



First Sunday in Advent

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, L.C.M.S

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The Sacrament of Holy Communion at Grace

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord 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. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes. The bread and wine do not symbolize or represent the body and blood of Christ, but are the real presence, as he says of "This is my body. . . This is my blood."

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked to first speak with Pastor Matthews.

For further study, see Matt. 5:23f; 10:32f; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:17-34.

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

November 29, 2020

Isaiah 64:1–9

1 Corinthians 1:3–9

Mark 11:1–10 *or* Mark 13:24–37

The Lord Jesus Comes in Meekness and Humility to Save Us

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).

Welcome and Announcements

Blessing of the Advent Wreath

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord, as we begin the season of Advent, let this wreath remind us that Jesus Christ came to conquer the darkness of sin and to lead us into the light of His glorious kingdom. As the prophet Isaiah says, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined."

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, the true light who comes into the world to enlighten all people, bless us as we light the candles of this wreath in preparation for Your coming, and enkindle in our hearts the fire of Your love that we may receive You with joy and gladness and evermore remain steadfast in the faith; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

P The Lord Almighty, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless this wreath for use in His Church throughout this holy season of Advent.

C Amen.

331 The Advent of Our King

LSB 331



1 The ad - vent of our King Our prayers must now em - ploy,
2 The ev - er - last - ing Son In - car - nate deigns to be,
3 O Zi - on's daugh - ter, rise To meet your low - ly King,
4 As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come a - gain



And we must hymns of wel - come sing In strains of ho - ly joy.
Him - self a ser - vant's form puts on To set His ser - vants free.
Nor let your faith - less heart de - spise The peace He comes to bring.
And His true mem - bers all u - nite With Him in heav'n to reign.

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

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

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Confession and Absolution

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the \dagger Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Service of the Word

Introit

Ps. 25:1-3; antiphon: Zech. 9:9b, alt.

Behold, your king is com- | ing to you; *
righteous and having sal- | vation.

To you, | O LORD, *

I lift | up my soul.

O my God, in you I trust; let me not be | put to shame; *
let not my enemies exult | over me.

Indeed, none who wait for you shall be | put to shame; *
they shall be ashamed who are wantonly | treacherous.

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;**

as it was in the be- | ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Behold, your king is com- | ing to you; *
righteous and having sal- | vation.

Kyrie

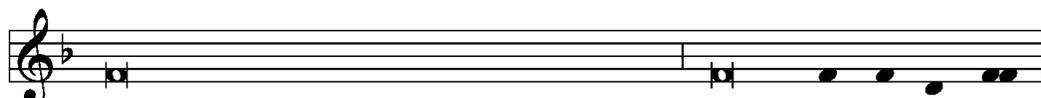
LSB 152



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



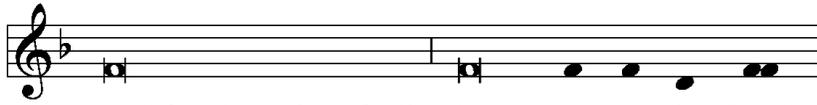
A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



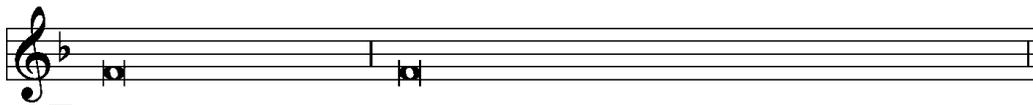
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



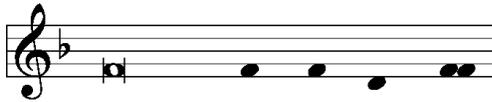
and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



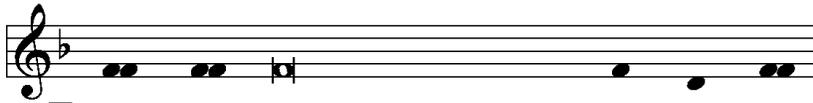
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

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.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 64:1–9

¹Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down,
that the mountains might quake at your presence—
²as 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!
³When you did awesome things that we did not look for,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
⁴From 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.
⁵You 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?
⁶We 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.
⁷There 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.
⁸But now, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
⁹Be not so terribly angry, O LORD,
and remember not iniquity forever.
Behold, please look, we are all your people.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 80:1–7



¹Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph | like a flock! *
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, | shine forth.

²**Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Ma- | nasseh, ***
stir up your might
and come to | save us!

³Restore us, | O God; *
let your face shine, that we | may be saved!

⁴**O LORD | God of hosts, ***
how long will you be angry with your | people's prayers?

⁵You have fed them with the | bread of tears *
and given them tears to drink in full | measure.

⁶**You make us an object of contention for our | neighbors, ***
and our enemies laugh a- | mong themselves.

⁷Restore 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 be- | ginning, ***
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Epistle

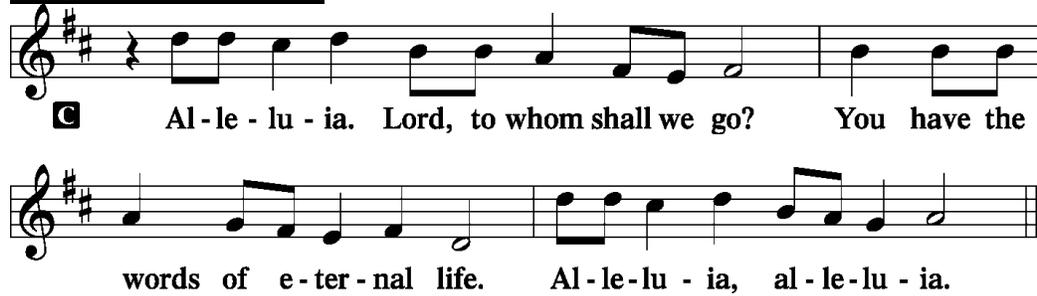
1 Corinthians 1:3–9

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge—
⁶even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— ⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁸who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse


C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the eleventh chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹Now when they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples ²and said to them, “Go into the village in front of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. ³If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.’” ⁴And they went away and found a colt tied at a door outside in the street, and they untied it. ⁵And some of those standing there said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” ⁶And they told them what Jesus had said, and they let them go. ⁷And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. ⁸And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. ⁹And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! ¹⁰Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

☐ **Whoever desires to be saved must, above all, hold the catholic faith.**
Whoever does not keep it whole and undefiled will without doubt perish eternally.
And the catholic faith is this,
that we worship one God in Trinity and Trinity in Unity, neither confusing the persons
nor dividing the substance.
For the Father is one person, the Son is another, and the Holy Spirit is another.
But the Godhead of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit is one: the glory
equal, the majesty coeternal.
Such as the Father is, such is the Son, and such is the Holy Spirit:
the Father uncreated, the Son uncreated, the Holy Spirit uncreated;
the Father infinite, the Son infinite, the Holy Spirit infinite;
the Father eternal, the Son eternal, the Holy Spirit eternal.
And yet there are not three Eternals, but one Eternal,
just as there are not three Uncreated or three Infinites, but one Uncreated and one
Infinite.
In the same way, the Father is almighty, the Son almighty, the Holy Spirit almighty;
and yet there are not three Almighty's, but one Almighty.
So the Father is God, the Son is God, the Holy Spirit is God;
and yet there are not three Gods, but one God.
So the Father is Lord, the Son is Lord, the Holy Spirit is Lord;
and yet there are not three Lords, but one Lord.
Just as we are compelled by the Christian truth to acknowledge each distinct person as
God and Lord, so also are we prohibited by the catholic religion to say that there are
three Gods or Lords.
The Father is not made nor created nor begotten by anyone.
The Son is neither made nor created, but begotten of the Father alone.
The Holy Spirit is of the Father and of the Son, neither made nor created nor begotten,
but proceeding.
Thus, there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons; one Holy Spirit,
not three Holy Spirits.
And in this Trinity none is before or after another; none is greater or less than another;
but the whole three persons are coeternal with each other and coequal, so that in all
things, as has been stated above, the Trinity in Unity and Unity in Trinity is to be
worshiped.
Therefore, whoever desires to be saved must think thus about the Trinity.
But it is also necessary for everlasting salvation that one faithfully believe the
incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Therefore, it is the right faith that we believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ,
the Son of God, is at the same time both God and man.
He is God, begotten from the substance of the Father before all ages; and He is man,
born from the substance of His mother in this age:
perfect God and perfect man, composed of a rational soul and human flesh;
equal to the Father with respect to His divinity, less than the Father with respect to His
humanity.

Although He is God and man, He is not two, but one Christ:
 one, however, not by the conversion of the divinity into flesh, but by the assumption of
 the humanity into God;
 one altogether, not by confusion of substance, but by unity of person.
 For as the rational soul and flesh is one man, so God and man is one Christ,
 who suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose again the third day from the
 dead,
 ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father, God Almighty,
 from whence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
 At His coming all people will rise again with their bodies and give an account
 concerning their own deeds.
 And those who have done good will enter into eternal life, and those who have done evil
 into eternal fire.
 This is the catholic faith; whoever does not believe it faithfully and firmly cannot be
 saved.

Sit

332 Savior of the Nations, Come

LSB 332



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, Vir - gin's Son, make
 2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the Spir - it
 3 Here a maid was found with child, Yet re - mained a
 4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and



here Your home! Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,
 of our God, Was the Word of God made flesh—
 vir - gin mild. In her womb this truth was shown:
 king - ly hall; God of God, yet ful - ly man,



That the Lord chose such a birth.
 Wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.
 God was there up - on His throne.
 His he - ro - ic course be - gan.

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | God the Father was His source,
Back to God He ran His course.
Into hell His road went down,
Back then to His throne and crown. | 6 | For You are the Father's Son
Who in flesh the vict'ry won.
By Your mighty pow'r make whole
All our ills of flesh and soul. |
| 7 | From the manger newborn light
Shines in glory through the night.
Darkness there no more resides;
In this light faith now abides. | 8 | Glory to the Father sing,
Glory to the Son, our king,
Glory to the Spirit be
Now and through eternity |

Sermon

Stand

Prayer of the Church

P . . . Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P . . . through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

Offering

Stand

Offertory

LSB 159



C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to



me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will



call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-



va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my



vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the



courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

Service of the Sacrament

LSB 160

Preface



P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places 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 escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 161



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 161

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 162

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us 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.

The Words of Our Lord

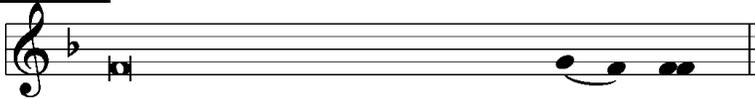
LSB 162

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✝ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✝ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

LSB 163



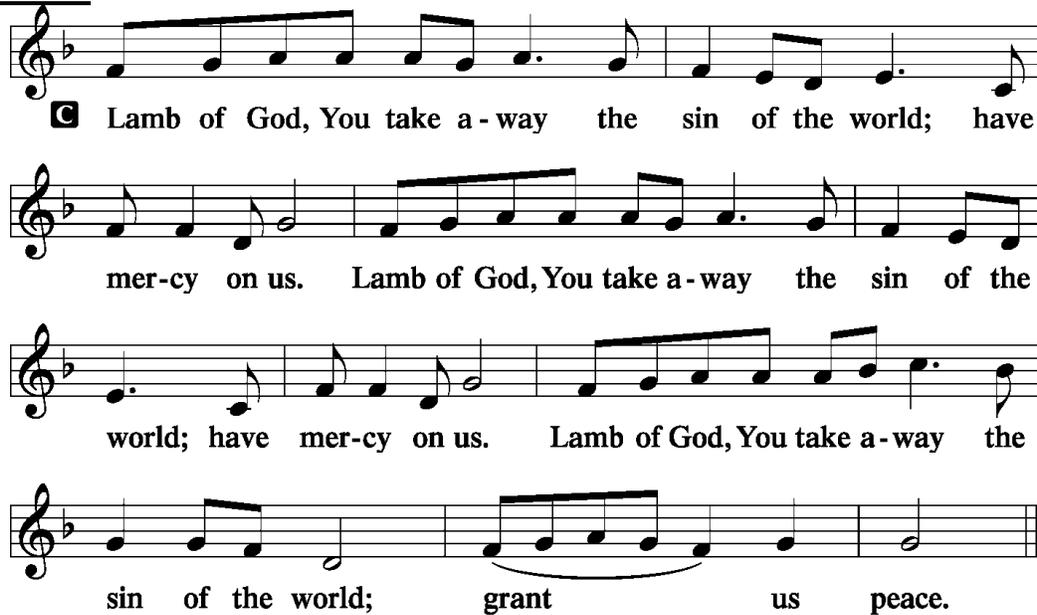
P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei

LSB 163



C 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.

Sit

Distribution

After communing the individuals assisting in the distribution, the congregation is invited to come forward and line up in front of the altar. The usher will invite you row by row. For those who desire to be communed at their seats, the sacrament will be brought to you following distribution at the front of the church.

Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

Amen.

Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.

Amen.

In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart † in peace.

C **Amen.**

341 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

LSB 341



1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates! Be - hold, the
2 A righ - teous Help - er comes to thee; His char - iot
3 How blest the land, the cit - y blest, Where Christ the
4 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; Make it a



King of glo - ry waits. The King of kings is draw - ing
is hu - mil - i - ty, His king - ly crown is ho - li -
rul - er is con - fessed! O peace - ful hearts and hap - py
tem - ple set a - part From earth - ly use for heav'n's em -



near; The Sav - ior of the world is here. Life and sal -
ness, His scep - ter, pit - y in dis - tress. The end of
homes To whom this King in tri - umph comes! The cloud - less
ploy, A - dorned with prayer and love and joy. So shall your



va - tion He doth bring; There - fore re - joice and glad - ly sing.
all our woe He brings; There - fore the earth is glad and sings.
sun of joy is He Who comes to set His peo - ple free.
Sov - 'reign en - ter in And new and no - bler life be - gin.



To God the Fa - ther raise Your joy - ful songs of praise.
To Christ the Sav - ior raise Your grate - ful hymns of praise.
To God the Spir - it raise Your hap - py shouts of praise.
To God a - lone be praise For word and deed and grace!

5 Redeemer, come and open wide
My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!
O enter with Thy grace divine;
Thy face of mercy on me shine.
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on
Until our glorious goal is won.
Eternal praise and fame
We offer to Thy name.

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Stand

Post-Communion Canticle - Thank the Lord

LSB 164



C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.

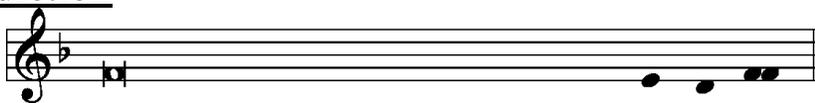
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Benediction

LSB 166



P 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.



C A - men.

348 The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

LSB 348



1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light tri - um-phant breaks,
2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, To bear and fight and die,
3 Oh, bright-er than the ris - ing morn When Christ, vic - to-rious, rose
4 Oh, bright-er than that glo - rious morn Shall dawn up - on our race
5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light and beau - ty brings.



When beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills And life to joy a-wakes.
But crowned with glo - ry like the sun That lights the morn-ing sky.
And left the lone-some place of death De - spite the rage of foes.
The day when Christ in splen-dor comes And we shall see His face.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo-ple pray: Come quick-ly, King of kings!

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P Go in Peace and Serve the Lord!

C Thanks be to God!

Acknowledgments

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Life Quote for the week of November 29, 2020

“Christians engage in adopting not only because we desire to raise children but also—and above all—because the Most High desires their survival and salvation. We adopt because we have been so adopted. We adopt because little ones need homes. We adopt because we have homes and families to share. Life issues mean more than just political debates. Life issues involve more than just personal choices or someone else’s problems. Life issues are always people and Gospel.” *Rev. Michael W.*

Salemink, Executive Director of Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life •

www.lutheransforlife.org

Weekly Worship in-person and via Facebook Live!

We give thanks to God for sustaining us through these trying times. For all who are ill, do not feel comfortable in larger groups, or cannot get to our services, we will continue to stream our worship services using Facebook Live! At our regular Sunday morning worship time (10:45 a.m.) we broadcast the worship service. You can watch the live worship service, or you can view the service later by going to the Grace Lutheran Tacoma Facebook page or Grace's website (www.GraceLutheranTacoma.org) under the about us tab, click on worship. There you will find links to the video of the service, a copy of the bulletin, and a copy of the sermon.

Bulletins for the service are mailed out on Thursday or Friday each week. If you have not received a bulletin by Saturday afternoon, please message Pastor Matthews through the Facebook page (Messenger) and a copy of the service folder will be sent to you in reply.

Your feedback on these services is greatly appreciated. If you are having difficulties accessing the services, or if other difficulties arise, please contact us through the Facebook page or by sending an email to Pastor@GraceLutheranTacoma.org.

Reading and studying the Lutheran Confessions

Our Lutheran Confessions reading/study/discussion group is rolling along. We meet the first and third Thursdays of each month. The meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. and last for approximately one and a half hours. The meeting will be in the library at Prince of Peace. **We are reviewing options for returning to our study of the Lutheran Confessions. Stay tuned for more information on when classes will resume.**



Weekly Bible Study Opportunities

In association with Prince of Peace we started a joint study using the book, "The Fire and the Staff" written by Klemet I. Preus. Pastors Zeigler and Matthews are teaching the class together. Copies of the book are available through Concordia Publishing House CPH.org or Amazon (Amazon.com). Cost is \$33.99. If you would like to participate and cannot afford the book, please let Pastor Matthews know and we will obtain a copy for you. Please plan to attend and strengthen your faith.





Midweek Bible Study meets Thursday mornings. We are continuing our study of the Gospel of Luke. The meeting location has changed to Prince of Peace until the South Tacoma Library lifts its meeting room closure (to avoid the spread of Corona Virus). Our sessions begin at 10:30 and conclude around 11:30.

Shop on Amazon.com? Support our congregation

Amazon.com has a program that contributes 0.5% of purchases to a charity of your choosing. AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com) is the website through which purchases are made and donations to Grace Lutheran Church accrue.

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Grace every time you shop, at no cost to you.

On your first visit to AmazonSmile, you need to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Your selection will be remembered, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation. Grace Lutheran Church has registered as a charitable organization, so you will find us there.

We have received \$99.40 so far. Thanks to all for supporting us.

Prepare for next week

Spend a few minutes this week reading and thinking about the appointed scriptures for next week.

Isaiah 40:1–11
2 Peter 3:8–14
Mark 1:1–8



Scripture Readings
for next week

Prayer Requests

This week we remember in our prayers, members and friends for whom prayers are requested, including:

Healing

Alda S
Judy G
Dan B
Joan D
Jeremiah R
Alethea B
Jim L
Chris R
Dori M
Kirk D

Healing/Other

Eric S
Randy H
Hank B
Grant O
Jennifer Z
Ray C
Eric H
Rick L
Charles S

Cancer

James M
Gabe T
Edith L
Jason
Jerry M
Bobby M

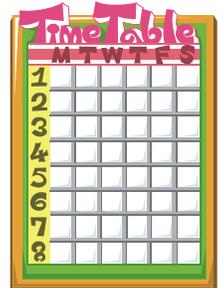
Homebound

Doug B
Karen J



This Week (and next) at Grace

Today	9:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m.	Adult Bible Study – “The Fire and the Staff” First Sunday in Advent Worship Service in-person and via Facebook Live!
Dec. 1 st	10:00	Betty Ann Psalm Study
Dec 3 rd	10:30 a.m.	Mid-Week Bible Study
Dec. 6 th	9:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m. 12:15 p.m.	Adult Bible Study – “The Fire and the Staff” Second Sunday in Advent Worship Service in-person and via Facebook Live! Semi-Annual Voters’ Meeting



LUTHER'S SMALL CATECHISM

CONFESSION

HOW CHRISTIANS SHOULD BE TAUGHT TO CONFESS

WHAT IS THE OFFICE OF THE KEYS?

The Office of the Keys is that special authority which Christ has given to His church on earth to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent.

WHERE IS THIS WRITTEN?

This is what St. John the Evangelist writes in chapter twenty: The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." (John 20:22-23)

WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE ACCORDING TO THESE WORDS?

I believe that when the called ministers of Christ deal with us by His divine command, in particular when they exclude openly unrepentant sinners from the Christian congregation and absolve those who repent of their sins and want to do better, this is just as valid and certain, even in heaven, as if Christ our dear Lord dealt with us Himself.