

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT GRACE OF GOD

December 10, 2017 ♦ 9:00 am



Prepare the way of the Lord!

\_\_\_\_\_GATHERING\_\_\_\_\_

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism)*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,  
who comes to wake us from sleep,  
who leads us into the light of grace.  
**Amen.**

Let us prepare the way of the Lord  
by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

God of all time,  
**we confess that we have not prepared  
for your merciful reign among us.  
We ignore our neighbors in need  
and fail in the labor of justice and peace.  
In your mercy forgive us.  
Grant us wisdom to welcome your light  
and to seek the things that will endure  
until Christ comes again in glory. Amen.**

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.  
In ☩ Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven  
and all things are made new.  
Rejoice in this good news!  
**Amen.**



PROCESSIONAL HYMN "Hark the Glad Sound"



1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior  
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's  
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing  
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -  
bond - age held. The gates of brass be -  
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures  
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song,  
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.  
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

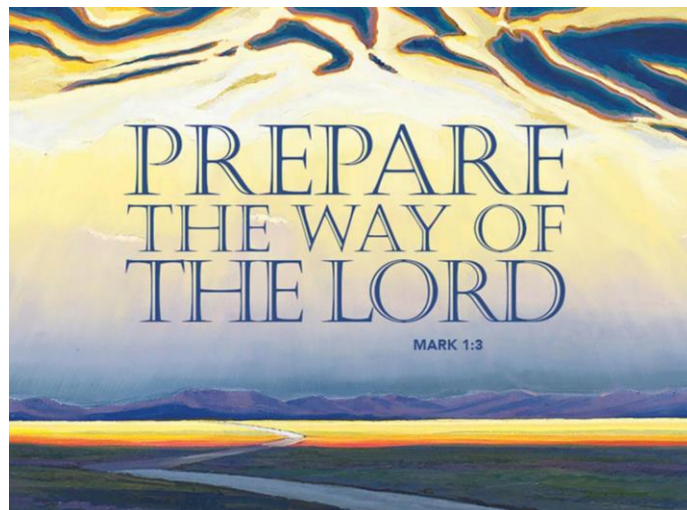
LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

We praise you, O God, for this circle of light  
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.

**As we light the candles on this wreath,  
kindle within us the fire of your Spirit,  
that we may be light shining in the darkness.**

Enlighten us with your grace, that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us.

**Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.  
Amen.**



ADVENT WREATH SONG (today we sing verses 1 and 2 only)

1 We light the Ad - vent can - dle And wait for Christ to  
 2 We light the Ad - vent can - dle And thank the Lord for  
 3 We light the Ad - vent can - dle And sing with cheer - ful  
 4 We light the Ad - vent can - dle And share the won - drous

come. With hope, we trust the pro - mise That  
 rest. With peace, we know our Je - sus Has  
 heart. With joy, we spread the mes - sage That  
 Word. With love, we tell of Je - sus Till

He will bring us home. Our hope is in our  
 come to be our guest. This peace be - yond all  
 God would us im - part. Our joy is nev - er  
 all a - round have heard. God's love is for all

Sav - ior Who wins for us God's fav - or.  
 know - ing With - in our hearts is glow - ing.  
 end - ing; The Son to us is send - ing.  
 na - tions Through - out His whole cre - a - tion.

*Refrain*  
 We wait with grow - ing light Till  
 God makes all things right!

GREETING

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

**Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son.  
 By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace;  
 through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,  
 who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
 one God, now and forever. Amen**

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

### FIRST READING Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.

<sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her  
that she has served her term,  
that her penalty is paid,  
that she has received from the LORD's hand  
double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup>A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

<sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.

<sup>5</sup>Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

<sup>6</sup>A voice says, "Cry out!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass,

their constancy is like the flower of the field.

<sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades,  
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;  
surely the people are grass.

<sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand forever.

<sup>9</sup>Get you up to a high mountain,  
O Zion, herald of good tidings;  
lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,  
lift it up, do not fear;

say to the cities of Judah,  
"Here is your God!"

<sup>10</sup>See, the Lord GOD comes with might,  
and his arm rules for him;  
his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.

<sup>11</sup>He will feed his flock like a shepherd;  
he will gather the lambs in his arms,  
and carry them in his bosom,  
and gently lead the mother sheep.

### SECOND READING 2 Peter 3:8-15a

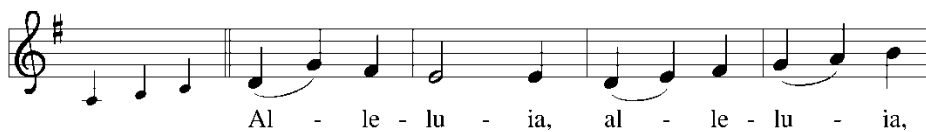
<sup>8</sup>But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. <sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. <sup>10</sup>But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

<sup>11</sup>Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way,

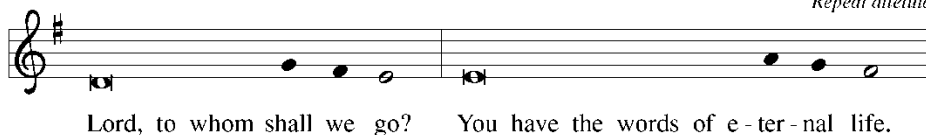
what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup>waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? <sup>13</sup>But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

<sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; <sup>15</sup>and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

### ALLELUIA VERSE



*Repeat alleluia*



HOLY GOSPEL Mark 1:1-8

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.  
<sup>2</sup>As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,  
"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way;  
<sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
'Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight,'"  
<sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness,  
proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness

of sins. <sup>5</sup>And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY "Comfort, Comfort Now My People"



1 "Com - fort, com - fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.  
2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,  
3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain!



Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn - ing un - der sor - row's load.  
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the king - dom now is here.  
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits his ho - ly reign!



To God's peo - ple now pro - claim that God's par - don waits for them!  
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way!  
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for - ev - er.  
Let the val - leys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him!  
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1611–1684; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829–1878, alt.  
Music: FREU DICH SEHR, *Trente quatre psaumes de David*. Geneva, 1551

SERMON

## APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again 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.**



## PRAYER

*(Response to each petition)*

Stir up your power and . . .

**Come, Lord Jesus**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## OFFERING “Climb to the Top of the Highest Mountain” (Cantate Choir)

Climb to the top of the highest mountain, joyous tidings proclaim to the world,  
Lift up your voice, shout the good news: behold, your Lord comes to you.  
He will feed his flock like a shepherd, he will carry the lambs in his arms,  
He will ever keep them safe from harm. Behold, your Lord comes to you.  
He who made the stars in the heaven, He who fashioned the earth and the sea,  
From time eternal he was God, the Alpha and Omega, he. Behold, your Lord!  
He will come in power and glory, he will rule with mercy and truth,  
Hope of the nations, light of all the world.  
He will love the little children, he will hold them in his arms.  
Love him and trust him as a little child. Behold, your Lord comes to you.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray.

**Savior of the nations, come.**

**Make your home here in us.**

**Feed us with your love,  
that our faith shine ever new  
and our lives reveal your light. Amen.**

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## SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

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## PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

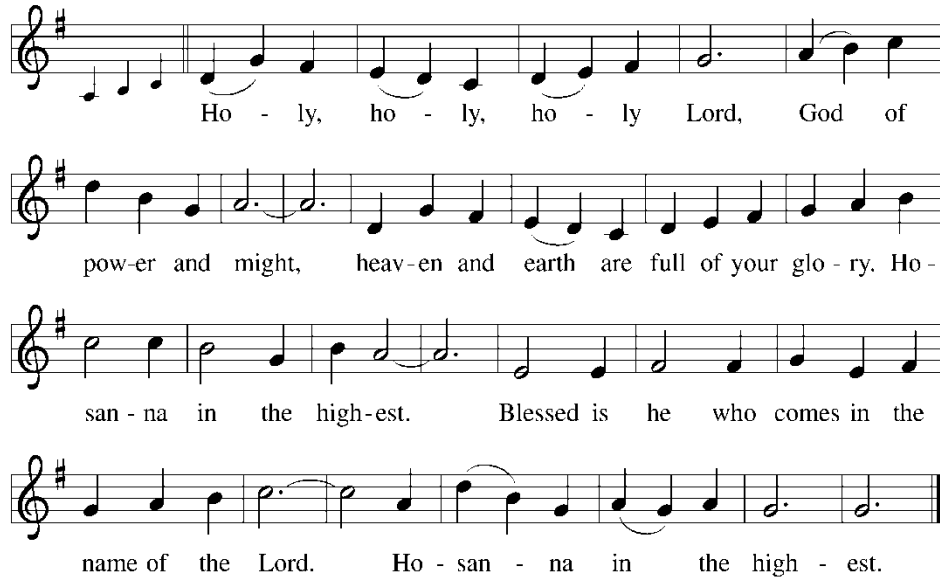
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is good and right for us to give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might greet him with faithful hearts when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:


### SANCTUS ("Holy, holy, holy")



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of  
 pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. 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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**All sing:**



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

**All sing:**

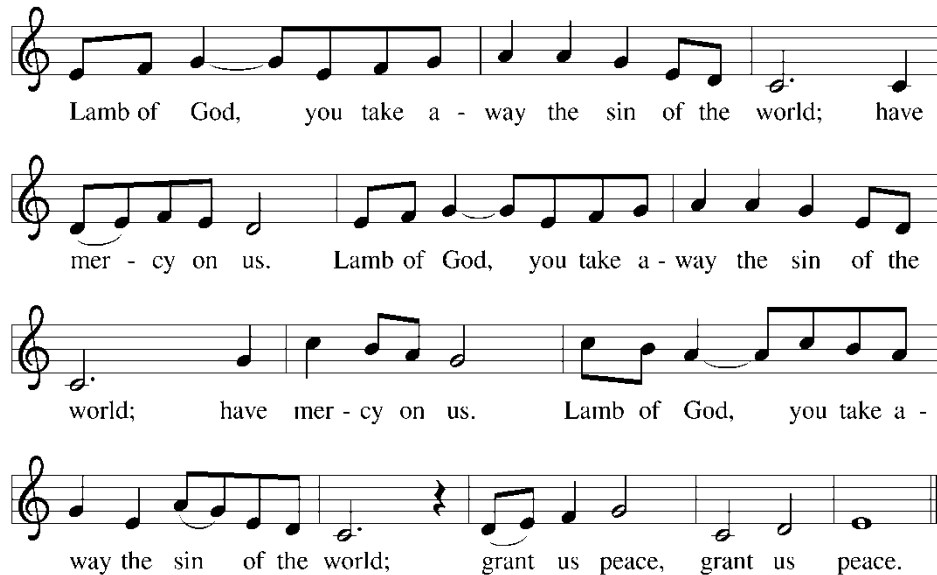


A - men, a - men, a - men.

### LORD'S PRAYER

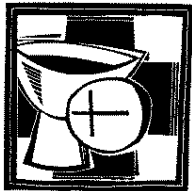
**All: Our Father, who art in heaven,  
 hallowed be thy name,  
 thy kingdom come,  
 thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
 Give us this day our daily bread;  
 and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
 and lead us not into temptation,  
 but deliver us from evil.  
 For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen**

## AGNUS DEI "Lamb of God"



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 DISTRIBUTION



Scripture says, "Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes." 1 Corinthians 11:26. Martin Luther's Small Catechism says, "Holy Communion is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and drink." All baptized Christians who have been instructed in this confession of faith and who share our belief in the real presence of Christ in the sacrament for the forgiveness of sins are invited to the Lord's Table today. Children who have not received their first communion are invited to come to the table and receive a blessing.

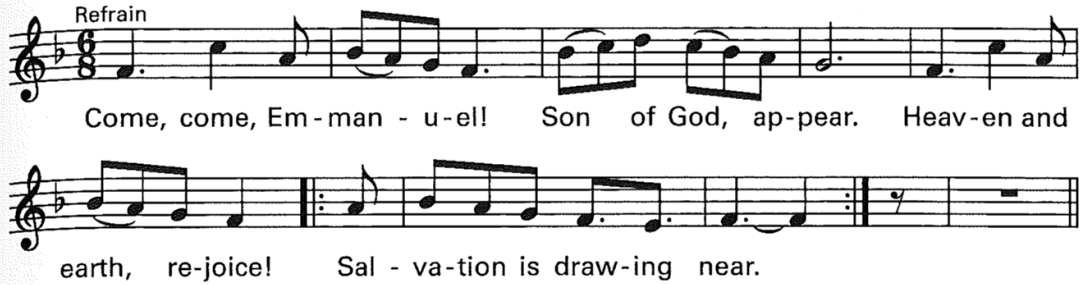
As you approach the table down the aisles, receive an empty cup from the cart.

- Proceed to the left or the right and gather around the altar.
- After each gathered group has communed, they are dismissed in peace.
- As you return to your seat down the side aisles, place your cup in the racks on the tables to your left or right.
- **Non-alcoholic wine** is offered in pre-filled cups for those who cannot drink alcohol. These cups are marked in the rack.
- **Gluten-free** (and dairy-free and nut-free) **wafers** are offered in the small white bowl on the communion cart for those who prefer this option.



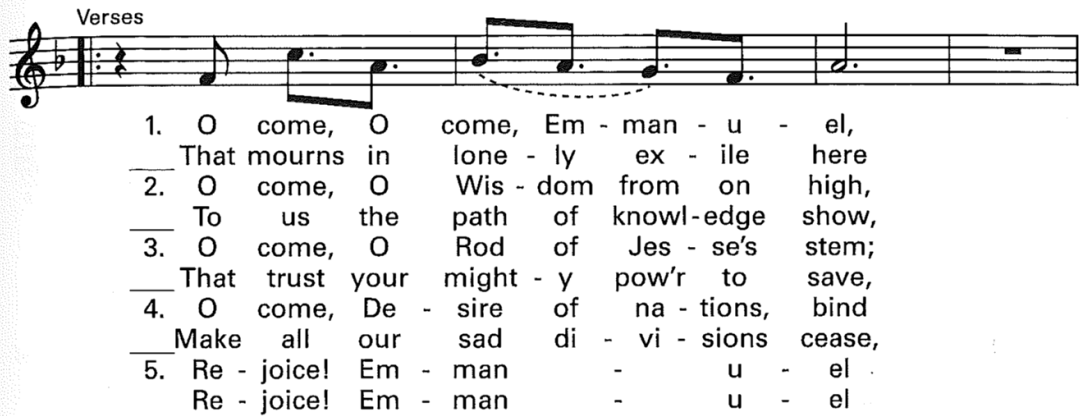
DISTRIBUTION SONGS "Emmanuel"

Refrain

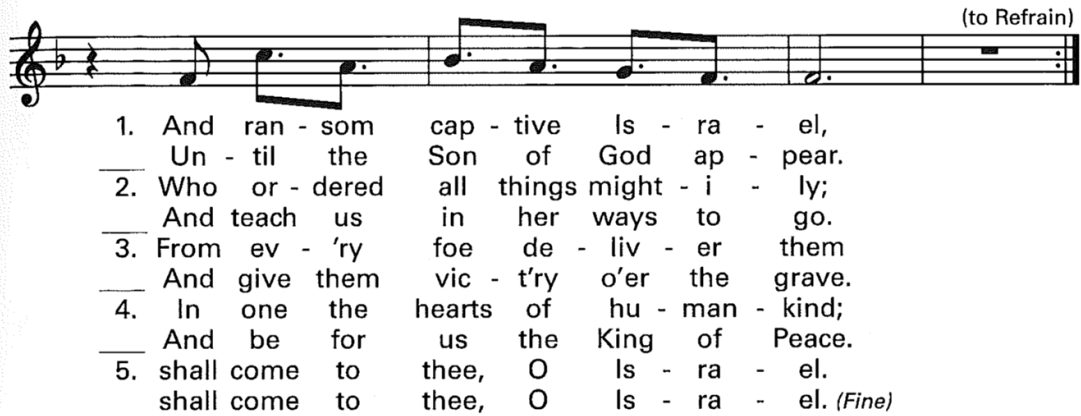


Come, come, Em-man - u-el! Son of God, ap-pear. Heav-en and  
earth, re-joyce! Sal - va-tion is draw-ing near.

Verses



1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el,  
That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
2. O come, O Wis - dom from on high,  
To us the path of knowl-edge show,  
3. O come, O Rod of Jes - se's stem;  
That trust your might - y pow'r to save,  
4. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind  
Make all our sad di - vi - sions cease,  
5. Re - joice! Em - man - u - el  
Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



(to Refrain)

1. And ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el,  
Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
2. Who or - dered all things might - i - ly;  
And teach us in her ways to go.  
3. From ev - 'ry foe de - liv - er them  
And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.  
4. In one the hearts of hu - man - kind;  
And be for us the King of Peace.  
5. shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.  
shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el. (*Fine*)

Text: Refrain, Steve Angrisano, b. 1965, © 2004, Steve Angrisano. Published by OCP. All rights reserved.

Verses based on Advent 'O' Antiphons.

Music: Steve Angrisano, © 2004, Steve Angrisano. Published by OCP. All rights reserved.

“Wait for the Lord” (*repeat ad. lib.*)

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Wait for the Lord". It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 8/8. The lyrics are: "Wait for the Lord, whose day is near." and "Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!". The piano accompaniment features chords and moving lines in both hands.

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## SENDING

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### DISMISSAL

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep us in his grace.

**Amen**

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God for whom we wait,  
you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share.  
Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts,  
and send us forth to be your people in the world,  
announcing your coming among us  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

### BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

**Amen**

Go in peace. Christ lives in you.

**Thanks be to God.**

CLOSING HYMN "He Who Began a Good Work in You" (sing twice)

He who be - gan a good work in you,  
he who be - gan a good work in you  
will be faith - ful to com - plete it,  
will be faith - ful to com - plete it. He who start -  
ed the work will be faith - ful to com - plete it in you.

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SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Worship leader and preacher	Jon Marxhausen
Elder	Allen Warren
Piano	Jill Dinesen
Lector	Heidi Zetterwall
Ushers	Franklin & Sue Hotzel
Acolyte/Crucifer	Jake Richter
Greeters	Ken & Doreen Rubbert

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## DON'T FORGET YOUR 3-MINUTE MINISTRY

*What does your smiling face say to those in worship with you today?*

*Might it say . . .*

*"You are welcome here."*

*"You belong here."*

*"You are loved."*

*"I care about you"*

*"I'm here for you."*

# WELCOME TO GRACE OF GOD

Thank you for worshipping with us today.  
 Please fill out a welcome card and place it in the basket on the table in the entryway.  
 Help yourself to a welcome packet that will tell you more about the ministry at Grace of God.  
 You are always welcome at Grace of God.



## GRACE OF GOD MISSION STATEMENT

Grace of God is a Christ-centered community gathered around Word and Sacrament, preaching Christ crucified, serving our neighbor and discovering what it means to live under the grace of God.

## SMALL CHILDREN ARE WELCOME IN WORSHIP AT GRACE OF GOD

“Busy bags” for young children are available in the classroom adjacent to the worship space near the doors. That room also has a speaker to hear the worship service.

## VOTERS’ ASSEMBLY TODAY

Immediately after worship

### Agenda items:

- Approval of 2018 Budget
- Proposed Amendment to By-Laws
- Vision Action Plan Update

### *Fall 2017 Bible Study Series*

## “The Great Commissions”

*Six Biblical Calls to Make Known the Gospel  
 (from Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts and Paul)*

Study led by Pastor Steven King

NO STUDY TODAY

STUDY RESUMES SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17 from 10:15-11:15 am



## SERVING IN WORSHIP

DATE	ELDER	ACOLYTE	LECTOR	USHERS	GREETERS
12/10/17	Allen Warren	Jake Richter	Heidi Zetterwall	Franklin & Sue Hotzel	Ken & Doreen Rubbert
12/13/17	Allen Warren	George Zetterwall	Kathy Rehbein	Jim & Jan Roth	Allen & Sally Warren
12/17/17	Allen Warren	Cherish Frelix	Eileen Ocone	Dan & Jason Evenson	Lori Ruppel
12/20/17	Tom Schoenberg	Kiernan Benson	Marilynn Epland	Becky Vigstol / Jenny Hanson	Marlene Zuch

# grace happens

December 10 - 17, 2017

## Sunday, December 10

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9:00 am ADVENT 2  
10:15 am Fellowship  
Congregational Voters' Assembly

## Tuesday, December 12

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9:30 am Ladies' Bible Study  
7:30 pm Cantate Choir

## Wednesday, December 13

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6:00 pm Advent Supper  
6:15 pm Handchime Choir practice  
6:25-6:55 pm Sunday School Christmas program practice  
7:00 pm ADVENT EVENING PRAYER

## Sunday, December 17

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9:00 am ADVENT 3  
Children and Youth Christmas Worship  
10:15 am Sunday School and Adult Bible Study  
2:00 pm Christmas Caroling

## Holiday Hope Advent Project

The tree has been emptied of tags so now it's time to shop, wrap, and deliver the gifts back to church! Please be sure to attach your tag to the gift when you return it.

**All gifts should be returned to the church by Sunday, December 17th!**

**We are seeking volunteers to deliver the gifts to the families we are sponsoring.** Please contact Kathy Rehbein or Audrey Gilman if you can help with delivery.

*Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in it various forms. 1 Peter 4:10*

## THE COLORS OF CHRISTMAS

Children and Youth Christmas Worship  
*a puppet-based Christmas program written by Jeff Olofson*

**Sunday, December 17 at 9:00 am**

*waiting in*  
eager expectation

advent *evening* prayer

December 6, 13 and 20 at 7 pm



*The Story of Jesus*

THEMES FROM THE GOSPEL OF

**MARK**

Grace of God Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study

**NEW Adult Bible Study beginning SUNDAY, JANUARY 7 at 10:15 am**

This study, led by Pastor Jon, will explore the literary and theological themes in the Gospel of Mark. Mark was the original story-teller of Jesus' life and his Gospel influenced all the others! We will be hearing Gospels from Mark this year, and this study will help us understand these Gospels better and appreciate their unique contribution to the Gospel message!

**CLEANING CREW SCHEDULE**

Dec. 14 - 16	TEAM 1 Jon and Dawn Marxhausen/ Martha and Tom Kaufenberg
Dec. 21 - 23	TEAM 2 Lori Ruppel/Doreen Rubbert/ Pat Randall/Becky Vigstol
Dec. 28 - 30	TEAM 3 Cami Hartleben/Darla Constable

## Don't forget to direct Choice Dollars®

Grant funding from Thrivent Financial through its Thrivent Choice® program can help support organizations you care about. Don't let Choice Dollars expire. Eligible Thrivent Financial members who have Choice Dollars available have until March 31, 2018 to direct any remaining 2017 Choice Dollars. Help support Grace of God.  
**Go to [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice) to learn more.**  
**Or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt.**

## GRACE OF GOD WEEK at HOPE FOR THE JOURNEY HOME

Grace of God is serving at Hope for the Journey Home (the homeless shelter at Guardian Angels) the week of  
**January 14-20, 2018.**



**We will need about 40 volunteers!**

Youth and kids may serve with an adult.

Overnight volunteers are two same gender volunteers or couple.

Please sign up today to serve one of three shifts and indicate your availability.

See Pastor Jon if you have questions.

## Christmas Caroling

**Next Sunday, December 17 at 2:00 pm**

We will meet at church and carpool to our senior members and friends in our community!

All are welcome!

Children and youth especially invited!

## Christmas Worship at Grace of God

Sunday, December 24 at 9:00 am

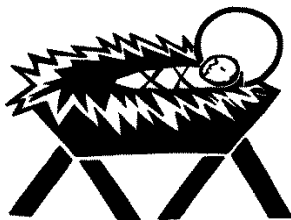
ADVENT 4

Sunday, December 24 at 6:00 pm

CHRISTMAS EVE LESSONS AND CAROLS

Monday, December 25 at 9:00 am

CHRISTMAS DAY HOLY COMMUNION



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## GRACE OF GOD LUTHERAN CHURCH

420 Hayward Avenue North • Oakdale, Minnesota 55128  
651.730.4900 • [www.graceofgodlutheran.com](http://www.graceofgodlutheran.com)  
Jon Marxhausen, pastor

