

# Grace Lutheran Church

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4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent

December 22, 2024

Pastor Jim Helgren

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**PRELUDE**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRAYER & LIGHTENING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE** - ELW #253 – “He Came Down” – All verses

**GATHERING SONG** - ELW #257 – “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS** - ELW p. 94 *Please stand in body or spirit.*

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. 139**

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

**FIRST READING** – Micah 5:2-5a Please see insert.

Response after the reading:

R: Word of God, word of life.

**A: Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION - p. 142**

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

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 1:39-55 Please see insert.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

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

**CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** - ELW #289 – “Angels We Have Heard on High”

**APOSTLES CREED - p. 105**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY - "Cultivating Love through Hope" Hymn - ELW #266 - "All Earth is Hopeful" – v. 4**

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

**P:** Lord, in your mercy, **A:** hear our prayer.

**LORD'S PRAYER - p. 145 – *Please stand in body or spirit.***

**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**

**BLESSING** - p. 146 - Response after the blessing:

**A: Amen.**

**DISMISSAL** - p. 146 - Response after the blessing:

**A: Thanks be to God.** *The assembly sits.*

**SENDING SONG** - ELW #270 – “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

**POSTLUDE**

### *Announcements*

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

Worship & Sunday School Christmas Program— 8:30 a.m.

Followed by A Birthday Party for Jesus

**Community Christmas Cantata – “Shout the Good News”**

at Grace Lutheran Church – 7:00 p.m.

Fellowship to follow in the Church Basement

**TUESDAY 12/24/24**

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at**

Grace Lutheran will be at 7:00 p.m. on

Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>.

**WEDNESDAY 12/25/24**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS! CHRIST THE SAVIOR IS BORN!**

**SATURDAY 12/28/24**

Tower Echoes Deadline

Annual Report Articles Due!

**SUNDAY 12/29/24** First Sunday of Christmas

Worship – 8:30 a.m.

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

*Pastor Steve Billington, Luetta Bruns, Linda Daniels, Gary Carman, Char Helgren, Becky Knake,  
Axl Walters, Joan Wellensiek & 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)***

A Big Thank you to Bret & Melissa Wellensiek for organizing this  
Sunday School Program to share with us.

Please join us following Worship to share the  
Birthday Party for Jesus in the church basement.

### ***The Community Cantata***

***"Shout the Good News" will be presented at Grace Lutheran  
this Evening December 22nd at 7:00 p.m. We have members from SEVEN  
different congregations in the community coming together for this presentation.  
With fellowship in the basement to follow***

## **THE Tanzania Scholarship PROJECT**

**WE HAVE RECEIVED \$1550 towards our \$1900 TO SPONSOR 4 STUDENTS!!**

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>.*

***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  
The Naber Family  
Bill & Carolyn Cropp*

***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  
Larry Naber  
Our Parents*

~~~~~  
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 infor-  
mation 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.  
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# Today's Readings

Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 22, 2024

## Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## First Reading

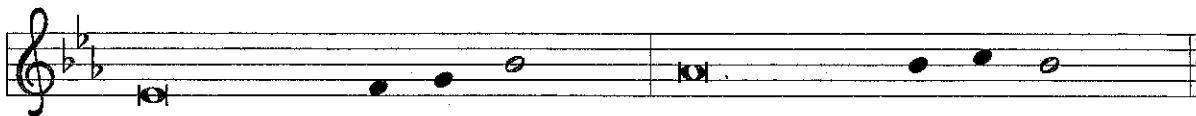
Micah 5:2-5a

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of  
Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.  
<sup>3</sup>Therefore he shall give them up until  
the time  
when she who is in labor has brought  
forth;

then the rest of his kindred shall  
return  
to the people of Israel.  
<sup>4</sup>And he shall stand and feed his flock  
in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the  
LORD his God.  
And they shall live secure, for now he  
shall be great  
to the ends of the earth;  
<sup>5a</sup>and he shall be the one of peace.

## Psalmody

Luke 1:46b-55; tone 4



My soul proclaims the greatness  
of the Lord,  
<sup>47</sup>my spirit rejoices  
in God my Savior,  
<sup>48</sup>for you, Lord, have looked with favor  
on your lowly servant.  
From this day all generations  
will call me blessed:  
<sup>49</sup>you, the Almighty,  
have done great things for me  
and holy is your name.  
<sup>50</sup>You have mercy  
on those who fear you,  
from generation to generation.  
<sup>51</sup>You have shown strength  
with your arm

and scattered the proud  
in their conceit,  
<sup>52</sup>casting down the mighty  
from their thrones  
and lifting up the lowly.  
<sup>53</sup>You have filled the hungry  
with good things  
and sent the rich away empty.  
<sup>54</sup>You have come to the aid  
of your servant Israel,  
to remember  
the promise of mercy,  
<sup>55</sup>the promise made to our forebears,  
to Abraham and his  
children forever.

or Psalm 80:1-7 [not printed]

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,  
 "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,  
 but a body you have prepared for me;  
<sup>6</sup>in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.  
<sup>7</sup>Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

<sup>8</sup>When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), <sup>9</sup>then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup>And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Gospel

Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup>where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup>and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup>And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup>For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."  
 [<sup>46</sup>And Mary said,  
 "My soul magnifies the Lord,  
<sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
<sup>48</sup>for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
<sup>49</sup>for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
 and holy is his name.  
<sup>50</sup>His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.  
<sup>51</sup>He has shown strength with his arm;  
 he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.  
<sup>52</sup>He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
 and lifted up the lowly;  
<sup>53</sup>he has filled the hungry with good things,  
 and sent the rich away empty.  
<sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel,  
 in remembrance of his mercy,  
<sup>55</sup>according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
 to Abraham and to his descendants forever."]