

*Grace Lutheran Church  
Welcomes You!*



**Second Sunday  
of Advent**

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*By Grace you have been saved!  
"We have decided to follow Jesus and  
There's no turning back!"*

# GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

\*\*\*\*\*  
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 10, 2023

Pastor Jim Helgren

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Prelude & Announcements

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Prayer and Lighting of the Advent Wreath

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

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Postlude

***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.*



# Today's Readings

Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2023

## 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

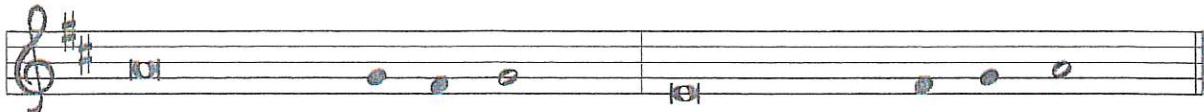
Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.  
<sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her  
that she has served her term,  
that her penalty is paid,  
that she has received from the LORD's  
hand  
double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup>A voice cries out:  
"In the wilderness prepare the way  
of the LORD,  
make straight in the desert a highway  
for our God.  
<sup>4</sup>Every 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.  
<sup>5</sup>Then the glory of the LORD shall be  
revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has  
spoken."

## Isaiah 40:1-11

<sup>6</sup>A voice says, "Cry out!"  
And I said, "What shall I cry?"  
All people are grass,  
their constancy is like the flower  
of the field.  
<sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades,  
when the breath of the LORD blows  
upon it;  
surely the people are grass.  
<sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand  
forever.  
<sup>9</sup>Get 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!"  
<sup>10</sup>See, the Lord God comes with might,  
and his arm rules for him;  
his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.  
<sup>11</sup>He 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



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

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

continued

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

<sup>8</sup>I will listen  
to what the LORD <sup>1</sup> God is saying;  
    for you speak peace  
    to your faithful people  
    and to those  
    who turn their <sup>1</sup> hearts to you.

<sup>9</sup>Truly, your salvation is very near  
to <sup>1</sup> those who fear you,  
    that your glory  
    may dwell <sup>1</sup> in our land.

<sup>10</sup>Steadfast love and faithfulness  
have <sup>1</sup> met together;

righteousness and peace  
have <sup>1</sup> kissed each other.

<sup>11</sup>Faithfulness shall spring up  
    from the earth,  
    and righteousness  
    shall look <sup>1</sup> down from heaven.

<sup>12</sup>The LORD will indeed <sup>1</sup> grant prosperity,  
    and our land will <sup>1</sup> yield its increase.

<sup>13</sup>Righteousness  
shall go before the LORD  
    and shall prepare for <sup>1</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup>The 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. <sup>10</sup>But 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.

<sup>11</sup>Since 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, <sup>12</sup>waiting 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? <sup>13</sup>But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

<sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; <sup>15</sup>and 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.

<sup>2</sup>As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,  
    “See, I am sending my messenger  
    ahead of you,  
    who will prepare your way;  
<sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying out in the  
    wilderness:  
    ‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
    make his paths straight.’”

<sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And 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. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He 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. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

*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 12/10/23**

*Worship – 8:30 a.m.*

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

**Monday 12/11/23**

*Bible Study – 1:30 p.m.*

**Wednesday 12/13/23**

*Kids for Christ – 4:00 p.m.*

*Confirmation – 6:00 p.m.*

**Next Sunday 12/17/23**

*Worship w/Communion &*

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

*Birthday Party for Jesus to follow worship*

*Community Cantata Presentation – 7:00 p.m.*

*Fellowship to follow in the basement*

*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.*

*Senior members if you wish to share a meal with our Kids for Christ on Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, please call the church @ 402-864-4201, by tomorrow noon.*

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  
Gayleen Eden  
Kris Ebeler & family  
Cropp Families  
Gene & Diane Ekhoff

***In Memory of***

Our Parents  
Our Grandparents & Russell's dad  
Our Parents & Grandparents  
Larry Naber  
Bill Bohling and Loved Ones  
Mike and our Parents  
Chuck Ebeler and Grandparents  
Parents/Grandparents  
Parents, Barb & Herb

The **Children's Christmas Program** will be presented next Sunday, December 17<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 "Bethlehem's Child"***  
*will be presented at Grace Lutheran the evening of*  
*December 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.*  
*With fellowship in the basement to follow*

There will be worship on Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>  
**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 24<sup>th</sup>.

Tanzanian Orphans information will be sent to all sponsors in January! The Cost per scholarship will be \$475.

Hello Tanzania Sponsors,

Pastor Sarah is going to Tanzania with the Synod from January 21st to February 6<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to send a letter to the students that you sponsor, please do so and have them turned into the Sheridan church office by January 14<sup>th</sup>, so that Pastor Sarah is able to take them with her when she goes on her trip!

ADVENTO

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### Ya viene la Navidad

*It's Christmas coming again*



Estríbillo Fa Do Sol<sup>7</sup> Do

Ya viene, ya viene, ya viene la Navidad; ya  
It's coming, it's coming, it's Christmas coming again; it's



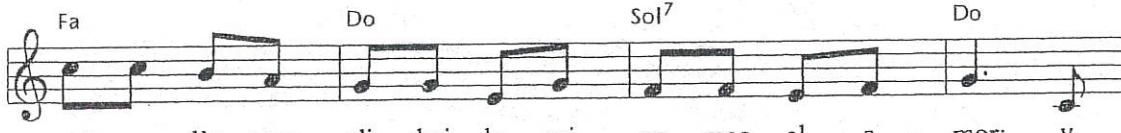
Fa Do Sol<sup>7</sup> Do Fin

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



Estrafas Sol<sup>7</sup> Do Fa I Do 2 Do

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



Fa Do Sol<sup>7</sup> Do

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



Fa Do Sol<sup>7</sup> Do Estríbillo

con e - lla pren - di - daj - 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 . . .



I'm thankful  
for so many  
things in my life.  
But, most of all,  
I'm thankful for  
**God.**  
Without Him,  
I would have  
nothing else to  
be thankful for.  
Amen.