

12.7.2025

(online) 10:00 am



2nd Sunday of Advent

*Sharing God's love so that all
are served and supported.*



SECOND SUNDAY
OF
Advent

Today's Worship Theme

A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God's reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.



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*Greeter: Roger Bodo
Ushers: Bob & Joan Streightiff
Altar Guild: Gail Hauser
Coffee Host: Gail Schuette*

If you are visiting, please review the Welcome Pew Card in the hymnal holder.

✠ GATHER ✠

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

For up-to-date info, see the "Grace Happenings" Thursday e-newsletter and our website's monthly calendar (also displayed in the Narthex & Fellowship Hall).



PRELUDE

"Prepare the Royal Highway"

Edwin T. Childs

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another, kneeling as you are able. Long-expected God, **we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.**

God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. † You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior. **Amen.**

Please stand as you are able.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**
Please share a sign of Christ's peace.

GATHERING HYMN

“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn” ELW 242

GREETING

Assisting Minister: Charlie Wallin

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

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Praise to you, O God, who holds our joy and sorrow. You bring water to parched ground and life out of death. Bless us as this light grows, and send sorrow and sighing to flee away. Give us strength and patience, trusting that you are true to your promises. Transform the lives of all who suffer with your wonders near at hand. **Amen.**

ADVENT HYMN

“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah” (vs. 2) ELW 240

✠ **WORD** ✠

Please be seated.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Children may come forward for the Children’s Message, then go upstairs for Children’s Church & Music, and return for communion.



A READING FROM Isaiah 35:1-10

Lector: Cinda Williamson

The desert blooms as God's people return from exile.

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and shouting. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

³Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened; ⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert; ⁷the burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp; the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. ⁹No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



Luke 1:46b-55 *Read responsively.*

^{46b} My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

⁴⁷ **my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,**

⁴⁸ for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant. From this day all generations will | call me blessed:

⁴⁹ **you, the Almighty, have done great things for me and holy is your name.**

⁵⁰ You have mercy on those who fear you, from generation to generation.

⁵¹ **You have shown strength with your arm and scattered the proud in their conceit,**

⁵² casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly.

⁵³ **You have filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.**

⁵⁴ You have come to the aid of your servant Israel, to remember the promise of mercy,

⁵⁵ **the promise made to our forebears, to Abraham and his children forever.**

A READING FROM James 5:7-10

Patience until the coming of the Lord

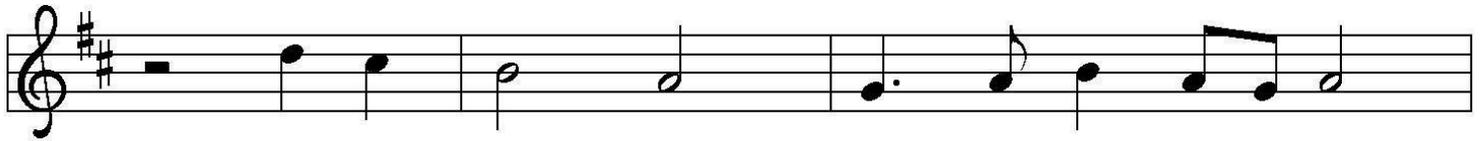
⁷ Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸ You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹ Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

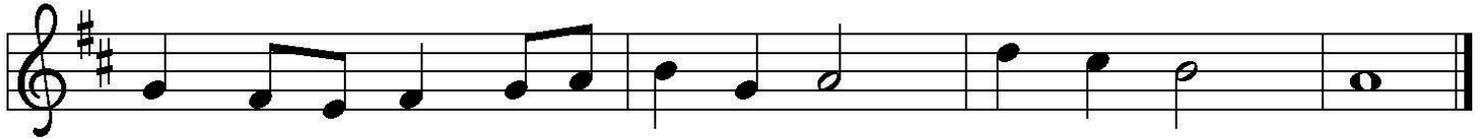


Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 11:2-11

The forerunner of Christ

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” ⁴Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’

¹¹“Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Steve Troisi

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

ELW 264

APOSTLES’ CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith. **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.**

Please kneel as you are able.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each portion of the prayer ends with these words:

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Please be seated.

✠ **MEAL** ✠

OFFERING SONG

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

John A. Behnke

Ringers of Grace

Thank you for partnering with Grace. Visit www.graceboone.org/donate, or place your gift in the Narthex offering box or mail it to the church office.



Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The first staff has two measures, the second and third have two measures each, and the fourth has two measures. The notes are mostly quarter and eighth notes, with some slurs and ties.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy ... and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

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.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The first staff has two measures, the second and third have two measures each, and the fourth has two measures. The notes are mostly quarter and eighth notes, with some slurs and ties.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us: **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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Communion Assistants: TBA

Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.
Thanks be to God!

Please be seated. This is the Lord's Table; all who seek Christ's true presence promised through this bread and wine are welcome and invited to partake in communion. You'll receive bread first (it is gluten-, nut-, soy- & dairy-free) and then wine (grape juice is available). Today, communion is served at the head of the aisle. Please alert an usher if you require the sacrament to be brought to you.



She will give birth to a son,
and you are to give him
the name Jesus, because
he will save his people
from their sins.

COMMUNION SONG



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 HYMNS “Light Dawns on a Weary World”

ELW 726

“Christ, Be Our Light”

ELW 715

Please stand as you are able.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

✠ **SENDING** ✠

BLESSING

May God who comes among us, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

"Savior of the Nations, Come" Johann Gottfried Walther

<p><u>CHANCEL GREENERY</u> Is given to the glory of God by Kelli & Tommy Hefner.</p>	<p><u>SANCTUARY LAMP</u> Is burning to the glory of God, and "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" by Peter and Mercy Ejidike.</p>
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READINGS FOR December 21

Isaiah 7:10-16 | Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 | Romans 1:1-7 | Matthew 1:18-25

GIVING REPORT

Giving September 1, 2025 through November 30, 2025

November Giving	November Budgeted Giving	Year to Date Giving	Year to Date Budgeted Giving
\$23,316.00	\$33,333.33	\$79,309.63	\$99,999.99

*'Tis the Season
at Grace Lutheran Church*

Dec. 14: 10:00am Advent 3 Worship Service

Dec. 14: 3:00pm Family Christmas Event; 5:30pm Youth L.I.T. Party

Dec. 19: 7:00pm Mountain Home Music "An Appalachian Christmas"

Dec. 21: 10:00am Advent 4 Worship Service (more decorating afterward)

Dec. 24: 4:00pm & 7:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Services

Dec. 28: 10:00am 1st Sunday of Christmas Worship Service

Jan. 4: 10:00am 2nd Sunday of Christmas Worship Service

