:1-10            See Insert

Psalms 146:5-10            See Insert

Second Lesson: James 5:7-10            See Insert

The Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11            See Insert

Gospel Response            Page 83

Children's Message

Sermon

Hymn of the Day            "Hark, the Glad Sound!"            LBW # 55

Apostles' Creed            Page 85

The Offering

Offertory            Page 96

Prayers of the Church            Page 96

The Lord's Prayer            Page 97

Benediction and Dismissal            Page 97

Closing Hymn            "Joy to the World"            LBW # 39

Postlude

***We pray always for . . .***

*Grace Bentzinger, Bill Bohling, Luetta Bruns, Linda Daniels,  
Eric Fass, & Haleigh Werner*

***We also remember in our prayers . . .***

*Anna, Vanessa, 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](mailto:grace68329@gmail.com)*

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

**Today 12/11/22**

*Worship – 8:30 a.m.*

*Sunday School Christmas Program Practice – 9:30 a.m.*

**Monday 12/12/22**

*Bible Study – 1:30 p.m.*

**Wednesday 12/14/22**

*Kids for Christ – 4:00 P.M.*

*Confirmation – 6:00 p.m.*

**Thursday 12/15/22**

*Church Council – 7:00 p.m.*

**Next Sunday 12/18/22**

*Worship w/Communion &*

*Sunday School Christmas Program – 8:30 a.m.*

*Birthday Party for Jesus to follow worship*

*Community Cantata Presentation – 7:00*

*Fellowship to follow in the basement*

Noisy Coin Offering will be collected again today  
for the JCC Wish Lists –  
we are about half way there.





# Today's Readings

Third Sunday of Advent

December 11, 2022

## Prayer of the Day

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; 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 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall  
be glad,  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus <sup>2</sup>it shall blossom  
abundantly,  
and rejoice with joy and singing.  
The glory of Lebanon shall be given  
to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
They shall see the glory of the LORD,  
the majesty of our God.

<sup>3</sup>Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.

<sup>4</sup>Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
"Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you."

<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be  
opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

<sup>6</sup>then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing  
for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the  
wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;  
<sup>7</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of  
water;  
the haunt of jackals shall become a  
swamp,  
the grass shall become reeds and  
rushes.

<sup>8</sup>A highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Holy Way;  
the unclean shall not travel on it,  
but it shall be for God's people;  
no traveler, not even fools, shall go  
astray.

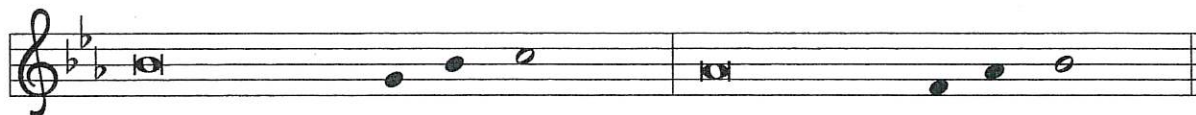
<sup>9</sup>No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up  
on it;

they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.

<sup>10</sup>And the ransomed of the LORD shall  
return,  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain joy and gladness,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

## Psalm

Psalm 146:5-10; tone 1



continued

Happy are they who have  
the God of Jacob <sup>1</sup> for their help,  
whose hope is in the <sup>1</sup> LORD  
their God;  
<sup>6</sup>who made heaven and earth, the seas,  
and all that <sup>1</sup> is in them;  
who keeps promis- <sup>1</sup> es forever;  
<sup>7</sup>who gives justice to those  
who are oppressed,  
and food to <sup>1</sup> those who hunger.  
The LORD sets the <sup>1</sup> captive free.

<sup>8</sup>The LORD opens the eyes of the blind;  
the LORD lifts up those  
who <sup>1</sup> are bowed down;  
the LORD <sup>1</sup> loves the righteous.  
<sup>9</sup>The LORD cares <sup>1</sup> for the stranger;  
the LORD sustains  
the orphan and widow,  
but frustrates the way <sup>1</sup> of the wicked.  
<sup>10</sup>The LORD shall <sup>1</sup> reign forever,  
your God, O Zion, throughout  
all generations. <sup>1</sup> Hallelujah!

or Luke 1:46b-55 [not printed]

## Second Reading

James 5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup>You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.

<sup>9</sup>Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! <sup>10</sup>As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

## Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup>and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" <sup>4</sup>Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup>And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

<sup>7</sup>As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup>What then

did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger  
ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way  
before you.'

<sup>11</sup>Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

TODAY'S READINGS December 11, 2022

Volume 54, Number 1

Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25.

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The **Children's Christmas Program** will be presented Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> during the morning service at 8:30 a.m., and will be followed by the Birthday Party for Jesus.

*The **Community Cantata** "A Noel Celebration" will be presented at Grace Lutheran the evening of December 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.*

*With fellowship in the basement to follow*

The **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** at Grace Lutheran will be at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>.

There will be worship on **Christmas Day**. It will be a joint worship with Hope Lutheran and will be at 10:00 a.m.



*We are again hosting Tanzanian orphan Scholarships. The cost for each child this year will be \$450 and includes tuition and board. Last year we raised \$1,800.00 - enough to host 4 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 28<sup>th</sup>.*

*Poinsettias have been donated by*

***In Memory of***

*Jim Armknecht family*

*Sandy Armknecht*

*Bruce, Jim, Diane, Janice & family*

*Bob & Ruth Armknecht*

*Gene & Diane Ekhoﬀ*

*Our Parents & Barb & Herb*

*Carl & Sarah Purcell*

*Our Parents & Grandparents*

*Eleta Eisenhauer*

*Jill & David*

*Dean & Jody Wellensiek*

*Our Parents*

*Russell & Kate Dietz*

*Our Grandparents & Russell's dad*

*Bill & Alta Bohling*

*Our Parents and loved Ones*