

*Grace Lutheran Church
Welcomes you to
The Great Thanksgiving*



FIRST SUNDAY OF *Advent*

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

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

FIRST SUNDAY of ADVENT

December 3, 2023

Pastor Jim Helgren

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Opening Hymn "Fling Wide the Door" LBW Hymn # 32

Prayer and Lighting of the Advent Wreath

"It's Christmas Coming Again" Verse 1 See Insert

Brief Order for Confession & Forgiveness Page 56

Kyrie Page 57

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Prayer of the Day See Insert

First Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9 See Insert

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19 See Insert

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 See Insert

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Gospel: Mark 13:24-37 See Insert

Children's message

Sermon

Hymn of the Day LBW Hymn # 25

"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"

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Prayers of the Church Page 65

Offering

Offertory "Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel" Verse 1 LBW Hymn # 34

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Post-Communion Canticle & Prayer Page 72

Benediction & Dismissal

Closing Hymn "The King Shall Come" LBW Hymn # 33

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



Today's Readings

First Sunday of Advent
December 3, 2023

Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading

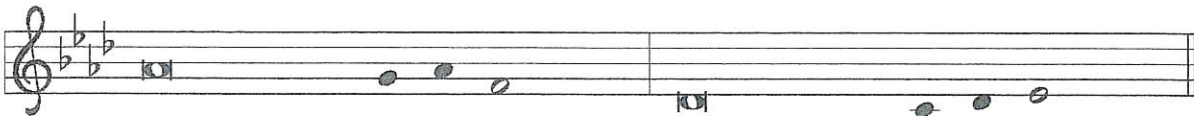
Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens
and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at
your presence—
²as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your
adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at
your presence!
³When you did awesome deeds that we
did not expect,
you came down, the mountains
quaked at your presence.
⁴From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
⁵You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;

because you hid yourself we
transgressed.
⁶We have all become like one who is
unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a
filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take
us away.
⁷There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of
our iniquity.
⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our
potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
⁹Do not be exceedingly angry,
O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Psalm

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; tone 3



Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading
Joseph ¹ like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned
up- ¹ on the cherubim.
²In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin,
¹ and Manasseh,
stir up your strength
and ¹ come to help us.
³Restore ¹ us, O God;
let your face shine upon us,
and we ¹ shall be saved.

⁴O LORD ¹ God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume
when your ¹ people pray?
⁵You have fed them
with the ¹ bread of tears;
you have given them
bowls of ¹ tears to drink.
⁶You have made us
the derision ¹ of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh ¹ us to scorn.

continued

⁷Restore us, O ¹ God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us,
and we ¹ shall be saved.
¹⁷Let your hand be upon the one
at ¹ your right hand,
the one you have made so strong
¹ for yourself.

¹⁸And so will we never
turn a- ¹ way from you;
give us life,
that we may call up- ¹ on your name.
¹⁹Restore us, O LORD ¹ God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us,
and we ¹ shall be saved.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strength-

ened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Gospel

Mark 13:24-37

[Jesus said:] “In those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,

²⁵and the stars will be falling
from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will
be shaken.

²⁶Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell

you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place.

³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

GO AND...

BE PRESENT

As we await and celebrate Christ's birth, we remember that God is present and shows up. The babe in the manger, God Incarnate, is God's gift of deep love for us. We are invited to pause, be still, and be fully present in this holy season. Society calls us to a different place where busyness, spending, and rushing about are marks of success. God, in Christ, offers another way: Emmanuel – God with us.

Questions to Consider:

- What can I add to this season that would truly allow me to pause?
- What tradition do you have that nurtures being present at this time of year?
- As you are on the GO, how are you going to practice being present?

Prayer: Emmanuel, you are present with us. Help us be present with each other. Amen.

Suggested Song: O Come, O Come Emmanuel (ELW 257)

Learn More at www.nebraskasynod.org

Ya viene la Navidad It's Christmas coming again

Estribillo Fa Do Sol⁷ Do



Ya vie - ne, ya vie - ne, ya vie - ne la Na - vi - dad; ya
It's com - ing, it's com - ing, it's Christ - mas com - ing a - gain; it's

Fa Do Sol⁷ Do *Fin*



vie - ne, ya vie - ne, ya vie - ne la Na - vi - dad.
com - ing, it's com - ing, it's Christ - mas com - ing a - gain.

Estrofas Sol⁷ Do Fa 1 Do 2 Do



1 En - cen - da - mos la ve - la, la ve - la del a - mor; mor; y
1 Light a can - dle for love, light a can - dle for love; love; and

Fa Do Sol⁷ Do



con e - lla pren - di - da j - lu - mi - ne - mos el a - mor; y
light . . up the world . . with the love . . . of the Lord; and

Fa Do Sol⁷ Do *Estribillo*



con e - lla pren - di - da j - lu - mi - ne - mos el a - mor.
light . . up the world . . with the love . . . of the Lord.

2. Light a candle for peace . . .
3. Light a candle for joy . . .
4. Light a candle for hope . . .

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 or SE Office. Be sure to label your poinsettia with your name for when you come to pick it up.

***Poinsettias have been
donated by***

*Dean & Jody Wellensiek
Russell & Kate Dietz
Carl & Sarah Purcell
Colleen Naber & family
Alta Bohling*

In Memory of

*Our Parents
Our Grandparents & Russell's dad
Our Parents & Grandparents
Larry Naber
Bill Bohling and Loved Ones*

The **Children's Christmas Program** will be presented Sunday, December 17th during the morning service at 8:30 a.m., and will be followed by the Birthday Party for Jesus.

*The **Community Cantata** "Bethlehem's Child"
will be presented at Grace Lutheran the evening of
December 17th at 7:00 p.m.*

With fellowship in the basement to follow

There will be worship on Sunday, December 24th
Christmas Eve Day. It will be a joint worship at
Hope Lutheran and will be at 10:00 a.m.

The **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** at Grace
Lutheran will be at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 24th.

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 . . .

Luetta Bruns, Linda Daniels, Eric Fass, Haleigh Werner & Will Yank

We also remember in our prayers . . .

*Anna, Vanessa, Meshack & Evance, 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)***

Today 12/3/23

Worship w/Communion – 8:30 a.m.

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

Cook Community Christmas @ the Cook MS Old Gym

*Bingo @ 3:00 p.m., Santa arrives about 4:15 p.m.
& Pizza at 5:00 p.m.*

Wednesday 12/6/23

Confirmation – 6:00 p.m.

Next Sunday 12/10/23

Worship – 8:30 a.m.

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

*The Noisy Coin Bucket has been set out to collect donations
for the JCC Teacher/Staff Wish List. We are collecting to help
our teachers/staff members from Grace Lutheran who do
SO much for our children for items they would have to purchase
on their own.*