

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

## SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

10 December 2023, 10:15 am

### **AS WE GATHER**

In ancient days, God spoke through the prophet Isaiah to comfort His people with the assurance of pardon and a joyful return to their home. After the time of exile, He Himself would restore them, renew them, and return them to the land He had promised them on oath to their forefathers. As He was with His ancient followers, so He is with us. Our God is for us, not against us! In the mercy of our advent King, Jesus Christ, who came once and who will surely come again, we rejoice in His goodness and gather to receive all that He seeks to give.

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

### **WELCOME and INVITATION**

*Please stand as you are able.*

### **OPENING SONGS**

#### **10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)**

*Jonas Myrin, Matt Redman*

#### **Chorus**

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul.

Worship His holy name,

Sing like never before, O my soul.

I'll worship Your holy name.

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning.

It's time to sing Your song again

Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me,

Let me be singing when the evening comes. **Chorus**

You're rich in love, and You're slow to anger.

Your name is great, and Your heart is kind.

For all Your goodness I will keep on singing,  
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find. **Chorus**

And on that day when my strength is failing,  
The end draws near, and my time has come.  
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending,  
Ten thousand years and then forevermore. **Chorus 2X**

Worship Your Holy name, Lord I'll worship Your holy name.

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## INVOCATION

*In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.*  
**Amen.**

## REPENTANCE and RESTORATION

*When John the Baptist was preparing people to meet the Messiah, he preached, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."*

**We all should repent, for we have thought, spoken, and acted in divisive, sinful ways.**

*A moment of silence to reflect on our sin and our need for the Lord's mercy and forgiveness.*

*John promised that the Messiah would "baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire." It was the Spirit who worked faith in your hearts in Holy Baptism. Through the Word and Sacraments, our sins are forgiven, and we are given hope to amend our sinful lives and to look to our Lord's return at the end of all things. As a called and ordained servant of Christ I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

*Please be seated.*

## ADVENT HYMN

**On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry**

LSB 344:1-2

- 1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
Announces that the Lord is nigh;  
Awake and hearken, for he brings  
Glad tidings of the King of kings!

- 2 Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin;  
Make straight the way for God within,  
And let us all our hearts prepare  
For Christ to come and enter there.
- 3 We hail Thee as our Savior, Lord,  
Our refuge and our great reward;  
Without Thy grace we waste away  
Like flow'rs that wither and decay.
- 4 Lay on the sick Thy healing hand  
And make the fallen strong to stand;  
Show us the glory of Thy face  
Till beauty springs in ev'ry place.

*Please stand.*

## **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

*Isaiah 40:10; Psalm 22:19*

*Isaiah wrote, "Behold, the LORD GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.*

**Come quickly to deliver us, O Lord. Amen.**

*Two candles are lit on the Advent wreath as a hymn is sung.*

## **ADVENT HYMN**

***On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry***

*LSB 344:5*

- 5 All praise, eternal Son, to Thee  
Whose advent sets Thy people free,  
Whom with the Father we adore  
And Holy Spirit evermore.

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come to us with Your presence. Restore to us the joy of Your salvation and grant us a deep and abiding peace for all of our days. By the working of the Holy Spirit, lead us to share that joy we now know as Your gift. Keep us in true faith until the coming of Your everlasting kingdom where You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.***

*Please be seated.*

# READINGS FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

*[Please refer to the back of your service folder or to the screens overhead.]*

**OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 40:1-11**

*“Comfort for God's People”*

**RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 85; antiphon: v. 9**

*“Revive Us Again”*

*LORD, you were favorable to your land;  
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.*

**You forgave the iniquity of your people;  
you covered all their sin.**

*You withdrew all your wrath;  
you turned from your hot anger.*

**Restore us again, O God of our salvation,  
and put away your indignation toward us!**

*Will you be angry with us forever?  
Will you prolong your anger to all generations?*

**Will you not revive us again,  
that your people may rejoice in you?**

*Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,  
and grant us your salvation.*

**Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,  
for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints;  
but let them not turn back to folly.**

*Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,  
that glory may dwell in our land.*

**Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;  
righteousness and peace kiss each other.**

*Faithfulness springs up from the ground,  
and righteousness looks down from the sky.*

**Yes, the LORD will give what is good,  
and our land will yield its increase.**

*Righteousness will go before him  
and make his footsteps a way.*

**Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,  
and grant us your salvation.**

**EPISTLE READING: 2 Peter 3:8-14**

*“The Day of the Lord Will Come”*

*Please stand.*

**GOSPEL READING: Mark 1:1-8**

*“John the Baptist Prepares the Way”*

**WHAT WE BELIEVE ~ Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge  
the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian\* Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life ✝ everlasting. Amen.**

\*Christian: the ancient text reads “catholic”, meaning the whole Church as it confesses the wholeness of Christian Doctrine.

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH**

*Jane Goss*

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

**SONG OF THE DAY**

***The Awesome God You Are***

*Matt Redman, Ed Cash, Jason Ingram*

Let Your majesty speak peace to me  
And chase my fears away.  
To my heart, I preach Your sovereignty  
And the power of Your Name.  
I'll stand in awe of You alone.

## **Chorus**

God let hope arise, and faith become  
The fortress of my heart.  
I will lift my eyes and see You  
As the awesome God You are,  
Believe You as the awesome God You are, You are.

You're the glory of our brightest days;  
The comfort of our nights.  
When the darkest shades are all we see,  
You're the everlasting Light.  
I'll stand in awe of you alone. **Chorus**

## **Bridge**

And see You on Your throne so high above.  
See You watching over me in love.  
I will worship You and You alone,  
The awesome God You are  
The awesome God You are. **Repeat Bridge**  
God let hope arise. God let hope arise. **Chorus**

## **Chorus**

God let hope arise, and faith become  
The fortress of my heart.  
I will lift my eyes and see You  
As the awesome God You are,  
Believe You as the awesome God You are,  
King Jesus, as the awesome God You are, You are.

## **Ending**

Believe You as the awesome God You are.  
Believe You as the awesome God You are.  
Believe You as the awesome God You are.  
King Jesus, as the awesome God You are, You are.

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**MESSAGE**

*"A Joy Filled Homecoming"*

*Pastor Marty Tyler*

Isaiah:40:1-2

# *Sermon Notes*

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*Focus Scripture Verse(s)*

*The Law (Shows Our Sin)*

*The Gospel (Shows Our Salvation)*

## **Main Point:**

*What Does This Mean for Me?*

## **Application:**

*How does what I learned help me share God's Good News?*

## THANKFUL GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

### **Thank you for your faithful prayers and financial support of Grace Ministries.**

Our ability to continue to serve you, the Church, and our community is greatly dependent upon the willingness of God's people to give of their time, talents and treasures. Please remember to support the LORD'S Church by regularly sending in your tithes and offerings; by mail, online at [www.GraceLutheranCC.com/Giving](http://www.GraceLutheranCC.com/Giving), or download the *GivePlus* Mobile App. As the Apostle Paul writes, "Each one must give as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7). If you brought your tithe or offering with you today, you may place them in the box marked "I Bring An Offering To The Lord" sitting on the table next to the usher's station at the entrance to the sanctuary.

*Please stand.*

### OFFERTORY SONG

#### **Psalm 5**

*Bill Sprouse Jr.*

Give ear to my words, O Lord,  
Consider my meditation.  
Hearken unto the voice of my cry,  
My King and my God:  
For unto Thee will I pray.  
My voice shalt Thou hear in the morning.  
O Lord, in the morning  
Will I direct my prayer  
Unto Thee; and will look up.

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### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

#### LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

*Matthew 6:9-13*

*Please be seated.*

**DISCIPLESHIP CHALLENGE** *"Make Preparations for the Lord"* René Hutzell

- Be in the Word: Read Isaiah 40; Daily Advent Blocks Devotion
- Be doing good works: Provide a soup for Soup Suppers, volunteer to help with the Food Pantry, donate time, food goods, grocery gift cards.
- Help someone put up their Christmas tree, lights, yard ornaments.

*Please stand.*

**CLOSING RESPONSE**

*The LORD says, "Prepare the way of the Lord."*

**We thank You, O Lord!**

*The LORD says, "The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, He is coming."*

**We adore You, O Lord!**

*The LORD says, "I the LORD do not change; therefore you are not consumed."*

**We praise You, O Lord!**

*The LORD who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.*

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!**

*Gracious God, our heavenly Father, we thank you for having welcomed us into your presence and strengthened us through your blessed Word that we may live in hope-filled anticipation of the end of all earthly things and await with joy Your final coming in glory. Grant that Your Holy Spirit enlightens us with His gifts that we be kept in the true faith until the last and great day of our Lord's return. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Savior.*

**Amen.**

**BLESSING TO DEPART**

*The blessing of God Almighty—the Father who created us, the ✝ Son who saved us and shall return to welcome us home, and the Holy Spirit who creates and nourishes the faith that Jesus is our Lord and Savior—be with you, and forever ✝ give you peace.*

**Amen.**

## DEPARTING SONG

### *Lift Him Up*

Reba Rambo

Lift him up! Lift him up!  
Lift the name of Jesus higher,  
Lift him up, Raise his banner to the sky\_\_\_\_.  
He said, "If I be lifted up,  
I will draw all people to me,"  
Lift him up, all you people, lift him up!

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!  
Praise his right - eous-ness forever,  
Praise the Lord, lift your voices to the sky\_\_\_\_.  
He said if we won't praise his name,  
Then the rocks and stones will cry out,  
Praise the Lord, all you people, praise the Lord!

Show his love! Show his love!  
Show his love to ev'ry body,  
Show his love, let your candle always shine.  
He said that by the love we show,  
They will know we're his disciples,  
Show His love, all you people, show his love!

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

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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