

*Grace Lutheran Church
Welcomes You!*



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

Grace Lutheran Church

Pastor Jim Helgren

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER AND LIGHTENING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE - ELW #253 – “He Came Down” – vs. 1-4

GATHERING SONG ELW # 257 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

CONFESSION 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 sins 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.

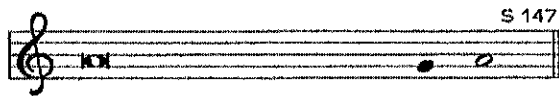
A: Amen. Assembly sits.

GREETING – (ELW p. 147)

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.

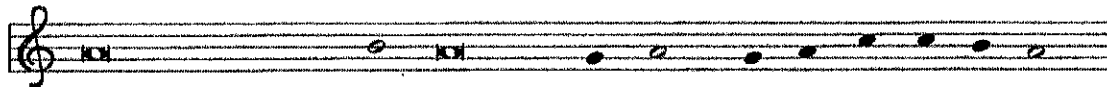
KYRIE – (ELW p. 147)



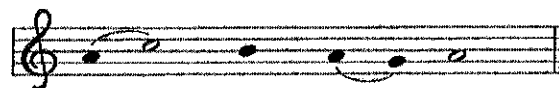
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



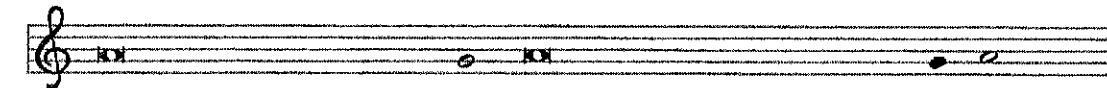
Lord, have mer - cy.



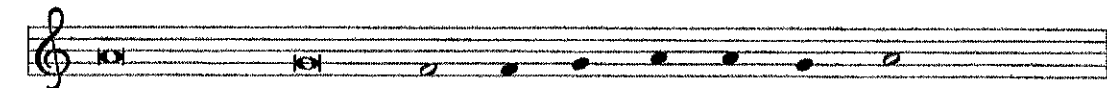
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



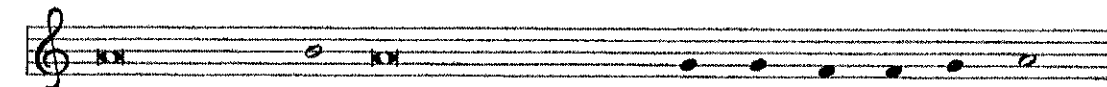
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



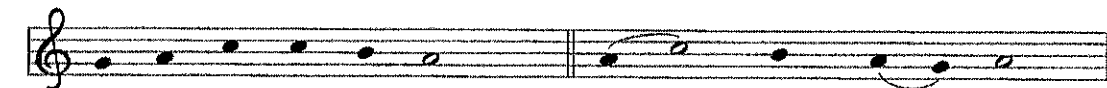
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



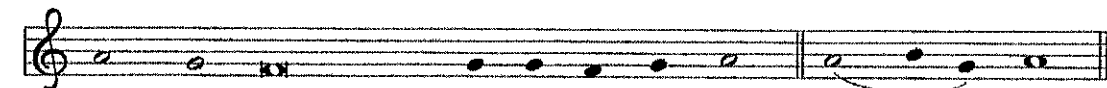
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



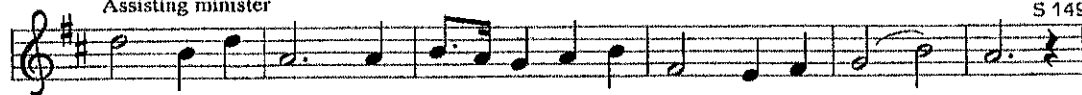
Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE – (ELW p. S149)

Refrain

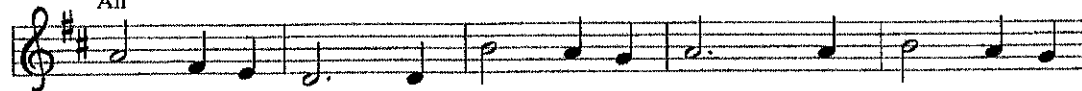
Assisting minister

S 149

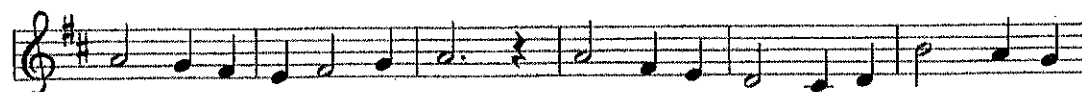


This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us

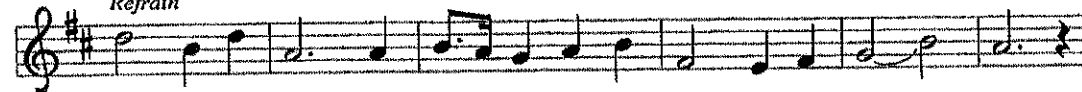


free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and

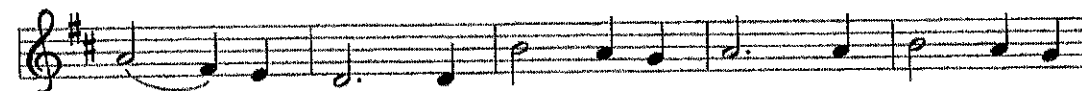


strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.

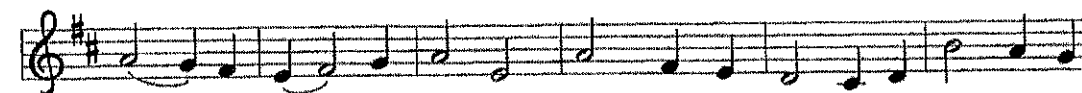
Refrain



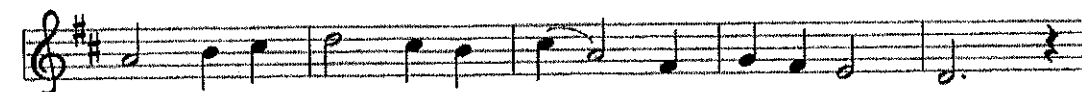
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



2 Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the

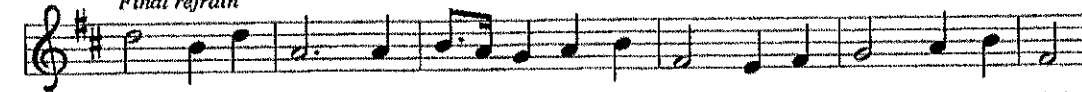


hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and

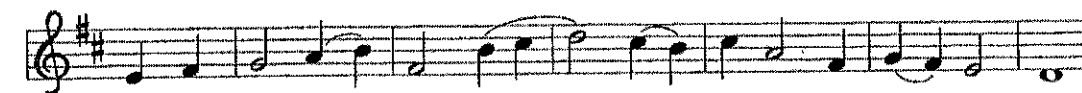


might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY - Please see handout.

FIRST READING –Please see handout.

Response after the reading:

R: Word of God, word of life.

A: Thanks be to God.

PSALM - Please see handout and read responsively

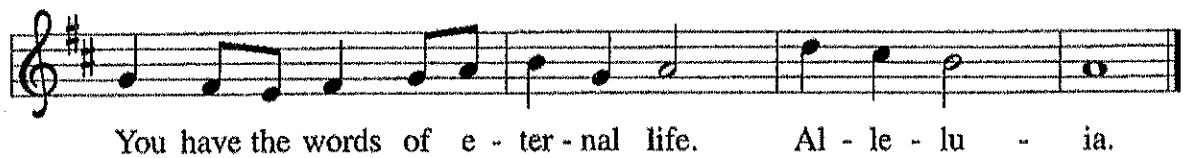
SECOND READING – Please see handout.

Response after the reading:

R: Word of God, word of life.

A: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – (ELW p. S151a) *Please stand in body or spirit to welcome the gospel.*



P: The holy gospel according to

A: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL – 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 # 296 "What Child is This"

NICENE CREED – (ELW 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 one 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
the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken
through the prophets. We believe in one 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 – (ELW p.152)

Response after each portion of the prayer:

P: Lord, in your mercy,

A: hear our prayer.

PEACE – (ELW p. 152) *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

OFFERING HYMN - "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" hymn - ELW #884

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

GREAT THANKSGIVING – (ELW p. 152 & 153)

P: The Lord be with you.

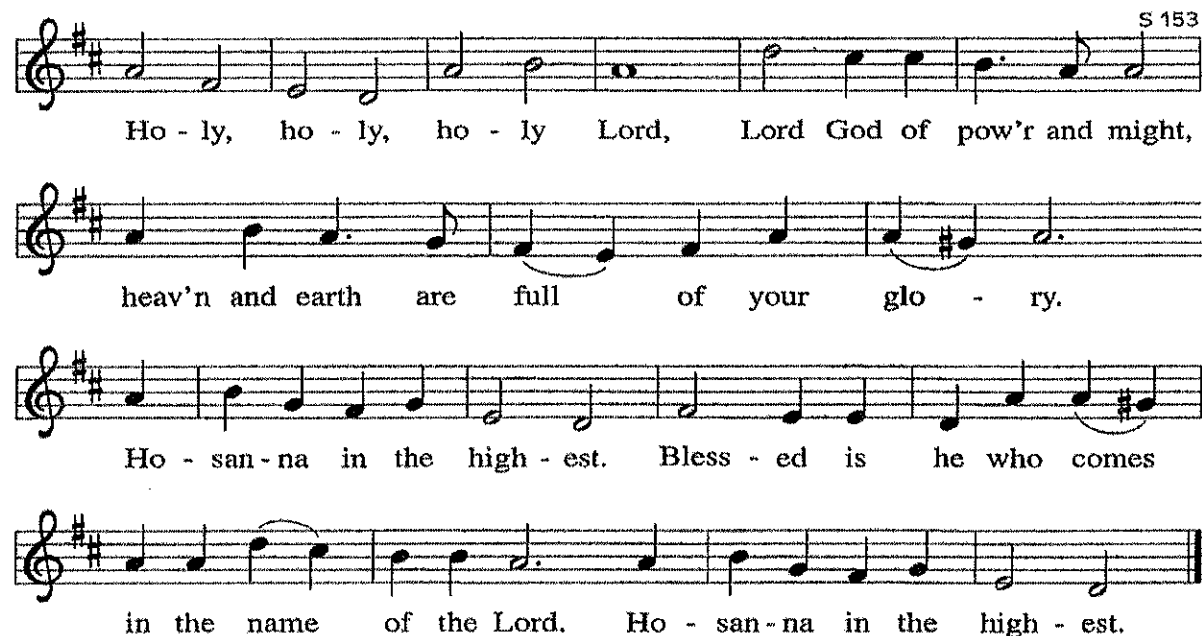
A: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

A: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

A: it is right to give our thanks and praise.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

LORD'S PRAYER – (ELW p. 154)

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

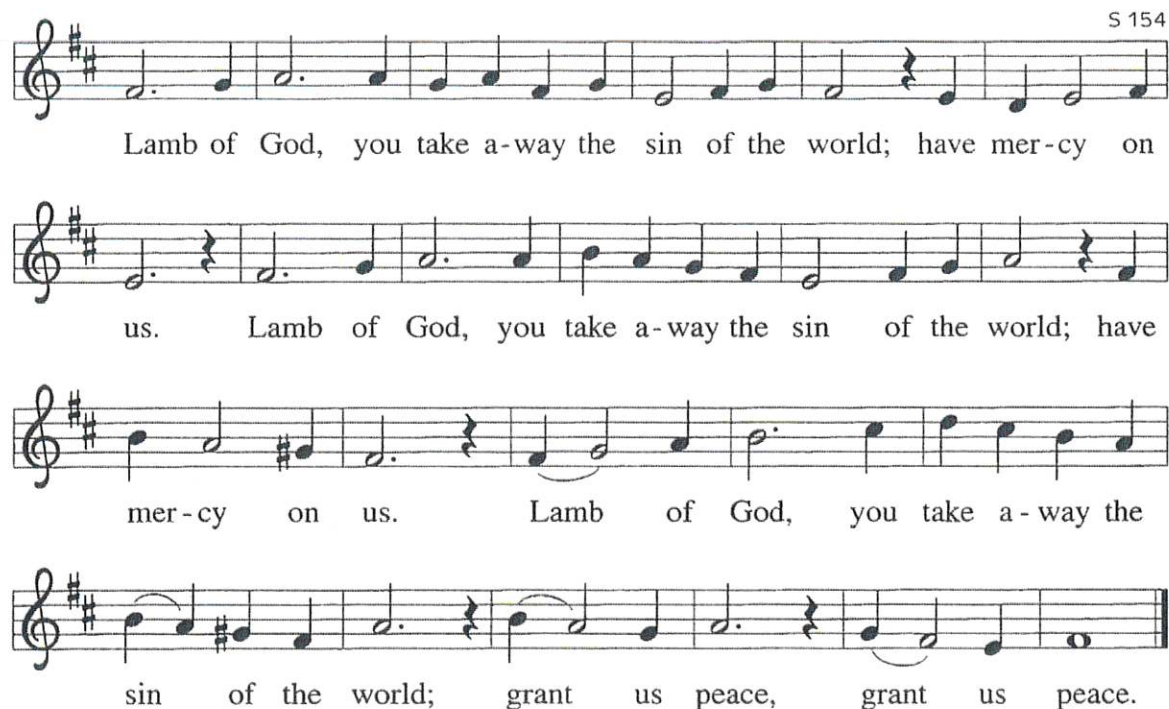
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;

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 – (ELW p. 154)

S 154



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION FOLLOWED by READING – (ELW 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.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

BLESSING – (ELW p. 155)

Response after the blessing:

A: Amen.

DISMISSAL – (ELW p. 155)

Response after the dismissal:

A: Thanks be to God. The assembly sits.

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

SENDING SONG ELW # 270 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Postlude

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Gathering Song – ELW # 257 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Hymn of the Day – ELW # 296 “What Child is This”

Sending Song – ELW # 270 “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

We pray always for . . .

Louis Bentzinger, Pastor Steve Billington, Gerry Brezenski, Linda Daniels,
Elaine Hauberg, Char Helgren, Diane Roesener, Nick Weber & Will Yank

We also remember in our prayers . . .

Winfrida, Juliana, Hassan & Evance, orphans we are sponsoring in Tanzania

Announcements

TODAY 12/21/25 4th Sunday of Advent

Worship with Communion – 8:30 a.m.

Sunday School Christmas Program during worship

Birthday Party for Jesus Following Worship

Community Cantata “The Glory of Christmas” – 7:00 p.m.

Fellowship in the basement to follow

WEDNESDAY 12/24/25

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at

*Grace Lutheran will be at 7:00 p.m. on
Wednesday, December 24th.*

THURSDAY 12/25/25

MERRY CHRISTMAS! CHRIST THE SAVIOR IS BORN!

NEXT SUNDAY 12/28/25 First Sunday of Christmas

Worship– 8:30 a.m.

Coffee & Fellowship Following Worship

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.

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

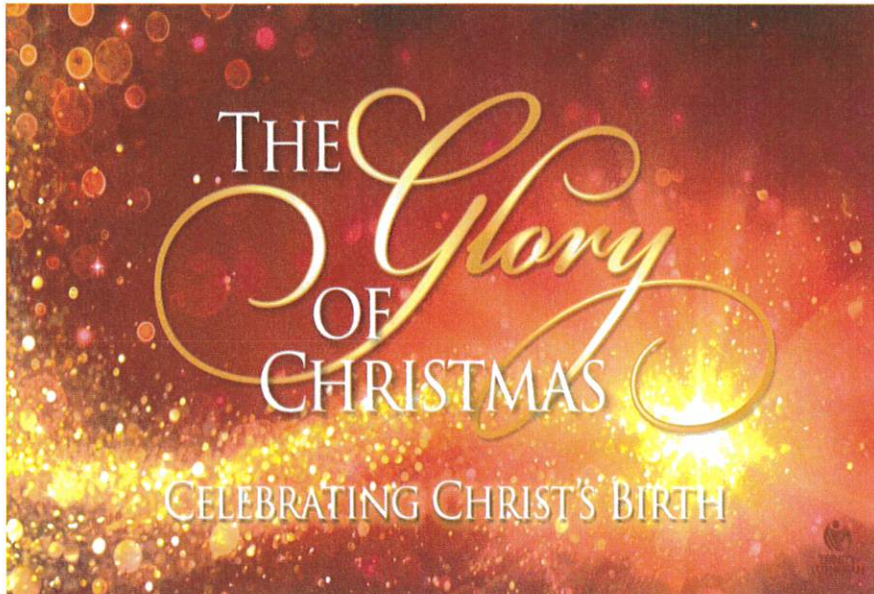
***You may contact Pastor Helgren by calling 402-864-4201 (church), 402-864-2113 (home)
or 402-826-0613 (cell)***

Children's Christmas Program

The Children's Christmas Program is today during the 8:30 a.m.

Worship service at Grace Lutheran.

The service will be followed by the **Birthday Party for Jesus.**



The Community Cantata will
present

“The Glory of Christmas”

on Sunday, December 21st
at 7:00 p.m.

Coffee, Snacks & Fellowship
will follow.

Grace Lutheran Church Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, January 18th, 2026

Grace Lutheran Church will hold its Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 18, 2026 following worship services. Worship time will be changed to 10:00 a.m. for Joint Worship with Hope Lutheran.

Annual Meeting Reports should be turned in by the 26th of December 2025.

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 28th.*

Poinsettias have been donated by

*Joyce Roesener, Chris, Roxane,
Joslyn & Macy Schiebur
Dean & Jody Wellensiek
Alta Bohling
Gene & Diane Ekhoﬀ
Kris Ebeler
Carl & Sarah Purcell
Russ & Kate Dietz
Robin & Andrea Eggleston
Eleta Eisenhauer
Karen Cerny
Karen Cerny
Cropp Family*

In Memory of

*Rich and Russell Roesener

Our Parents
Bill and other Loved Ones
All our Loved Ones
Chuck and Parents
Our Parents and Grandparents
Our Grandparents and Russ's Dad
David and Jill
David and Jill
Family
Richard Roesener
Our family members that are not with us*



Today's Readings

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2025

Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading

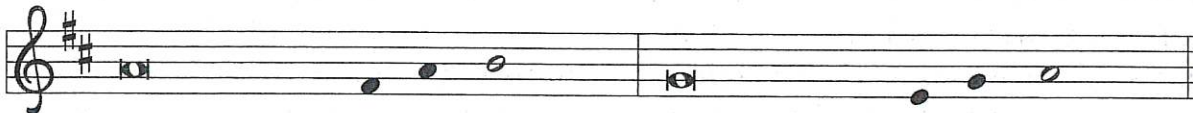
Isaiah 7:10-16

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹"Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." ¹²But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." ¹³Then Isaiah said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a

sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

Psalm

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



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.

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.

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord,

⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

⁷To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

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

Gospel

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name

him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³"Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son,

and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us."

²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

TODAY'S READINGS December 21, 2025

Volume 57, Number 1

Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23.

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