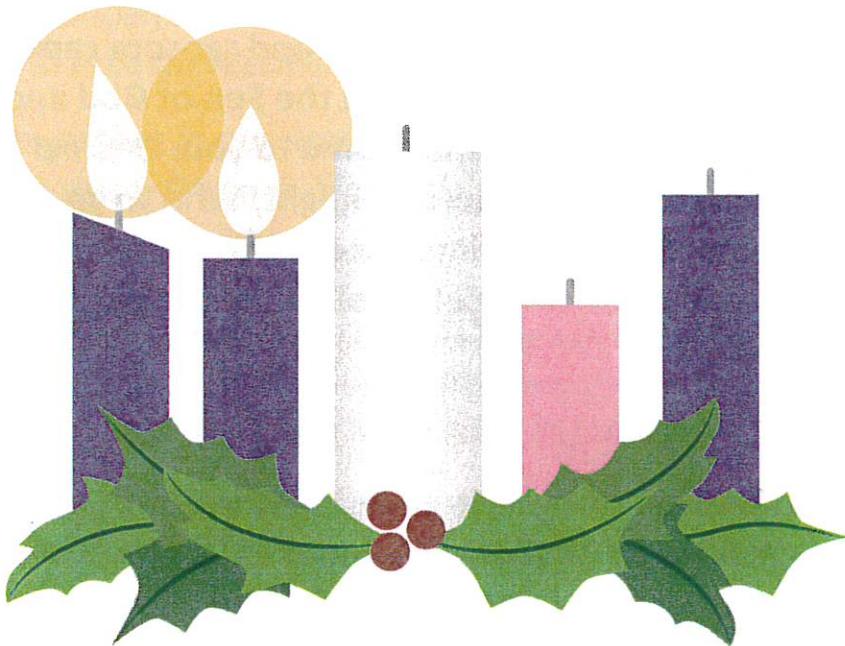


*Grace Lutheran Church  
Welcomes you to*

*The Great Thanksgiving*



**SECOND SUNDAY  
OF  
Advent**

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

# GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**December 4, 2022**

**Pastor Jim Helgren**

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Opening Hymn            "Hark, the Glad Sound!"            LBW # 35

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"**

Prayer of the Day

See Insert

First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

See Insert

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

See Insert

Second Reading: Romans 15:4-13

See Insert

Gospel Responses

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Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

See Insert

Children's message

Sermon

Hymn of the Day            "Prepare the Royal Highway"

LBW # 26

Nicene Creed

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Prayers of the Church

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Offering

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Offertory

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Offertory Prayer

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The Great Thanksgiving

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The Lord's Prayer

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Post-Communion Canticle & Prayer

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Benediction & Dismissal

Closing Hymn            "On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry"

LBW # 36

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



# Today's Readings

Second Sunday of Advent  
December 4, 2022

## Prayer of the Day

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; 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 11:1-10**

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.  
<sup>2</sup>The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of  
the LORD.  
<sup>3</sup>His delight shall be in the fear of the  
LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;  
<sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he shall judge  
the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of  
the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of  
his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall  
kill the wicked.  
<sup>5</sup>Righteousness shall be the belt around  
his waist,

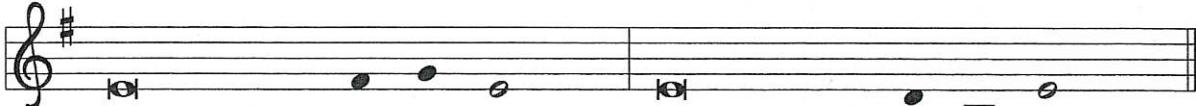
and faithfulness the belt around his  
loins.

<sup>6</sup>The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling  
together,  
and a little child shall lead them.  
<sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.  
<sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play over the hole  
of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand  
on the adder's den.  
<sup>9</sup>They will not hurt or destroy on all my  
holy mountain;  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge  
of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.

<sup>10</sup>On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a  
signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire  
of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

## Psalm

**Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; tone 8**



Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness  
to the king's son;  
<sup>2</sup>that he may rule  
your people righteously  
and the poor with justice;  
<sup>3</sup>that the mountains  
may bring prosperity to the people,  
and the hills, in righteousness.  
<sup>4</sup>Let him defend the needy  
among the people,

rescue the poor,  
and crush the oppressor.

<sup>5</sup>May he live as long  
as the sun and moon endure,  
from one generation to another.

<sup>6</sup>Let him come down like rain  
upon the mown field,  
like showers that water the earth.

<sup>7</sup>In his time  
may the righteous flourish;

*continued*

and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

<sup>18</sup>**Blessed are you, LORD God, the God of Israel; you alone do wondrous deeds!**

<sup>19</sup>And blessed be your glorious name forever, and may all the earth be filled with your glory. A- men. Amen.

## Second Reading

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup>May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup>Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. <sup>8</sup>For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, <sup>9</sup>and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

## Gospel

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup>“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” <sup>3</sup>This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’”

<sup>4</sup>Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, <sup>6</sup>and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup>But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to

“Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name”;

<sup>10</sup>and again he says, “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people”;

<sup>11</sup>and again, “Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him”;

<sup>12</sup>and again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.”

<sup>13</sup>May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

## Matthew 3:1-12

them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruit worthy of repentance. <sup>9</sup>Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham.

<sup>10</sup>Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup>“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

AN INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE:

We believe that with the bread and wine one receives the true body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of sins. We welcome other Christians to receive Holy Communion with us. Children who have not had first Communion instruction may come forward for a blessing.

***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 **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 12/4/22**

*Worship w/Communion – 8:30 a.m.  
Sunday School Christmas Program Practice – 9:30 a.m.*

**Wednesday 12/7/22**

*Confirmation – 6:00 p.m.*

**Next Sunday 12/11/22**

*Worship – 8:30 a.m.  
Sunday School Christmas Program Practice – 9:30 a.m.*

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.

*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. **Please** let us know if you or someone you know is not receiving the Tower Echoes – we would like you to be on the list, either mail or by email.*

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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.

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*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>.*