



## Grace Lutheran Church

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**FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

**December 3, 2023**

**Welcome:** We are glad that you are here or are watching our worship service online. May you be blessed through this time of worship. We pray you find today's service a source of encouragement and strength. *Offerings are received at the door as you enter or leave. Please take a moment to complete an attendance registration slip found in the pew rack and return it to the offering plates also.*

**Prayer Requests** are always welcome. To have someone included in our prayers during worship, please call the pastor or church office or write down the request and give it to the pastor.

**Lectionary Summary:** Although we pray that God “*would rend the heavens and come down*” (Is. 64:1), that He would take vengeance against our enemies, we ourselves “*have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment*” (Is. 64:6). We have continued in our sins for “*a long time, and shall we be saved?*” (Is. 64:5). Yet, the Lord does not punish us in anger. He comes in voluntary meekness and humility to save us by His grace. Just as He once came into Jerusalem to sacrifice Himself for us upon the cross (Mark 11:4–8), He still comes to His Church with the fruits of His Passion. By His ministry of the Gospel, we are “*enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge,*” and so He will “*sustain you to the end*” (1 Cor. 1:5, 8). Although “*heaven and earth will pass away,*” His words “*will not pass away*” (Mark 13:31). As He sends disciples to call us to Himself in the fellowship of His Church, so will He “*send out the angels*” to gather us and all of His elect “*from the ends of the earth*” to Himself in heaven forever (Mark 13:27).

**Order of Worship  
Morning Prayer    LSB 235**

**Preservice Music**

**Welcome and Greeting Time**

**Ringling of the Bell**

**♪ Opening Hymn: “The Advent of Our King”**

*LSB 331*

**1    The advent of our King Our prayers must now employ,  
     And we must hymns of welcome sing In strains of holy joy.**

**5    Before the dawning day Let sin’s dark deeds be gone,  
     The sinful self be put away, The new self now put on.**

*Stand*

**△6   All glory to the Son, Who comes to set us free,  
     With Father, Spirit, ever one Through all eternity.**

Text: Public domain

**Versicles**

*LSB 235*

**☐ O Lord, open my lips,**

**♪☐ and my mouth shall declare Your praise.**

**♪☐ 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.**

**♪☐ Alleluia, alleluia.**

**☐ Behold, the Lord comes to save us.**

**♪☐ O come, let us worship Him.**

**♪ Advent Hymn**

*LSB 357*

**1    O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,  
     That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.  
     Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

Text: Public domain

## Collect of the Day

**P** Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*Sit*

## Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 64:1–9*

<sup>1</sup>Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence— <sup>2</sup>as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil— to make your name known to your adversaries, and that the nations might tremble at your presence! <sup>3</sup>When you did awesome things that we did not look for, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. <sup>4</sup>From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him. <sup>5</sup>You meet him who joyfully works righteousness, those who remember you in your ways. Behold, you were angry, and we sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved? <sup>6</sup>We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. <sup>7</sup>There is no one who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities. <sup>8</sup>But now, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. <sup>9</sup>Be not so terribly angry, O LORD, and remember not iniquity forever. Behold, please look, we are all your people.

**A** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Bell Choir: “Joy to the World”

## Epistle Reading

*1 Corinthians 1:3–9*

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup>that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge—<sup>6</sup>even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—<sup>7</sup>so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>8</sup>who will sustain you

to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**A** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

### **Holy Gospel Reading**

*Mark 13:24–37*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>24</sup>[Jesus said:] “In those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, <sup>25</sup>and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. <sup>26</sup>And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup>And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. <sup>28</sup>“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. <sup>29</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. <sup>30</sup>Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. <sup>31</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. <sup>32</sup>“But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup>Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup>It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. <sup>35</sup>Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the cock crows, or in the morning—<sup>36</sup>lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. <sup>37</sup>And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

*Sit*

### **Children's Message**

#### **♪Sermon Hymn: “O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide”**

*LSB 355*

- 1 O Savior, rend the heavens wide; Come down, come down with mighty stride;  
Unlock the gates, the doors break down; Unbar the way to heaven's crown.**
- 2 O Father, light from heaven send; As morning dew, O Son, descend. Drop  
down, you clouds, the life of spring: To Jacob's line rain down the King.**

- 4    **O Fount of hope, how long, how long?  
      When will You come with comfort strong?  
O come, O come, Your throne forego; Console us in our vale of woe.**
- 6    **Sin's dreadful doom upon us lies; Grim death looms fierce before our eyes.  
O come, lead us with mighty hand From exile to our promised land.**
- 7    **There shall we all our praises bring And sing to You, our Savior King;  
There shall we laud You and adore Forever and forevermore.**

Text: Friedrich von Spee, 1591–1635; tr. Martin L. Seltz, 1909–67, alt. Text: © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003887

## **Sermon “Oh That You Would Rend the Heavens”**

**Pastor Buchhorn**

### **Hymn of Response: “Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come”**

*LSB 350*

- 1    **Come, Thou precious Ransom, come,    Only hope for sinful mortals!  
      Come, O Savior of the world!    Open are to Thee all portals.  
      Come, Thy beauty let us see; Anxiously we wait for Thee.**
- 2    **Enter now my waiting heart,    Glorious King and Lord most holy.  
      Dwell in me and ne'er depart,    Though I am but poor and lowly.  
      Ah, what riches will be mine When Thou art my guest divine!**

Text: Johann Gottfried Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt. Text: Public domain

*Stand*

### **Prayer of the Church concluding with the Collect for Grace and Lord's Prayer**

#### **Collect for Grace**

- P** O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, You have safely brought us to the beginning of this day. Defend us in the same with Your mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by Your governance, may be righteous in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

#### **Lord's Prayer**

*LSB 241*

- P** Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

**C** 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.

**Benedicamus & Benediction**

*LSB 241*

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

**♪C** Thanks be to God.

**P** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless  
and preserve you.

**♪C** Amen.

**♪Hymn to Depart: “Jerusalem, My Happy Home”**

*LSB 673*

**1** Jerusalem, my happy home, When shall I come to thee?  
When shall my sorrows have an end? Thy joys when shall I see?

**2** O happy harbor of the saints, O sweet and pleasant soil!  
In thee no sorrow may be found, No grief, no care, no toil.

**4** There trees forevermore bear fruit And evermore do spring;  
There evermore the angels dwell And evermore do sing.

**6** O Christ, do Thou my soul prepare For that bright home of love  
That I may see Thee and adore With all Thy saints above.

Text: F. B. P., 16th cent., alt. Text: Public domain

**Acknowledgments**

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## NEWS AND NOTES

**WE REJOICE** with the following members of Grace who are celebrating this week.

**BIRTHDAYS:** Angie Fredrickson, Bonnie Kai, Ann Ruwe, Rhonda J. Sebade, Connie Mindrup, Esther Brader, Cody Fredrickson, Brian Kesting, LeRoy Robbert & RoNelle Woodward

**ANNIVERSARIES:**

**LAST WEEK'S OFFERINGS WERE** \$7,346.

**THE HIGH SCHOOL BIBLE CLASS** is being led by Pastor Lilienkamp this morning and next Sunday Dec10th. For these Sundays Pastor is leading the group in apologetic study of current issues. This morning the class will find out why the BIBLE is the most hated book in human history. Next Sunday the question of suffering will be the topic of discussion. How can a loving and all-powerful God permit human suffering? The question of suffering is given as the number one reason to not believe in God.

**SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS:** Today we begin a new series for the season of Advent on Joseph. Join us as we look more deeply into the Christmas story through the eyes of Joseph, the husband of Mary and foster-father of Jesus. The class meets in the basement at 9:15 a.m.

**WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY:** This week we will continue our overview of the Gospel according to St. Luke. Join us as grow in our understanding of God's heart toward the lost. The class meets on Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. in the large upstairs meeting room.

**LUTHERAN HOUR: "A-T Walker"** -- Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler Hear the "Lutheran Hour" message on KTCH AM next Sunday at 7:30 am.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** In today's "Waterworks" lesson, we learn about how God provided water from the rock. Having moved their camp from the wilderness of Sin to Rephidim, the Israelites face a new challenge—no water. Despite His daily food supply, the people doubt God's ability to provide water for them and their livestock. Moses cries out the Lord, who instructs him to strike the rock with his staff. Moses does so and water pours out, providing all that the people need.

**SUNDAY SUPPERS AT CUP OF GRACE:** Each Sunday evening a free meal for WSC or other students is being planned for Cup of Grace at 7:30 p.m. Please come and join us for this casual meal in a friendly, faith-affirming environment. We look forward to seeing you there.

**BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE COMING:** December 17 at 6:00 PM the Blue Christmas Service is planned. Now is the time to mark down the date! Now is also the time to invite family, friends or neighbors who might be blessed by such a reflective service.

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM:** Our annual Sunday School Children's Christmas Eve program will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, December 24. Practices are following the late worship service. We begin the basement with a snack

**HOLIDAY HAM SALES** have been a tradition in our church around the holidays. Sales began with a delivery date of Wednesday, December 13th. The 8-10 pound fully cooked spiral cut ham will be \$35 each. We are excited about another year of selling and thank you for your support of our Youth Group (7th-12th Grade).

**THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SUPPORTED** The WSC prolife club Wild For Life in their Baby Bottle Boomerang fundraiser. Please return bottles by today, December 3. All money collected will be used to buy diapers, formula, and onesies for Haven House in Wayne and Mary's Choice Pregnancy Center in Sioux City.

**ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS** are available. These Lutheran Hour devotionals are at each exit.

**ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER:** For those who would like to send Pam Nolte a message of encouragement during her continued battle with cancer, cards can be sent to Pam Nolte, 8030 Farnam Dr. Room 203, Omaha, NE 68114

**SCRIPTURE CHRISTMAS CARDS** are for sale in the church basement. Stop down and check out all the greeting cards the Ladies Aid has for sale. All monies go toward missions.

**LUTHERAN HOUR SPONSORS ARE NEEDED:** It's not too early to reserve your special date to sponsor the Lutheran Hour in 2024. We also have a couple open dates for 2023. Call the church office to reserve a date. The cost is \$20.



**THE SEASON OF ADVENT:** Advent is a season of preparation before the celebration of Christmas. The word "Advent" means "coming." During the season we remember that Jesus came from heaven to be our Savior, that He still comes to us through His Word and Sacraments, and that He will come again in glory as judge of the living and the dead. The color for Advent is blue which reminds us of the color of the sky and that we are to be looking to heaven for Jesus' coming. Join us beginning Wednesday, December 6 at 6:15 p.m. and again on December 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, for our midweek Advent services. The theme for our Advent midweek worship will be a sermon series by Pastor Lilienkamp entitled "The Clothes of Conviction".

**AN ADVENT FELLOWSHIP MEAL** is being planned for Wednesdays prior to our midweek services. Join us at 5:15 p.m. in the basement for this time of refreshment.

**MIDWEEK REMINDER:** A reminder that during Advent Midweek classes will begin immediately after the evening worship service, approximately 7:00 p.m. and should conclude by 8:00 p.m.



**THE ADVENT WREATH:** Among the symbols commonly used in this time of the year is the Advent wreath. Christmas is such a joyful time that it is often hard for us to wait, according to a Wikipedia article that may explain in part the origins of the Advent wreath. Johann Wichern, a protestant pastor in Germany in the 1800s was a pioneer in urban mission work among the poor. During Advent, children at the mission school founded by Wichern would ask daily if Christmas had arrived. In 1839, he built a large wooden ring (made out of an old cartwheel) with 19 small red and 4 large white candles. A small candle was lit successively every weekday during Advent. On Sundays, a large white candle was lit. The custom gained ground among Protestant churches in Germany and evolved into the smaller wreath with four or five candles known today. Each week another of the four candles on outer rim of wreath is lit to help us track the time until the celebration of Christmas.

**THANK YOU** to those who helped to erect and decorate our Christmon Tree and a special word of thanks to those who helped to fashion new Chrismon ornaments for this year.

## **PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S WORSHIP**

**PASTORS:** Pastor Michael Buchhorn, Senior Pastor

Pastor's phone: 402.385.4148 Email: pastorbuchhorn@gmail.com

Pastor Emeritus: Pastor Carl Lilienkamp

**ELDER ON DUTY:** Josh Ruwe (8:00) Chuck Potosnyak (10:30)

**ACOLYTES:** Lauren Ekberg & Bryn Tiedtke (8:00)

Dreu Jensen & Colston Starzl (10:30)

**READERS:** Irene Mock (8:00) Mary Temme (10:30)

**GREETERS:** Tiedtke Family (8:00) Doug & Mary Temme (10:30)

**FISHERS OF KIDS PRESCHOOL:** Teacher – Keila Olson – 402.584.2257

Director – Rhonda Sebade – 402.369.2170

**LUTHERAN HOUR SPONSOR:** Louise Green in memory of Vi Green

## **THIS WEEK AT GRACE**

<b>TODAY</b>	8:00 am.	Worship
	9:15 am.	Sunday School & Bible Class
	10:30 am.	Worship
	11:30 pm.	Sunday School Program Practice
	7:30 pm.	Sunday Supper
<b>MONDAY</b>	3:30 pm.	Kinship Communion
	6:30 pm.	Call Committee
	7:30 pm.	Elders
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	9:00 am.	Bible Study
	10:00 am.	Preschool Chapel
	4:30 pm.	Bell Choir
	5:15 pm.	Advent Supper
	6:15 pm.	Advent Worship
	7:00 pm.	Midweek
<b>THURSDAY</b>	10:00 am.	Preschool Chapel
	7:00 pm.	Choir
<b>SATURDAY</b>	4:00 pm.	Family Communion
<b>NEXT SUNDAY</b>	8:00 am.	Worship/Communion
	9:15 am.	Sunday School and Bible Class
	10:30 am.	Worship/Communion
	11:30 am.	Sunday School Program Practice
	7:30 pm.	Sunday Night Supper

# POINSETTIAS

*If you are interested in adorning the chancel for Advent and Christmas with a poinsettia, please complete the following and return it with payment to the church office or place in the offering plate no later than December 3<sup>rd</sup>.*

*Name of Donor:* \_\_\_\_\_

*In memory of* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Or*

*In honor of* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*The cost is \$7.50 per poinsettia. Please make checks payable to "Grace Lutheran Altar Guild."*

*You may pick up your plant after the Christmas Day Service.  
(Poinsettias not picked up will be disposed of.)*



**Thank you!**



**CHILDREN’S SERMON SERIES:** Beginning with the “new church year,” the children’s sermons will focus on worship, purpose and significance of the liturgy.

- The 3rd Commandment “Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy,” commands worship.
- Public worship is the most significant event in the weekly life of a Christian congregation. Public worship is the “heartbeat” of a congregation.
- So that congregational adults can learn along with the children, a bulletin item will be included every Sunday highlighting the worship point of the Sunday.
- Today’s children sermon will teach the “rhyme and rhythm” of the church year.

