

*“Wait for the Lord,
Whose Day is Near.
Wait for the Lord;
Keep Watch, Take Heart.”**

The Sundays of Advent
Worship with Holy Communion

*Taize Hymn

***Good morning & Welcome to Grace.
We are so glad you are here!***

***Our mission is to invite and welcome all
to the fellowship of Christ in service to our community.***

The season of Advent is about waiting for the coming of the Lord. We wait for Christ's arrival that happened two thousand years ago and for the arrival that is yet to occur. We journey toward Bethlehem in the comforting but challenging reality of the "already" and the "not yet." Advent is about hope for today, as we continue to wait for what is to come. And Jesus is with us in this time between the already and the not yet.

Children are welcome in worship at Grace! The voices of children only enhance worship, and they are welcome in this space! If needed, there is a nursery available for any family to use.

Your bulletin contains the worship service in its entirety, **and your parts are printed in bold type.**

In thanksgiving to God for the saving grace shown to all of us in the death and resurrection of Christ, we celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion each week. All are welcome at the Table. We do come forward to the front of the sanctuary for communion. The Pastor stands in the center of the aisle with the bread. Gluten-free bread is available, just let the pastor know and the dish will be offered to you, from which you may take your own wafer. Finally, both **wine (red)** and **juice (white)** are available, on both sides, based on your preference.

For those participating from home, please have a small glass of wine or juice and a small piece of bread available for all who are planning to commune. When we come to the Meal portion of the service, and the people who are present in person are coming forward, please eat your bread and drink your cup as you are moved to do so.

If you have questions about our worship service, please don't hesitate to ask someone around you. For more information about Baptism or Communion, about what Lutherans believe, or even about Grace Lutheran Church, please do not hesitate to reach out to our pastor.

Again, we're glad you're here! Welcome to worship!



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

BELL CHOIR OFFERING *“Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella”* arr. Cathy Moglebust

WORD ~ God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

CANTATA *“Sing With the Angels”*, by Joel Raney The Chancel Choir

THE CREED ~ *Let us affirm our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed*

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

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ’s presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope (*a brief silence*).

Gracious God, we rejoice in the gifts of your Spirit. Equip the global church to magnify your love and peace in every land. We pray for the work of the Lutheran World Federation and ELCA Global Mission. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Abundant God, we rejoice in your creation. Revive lands we have squandered and depleted. Make gardens flourish in cities and neighborhoods. Cleanse polluted air and water so living things may breathe, drink, and praise you. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Righteous God, we rejoice in your justice. End racism and oppression. Deliver all who are unjustly imprisoned or persecuted. Reconcile nations and peoples in conflict. Help us pray for our enemies. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Healing God, we rejoice in your compassion. Comfort any in distress because of worry, illness, or loss. Strengthen and protect health care workers, especially those treating patients with RSV, and be with first responders, rescue teams, crisis counselors, and all who risk themselves to keep others safe. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Abiding God, we rejoice in your company. Give us calm and patient hearts as we gather with family and friends in this season. Keep us mindful of those for whom this time of year is not happy. Console the grieving, the lonely, and the forgotten, and surround them with loving support. Send your peace to those on our prayer list, and to everyone we name before you now in our hearts. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Faithful God, we rejoice with Mary, Mother of our Lord, and with all the saints, that your mercy endures for all generations. Look with favor on those who have died and lead us to joyfully sing of your everlasting promises. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen**

MEAL ~ God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

MUSICAL OFFERING *“Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow”* **Mark Hayes**

OFFERING

If you would like to offer a gift, the collection plate is located at the back of the sanctuary for your convenience. Thank you for your faithful giving.

OFFERING PRAYER

Eternal God, **you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior. Amen**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Tune: "Of the Father's Love Begotten" ELW 295

Leader Congregation

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Leader Congregation

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Leader Congregation

Let us give thanks to the Lord, to the Lord our God.

All

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The minister continues with the proper preface:

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places, give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior, Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection, opened to us the way of everlasting life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (THE SANCTUS)

Tune: "In the Bleak Midwinter" ELW 294

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

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE & THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Holy God, the Beginning and the End, our Salvation and our Hope, we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.

When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair, you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy. At this end of the ages your Son Jesus came to bring us your love and to heal all the suffering world.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await his coming again in righteousness and peace. Send your Spirit on us and on this bread and wine we share: strengthen our faith, increase our hope, and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen**

THE 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

Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God, who has come to save you. **Amen**

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

LAMB OF GOD (AGNUS DEI) *Tune: "Twas in the Moon of Wintertime" ELW 284*



O Lamb of God you take a - way the sin of the world.

O Lamb of God you take a - way the sin of the world.

O Lamb of God you take a - way the sin__ of the world.

Have mer cy on us O Lord. Grant us__ peace. Grant us__ peace O Lord.

COMMUNION HYMNS *"Savior of the Nations Come"* **ELW 263**
 "Blessing, Honor and Glory" **ELW 433**

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you, and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

SENDING ~ God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, ☩ bless you now and forever. **Amen**

SENDING HYMN *"He Came Down"* **ELW 253**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.
We will! Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *"Blessed Be the God of Israel"* **ELW 250**