

# *Living in Grace: Loving God & Serving Others*



## FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

3 December 2023, 10:15 am.



### **AS WE GATHER**

*Welcome to the season of waiting! Not only is Advent a period of preparation for Jesus' first coming at Christmas, but this sacred season readies our hearts for Jesus' ultimate coming: when He, as King of kings and Lord of lords, returns in power and glory on the Last Day, when every knee will bow before Him and every eye will see Him as the One who reigns in sovereign majesty over all things. Until His ultimate revealing on that Day, we wait for Him in confident faith, strengthened by His Word and Meal, trusting His promise to make us guiltless in His sight. With the expectant people of old, may our worship together lead us to say: "Our soul waits for the Lord; He is our help and our shield" (Psalm 33:20).*

*During the PRE-SERVICE MUSIC, please observe a time of quiet meditation and prayer.*

### **PRE-SERVICE MUSIC and CANDLE LIGHTING**

### **WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OPENING HYMN** "The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns" #348:1-4

*Please stand as you are able.*

### **CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION**

- [P]** Confident in His steadfast love, let us confess our sins to God our heavenly Father.
- [C]** **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we do and by what we fail to do. Instead of waiting on You and clinging to Your promises, we impatiently go our own way. Instead of loving our neighbors as ourselves, we put our wants first and serve our interests instead of Yours, O God. For the sake of our Savior and King, have mercy on us. Forgive us and restore us. Guide us and renew us. Help us to walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

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**P** "You are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 1:7-8). Our faithful God hears our prayers and answers them, taking away our guilt and giving us His righteousness. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, our Savior and King, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the **✝** Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**G Amen.**

## **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

*Isaiah 2:4; Matthew 24:42*

**P** Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,

**G the light no darkness can overcome.**

**P** Let Your light scatter the darkness

**G and illumine Your Church.**

**P** Let us pray. . . O Lord, let the lighting of this candle signify that You are the light that shines in all the darkness of our lives. As we wait, watch, hope, and pray, guide us all to reflect Your light and let it shine; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**G Amen.**

*One Advent candle is lit as a hymn is sung.*

**HYMN** "The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns"

*LSB #348:5*

**KYRIE ELEISON** ~ Lord, Have Mercy

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**SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY**

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## **SERVICE OF THE WORD**

*[\*Please refer to the back page of the worship folder, the screen, or to the Bible in the pew.]*

**OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 64:1-9**

**"Prayer for Mercy"**

*David Cink*

**RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 80:1-7 (antiphon v. 7)**

*Abbie Crist*

*Restore us, O God of hosts;*

**let Your face shine, that we may be saved!**

*Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock!*

**You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.**

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*Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh,*

**stir up Your might and come to save us!**

*Restore us, O God;*

**let Your face shine, that we may be saved!**

*O LORD God of hosts,*

**how long will You be angry with Your people's prayers?**

*You have fed them with the bread of tears*

**and given them tears to drink in full measure.**

*You make us an object of contention for our neighbors,*

**and our enemies laugh among themselves.**

*Restore us, O God of hosts;*

**let Your face shine, that we may be saved!**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son**

**and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning, is now,**

**and will be forever. Amen.**

*Restore us, O God of hosts;*

**let Your face shine, that we may be saved!**

**EPISTLE: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9**

***"Prayer of Thanksgiving"***

*David Wilson*

**ALLELUIA and VERSE**

*p. 156*

**HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 11:1-10**

*p. 157*

***"The Triumphal Entry"***

*Pastor Marty Tyler*

**NICENE CREED**

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**CHILDREN'S CHURCH**

*Grace Havens*

*(Kindergarten - 5th grade students are excused to attend Children's Church in the ANNEX)*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*"The Advent of Our King"*

*LSB #331*

**SERMON**

*"Waiting For Jesus"*

*Pastor Marty Tyler*

*1 Corinthians 1:3-9*

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*Please stand.*

## **THANKFUL GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

**OFFERTORY ~ What Shall I Render to the Lord**

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**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

## **SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT**

Holy Communion is a confession of the faith whereby we profess at this altar that our Lord Jesus Christ gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Therefore, any who are not yet instructed, or who are in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, are respectfully asked to refrain from partaking in the meal and instead may come to the altar and receive a blessing, or remain in your pew during distribution, and afterwards speak with the pastor.

**PREFACE**

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**SANCTUS**

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**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

*p. 162, right-column*

**THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**

**PAX DOMINI ~ Peace of the Lord**

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**AGNUS DEI ~ Lamb of God**

*Please be seated.*

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## **DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

"Your Table I Approach" *LSB #628*

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" *LSB #357*

"Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior" *LSB #627*

*\*IF NEEDED: "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"* *LSB #620*

*Please stand.*

**POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE ~ Thank the Lord** *p. 164*

## **POST-COMMUNION COLLECT**

**BENEDICTION** *p. 166*

**HYMN TO DEPART** "Prepare the Royal Highway" *LSB #343*

*Thank you for worshiping with us today.  
Please join us for refreshments and conversation in the Fellowship Hall.*

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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# *Living in Grace: Loving God & Serving Others*

Advent is a time of preparation for celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. Many people use Advent to stay focused on the true meaning of Christmas before the holiday rush takes over. The advent wreath symbolizes newness, eternal life, and the death and resurrection of the promised Messiah.

The wreath has 5 candles: 3 blue or purple, 1 pink, and 1 white. Here's a quick rundown of what each candle represents:

- The first blue candle is the HOPE candle, reminding us of the anticipation for Christ's coming.
- The second blue candle is the FAITH candle, symbolizing Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.
- The pink joy candle represents the world's JOY at Jesus' birth.
- The final blue PEACE candle reminds us of the angels' message of peace on earth.
- The CHRIST candle, placed in the center, symbolizes purity, holiness, and victory in Jesus.

