

Grace Lutheran Church

1st Sunday in Advent

December 1, 2024

Pastor Jim Helgren

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER AND LIGHTENING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE - ELW #253 – “He Came Down” – v. 1

GATHERING SONG - ELW #244 - *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*

CONFESSON AND FORGIVENESS - ELW p. 94 *Please stand in body or spirit to receive forgiveness.*

P: In the name of the Father, and of the [†]Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

A: 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.

A: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

P: Most merciful God,

A: We confess that we are captive 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: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the [†]Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

A: Amen. *Assembly sits.*

GREETING - p. 138

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

A: And also with you.

KYRIE - p. 138

HYMN OF PRAISE - p. 140

PRAYER OF THE DAY - Please see insert. Response after the prayer: **Amen.**

FIRST READING – Jeremiah 33:14-16 Please see insert. Response after the reading:

R: Word of God, word of life.

A: Thanks be to God.

PSALM – 25:1-10 Please see insert and read responsively

SECOND READING – 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 Please see insert. Response after the reading:

P: Word of God, word of life.

A: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION - p. 142

Please stand in body or spirit to welcome the gospel.



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

P: The holy gospel according to

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL – Luke 21:25-36 Please see insert.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

A: Praise to you, O Christ. *The assembly sits.*

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY - ELW #438 – “My Lord, What a Morning”

NICENE CREED - p. 104

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 being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and
became truly human. 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
Son, who with the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped
and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in only 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 INTERCESSION - p.143 Response after each portion of the prayer:

P: Lord, in your mercy,

A: hear our prayer.

PEACE - p. 143

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

A: And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY - "Cultivating Love through Hope" hymn - ELW #266 - "All Earth is Hopeful" – v. 1

GREAT THANKSGIVING - p. 144

LORD'S PRAYER - p. 145

Please stand in body or spirit for 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,

**and the power, and the glory,
 forever and ever. Amen.**

LAMB OF GOD - p. 146

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION FOLLOWED by READING - Now, Lord, You Let Your Servant Go in Peace - p. 113

Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace; your word has been fulfilled.

My own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of ev'ry people:

A light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel.

Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace.

BLESSING - p. 114 - Response after the blessing:

A: Amen.

DISMISSAL - p. 115 - Response after the dismissal:

A: Thanks be to God. The assembly sits.

SENDING SONG - ELW #282 – “It Came upon the Midnight Clear”

POSTLUDE

Announcements

Today 12/1/24 *First Sunday in Advent*

Worship – 8:30 a.m.

Coffee & Fellowship Following

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

Cook Community Family Fun Night @ JCC
Middle School – Bingo @ 3:00 p.m., Santa to
arrive around 4:15 p.m. and Pizza is planned
for 5:00 p.m. Come Share the Christmas Spirit

WEDNESDAY 12/4/24

Confirmation – 6:00 p.m.

SUNDAY 12/8/24 *Second Sunday in Advent*

Worship – 8:30 a.m.

Coffee & Fellowship Following

Sunday School 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.

UPDATES

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 and would like to - we would like you to be on the list, either mail or by email.

THE Tanzania Scholarship PROJECT

Grace Lutheran again this year is sponsoring—The **Tanzania Scholarship Project**. This project sponsors orphans so they can attend a Christian high school. Primary schools in Tanzania are free but secondary schools have fees. Our scholarship students attend one of eleven Lutheran High Schools in northern Tanzania, East Africa. The scholarship for one year of tuition, boarding, uniforms, and school supplies is \$475. In the past years of this project, we have witnessed God working through his people. ***We have made a difference!***

In the past Grace received donations to sponsor 4 orphans. Your contribution is tax deductible. 100% of your donation goes to your orphan's education! *Donations towards this project should be designated on your offering envelope and then one check will be sent to Sheridan Lutheran in Lincoln. These donations must be in NO LATER than December 29th.*



Today's Readings

First Sunday of Advent
December 1, 2024

Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading

Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and

he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Psalm

Psalm 25:1-10; tone 3



To ¹you, O LORD,
I lift ¹up my soul.
²My God, I put my trust in you;
let me not be ¹put to shame,
nor let my enemies
triumph ¹over me.
³Let none who look to you
be ¹put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame
¹who are treacherous.
⁴Show me your ¹ways, O LORD,
and teach ¹me your paths.
⁵Lead me in your ¹truth
and teach me,
for you are the God
of my salvation;
in you have I trusted
all ¹the day long.

⁶Remember, O LORD,
your compas- ¹sion and love,
for they are from ¹everlasting.
⁷Remember not the sins of my youth
and ¹my transgressions;
remember me
according to your steadfast love
and for the sake
of your good- ¹ness, O LORD.
⁸You are gracious and up- ¹right,
O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners
¹in your way.
⁹You lead the low- ¹ly in justice
and teach the low- ¹ly your way.
¹⁰All your paths, O LORD,
are steadfast ¹love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant
and your ¹testimonies.

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰ Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our

way to you. ¹² And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³ And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Gospel

Luke 21:25-36

[Jesus said:] “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶ People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹ Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So

also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴ “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”