

# Grace Lutheran Church

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3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent

December 15, 2024

Pastor Jim Helgren

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## PRELUDE

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PRAYER & LIGHTENING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE** - ELW #253 – “He Came Down” – vs. 1-3

**GATHERING SONG** - ELW #456 - “Baptized in Water”

**RITE of BAPTISM** - ELW p. 227-231

**PRAYER OF THE DAY** - Please see insert.

**FIRST READING** – Zephaniah 3:14-20 Please see insert. Response after the reading:

R: Word of God, word of life.

A: Thanks be to God.

**PSALMODY** Isaiah 12:2-6 - Please see insert and read responsively

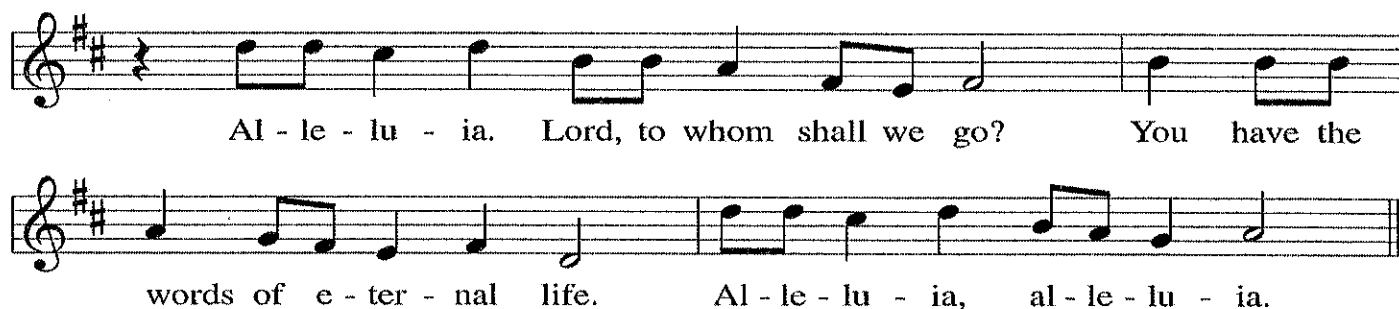
**SECOND READING** – Philippians 4:4-7 Please see insert. Response after the reading:

R: Word of God, word of life.

A: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** - p. 142

*The assembly stands in body or spirit to welcome the gospel.*



P: The holy gospel according to ....

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

**GOSPEL** – Luke 3:7-18 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 #239 - "Hark, the Glad Sound!"

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** - p.143 Response after each portion of the prayer:

P: Lord, in your mercy,

A: hear our prayer.

**PEACE** - p. 143. *Please stand in body or spirit*

*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. 3

**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 - 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 #267 – "Joy to the World"

## POSTLUDE

### *Announcements*

**Today 12/15/24** 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent

Worship w/Communion – 8:30 a.m.

& Baptism of Raymond Dietz

Coffee & Fellowship Following Worship

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

### **WEDNESDAY 12/18/24**

Confirmation – 6:00 p.m.

Church Council – 7:15 p.m.

### **SATURDAY 12/21/24**

Tower Echoes Deadline

### **SUNDAY 12/22/24** 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent

Worship w/Sunday School Program– 8:30 a.m.

Birthday Party for Jesus following Worship

Community Cantata – 7:00 p.m.

Fellowship to follow Cantata in the Church basement

This morning, we welcome

### **Raymond Francis Dietz,**

son of Russ and Kate Dietz, into the kingdom of God and our church family through the Rite of Infant Baptism. He was born on

November 6, 2024. His sponsors are

Bret & Melissa Wellensiek and

Ryan & Katelin Dietz.

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.

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

*Pastor Steve Billington, Luetta Bruns, Linda Daniels, Gary Carman, Char Helgren, Becky Knake, Haleigh Werner*

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

*Winfrida, Juliet, Vanesa & 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](mailto:grace68329@gmail.com)*

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

*Please join us for fellowship in the basement following worship ☺*

***Poinsettias have been  
donated by***

*Dean & Jody Wellensiek*

*Alta Bohling*

*Gene & Diane Ekhoﬀ*

*Kris Ebeler*

*Gayleen Eden*

*Dave & Diane Smith*

*Carl & Sarah Purcell*

*Russ & Kate Dietz*

***In Memory of***

*Our Parents*

*Bill and other Loved Ones*

*All our Loved Ones*

*Chuck and Parents*

*Mike and Our Parents*

*Sandy, Bob & Ruth Armknecht*

*Our Parents and Grandparents*

*Russ's Dad*

**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 29<sup>th</sup>.*



# Today's Readings

Third Sunday of Advent  
December 15, 2024

## Prayer of the Day

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Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; 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

**Zephaniah 3:14-20**

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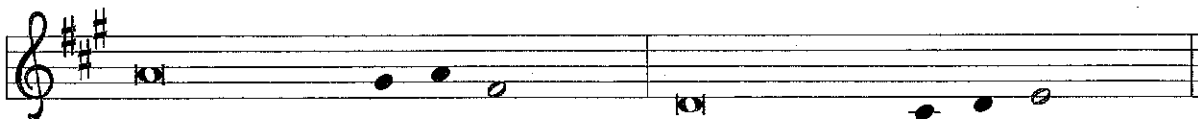
Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;  
shout, O Israel!  
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter Jerusalem!  
<sup>15</sup>The LORD has taken away the  
judgments against you,  
he has turned away your enemies.  
The king of Israel, the LORD, is in  
your midst;  
you shall fear disaster no more.  
<sup>16</sup>On that day it shall be said to  
Jerusalem:  
Do not fear, O Zion;  
do not let your hands grow weak.  
<sup>17</sup>The LORD, your God, is in your  
midst,  
a warrior who gives victory;  
he will rejoice over you with gladness,  
he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud  
singing  
<sup>18</sup>as on a day of festival.  
I will remove disaster from you,  
so that you will not bear reproach  
for it.  
<sup>19</sup>I will deal with all your oppressors  
at that time.  
And I will save the lame  
and gather the outcast,  
and I will change their shame into  
praise  
and renown in all the earth.  
<sup>20</sup>At that time I will bring you home,  
at the time when I gather you;  
for I will make you renowned and  
praised  
among all the peoples of the earth,  
when I restore your fortunes  
before your eyes, says the LORD.

## Psalmody

**Isaiah 12:2-6; tone 3**

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Surely God is my salvation;  
I will trust, and will not <sup>1</sup>be afraid,  
for the LORD GOD is my strength  
and my might,  
and has become <sup>1</sup>my salvation.  
<sup>3</sup>With joy you <sup>1</sup>will draw water  
from the wells <sup>1</sup>of salvation.

<sup>4</sup>And you will say in that day:  
Give thanks to the LORD,  
call <sup>1</sup>on God's name;  
make known the deeds of the  
LORD among the nations;  
proclaim that this name  
<sup>1</sup>is exalted.

*continued*

<sup>5</sup>Sing praises to the LORD,  
who has done <sup>1</sup> gloriously;  
let this be known in  
<sup>1</sup> all the earth.

<sup>6</sup>Shout aloud and sing for joy,  
O <sup>1</sup> royal Zion,  
for great in your midst  
is the Holy <sup>1</sup> One of Israel.

## Second Reading

Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication

with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

## Gospel

Luke 3:7-18

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin 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>9</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>10</sup>And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" <sup>11</sup>In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." <sup>12</sup>Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" <sup>13</sup>He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." <sup>14</sup>Soldiers

also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

<sup>15</sup>As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup>John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

<sup>18</sup>So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.