



Prelude Confession and Forgiveness

Advent II

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

C: Amen

A: Come, gather in the presence of God with sincerity, offering yourself as you are in this moment. {pause for reflection} Father, we confess that You remain faithful to us even in the midst of our own unfaithfulness.

C: You are always reaching out to turn us back when we have turned away. You are constantly offering encouraging words of hope when we falter or become discouraged. You are brilliantly enlightening the dimness of our own understandings and expectations through Your wisdom. Forgive our sins and shortcomings. Do not forget or forsake us today or in the days ahead. In all humility, we come seeking the mercy, compassion and grace promised through Christ, Your gift of our salvation.

P: The child who came into the world long ago in the simplicity of the manger and who will come again in great glory, is the sign for us that God is with us, now and always, forgiving our sins, liberating us from our limitations and turning us back to living ever more faithfully. With full trust in God's power and intentions to accomplish all the words that God has spoken, let us come now with renewed hearts, minds and souls to offer our gifts of prayer, praise and thanksgiving.

C: Amen.

Entrance Hymn

270

1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king;
 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 Pleas'd as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
 born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Refrain

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

P: God's light breaks into the darkness;

C: And hope and peace shine out.

P: God's Word breaks into the silence;

C: And hope and peace speak out.

P: God's Son breaks into our lives;

C: And hope and peace are known.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

1.O beau-ti-ful Star of Beth - le - hem, shin-ing a -
 2.O beau-ti-ful Star, the hope of light, guid-ing the
 3.O beau-ti-ful Star, the hope of rest, for the re -

far through shad - ows dim, Giv-ing a light for those who
 pil - grim through the night, O - ver the moun-tain 'til the
 deemed, the good and blest, Yon-der in glo - ry when the

long have gone. And guid-ing the
 break of dawn, And in - to the
 crown is won, For Je - sus is

wise men on their way un - to the place where Je - sus
 light of per - fect day it will give out a love - ly
 now that Star di - vine, bright - er and bright - er, He will

Verse



Refrain: My soul pro-claims your great-ness, O God, and my



spir - it re-joic - es in you, You have



looked with love on your ser - vant here, and



blessed me all my life through.



1. Great and might - y are you, O Ho - ly One,

2. All Your bless - ings de - clared through - out the land,



strong is your kind - ness ev - er - more
Sing of the Sav - ior now at hand!



How you fav - or the
Come a - mong us, Your



weak and low - ly one, hum - bling the proud of heart. *Refrain*
Word, so meek and mild, He is the Ho - ly Child!

Gospel Acclamation

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 1st chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

Gospel

Luke 1:36-59

But, very soon *after Gabriel's annunciation to her*, Mary was stirred to get up and go quickly into the hill country, to a city in Judea

where she came to Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. As Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby in her womb leapt! Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she cried out very exuberantly and said, "You are being blessed among women, Mary, and the fruit of your womb is also being blessed. And who am I that the mother of my Lord may have come to me? For behold, as soon as the sound of your greeting came into my ears, the baby in my womb leapt in exultation! And blessed she who has believed that there will be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said, "My very life declares the greatness of the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the humiliation of his servant. Behold, from now on all generations will call me someone to be congratulated, because the Powerful has done great things for me, and holy is his name. And His mercy is for generations and generations of those fearing him. He has shown dominion with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the humble. Those who are hungering he has filled with good things, and those who are being satisfied He sent away empty. He has helped his child Israel, having been called to the remembrance of mercy, which he spoke to our fathers; to Abraham and his seed through all the ages."

And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

P: The Gospel of the Lord! C: Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

tune 260

¹ One wedding dress long put away
And one still to be worn—
With God this word is possible;
Two babies will be born.

² To Mary, yet to be a bride,
The angel Gabriel came.
With God this word is possible;
She hears her baby's name.

³ Elizabeth so long a wife—
No motherhood for her!

With God this word is possible;
She feels her baby stir.

⁴ Like Mary, we await the day
That says new life has come.
And with these mothers we, too, say,
Behold what God has done.

⁵ One wedding dress long put away
And one still to be worn—
With God this word is possible;
Two babies will be born!

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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. Amen.

Prayers of the Church

Passing of the Peace

Hymn of Thanks & Time of Commitment

686

1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;
2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,
3 The cap - tive to re - lease, to God the lost to bring,
4 And we be - lieve thy word, though dim our faith may be:

all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.
to teach the way of life and peace—it is a Christ - like thing.
what - e'er we do for thine, O Lord, we do it un - to thee.

P: Let us pray.

C: Heavenly Father, send the Spirit upon us now to stir up our faith, that we will have the confidence to embrace the full truth of your goodness and blessing toward us and we will know joy in returning our gratitude and thanks in our commitments of energy, efforts and financial gifts.

We ask this in the name of the one who gave himself for us that we might have life and have it in abundance, Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

Time will now be given for reflection on the blessings we have received and how we may faithfully respond to those blessings by supporting the mission and ministry of Grace with our financial offerings. There has been a long tradition in Lutheran congregations of making an annual commitment or pledge of financial support. Often, these commitments were collected as part of understanding the congregation's anticipated income in the budgeting process for the coming year. However, Grace has put the priority on a commitment to faithful mission and ministry, first, anticipating that our congregation will eagerly, joyfully and generously provide what is needed to accomplish Grace's goals – which is happening! No worries if making a commitment is not your practice or not what you are comfortable with, you are part of the continually growing group of strong supporters of Grace who keep their giving goals "between me and God." Please also use this time to reflect on other ways that you are called to serve and share at Grace and through Grace. Is there something more you could do? Something to challenge yourself within your serving and sharing in the coming year? Like being a reader on Sunday mornings . . . etc.?

Please place your completed commitment card in the Offering Box as you come to the rail for Communion.

Offering

Please make your donation to support Grace's ministry!



Offertory & Offertory Prayer

1. We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and
mountain, following yonder star.

*O, star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.*

5. Glorious now behold him arise;
King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
sounds through the earth and skies.

*O, star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.*

A: Let us pray:

C: In the midst of this season of preparing to give and receive, we humbly offer these gifts to you, Father, in grateful

acknowledgment of the myriad of blessings we have known in our past, know on this day, and are yet to know in the advent of the age to come. We pray that you find our offerings acceptable and pleasing for the sake of your great gift to us, the child in the manger, Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also 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: We give you thanks, Heavenly Father, for the coming of Your Son, the incarnate; born into our humanity to be Emmanuel, God with us, the gift you give for our salvation. Come now, and hear our voices as we join the heavenly chorus in singing his praises:

**Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the new-born King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

P: Holy God, beginning and end, you embrace all time . . .

The 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

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
 2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,

once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
 seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
 ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
 4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new

of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
 plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
 bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
 life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming

trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
 that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
 bright as the sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
 with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look

east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Post Communion Prayer
 Benediction & Recessional

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
 2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
 Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
 Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain

Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Dismissal

A: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!



Sunday, December 8

Advent II

8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship

9:45 a.m. Holiday Worship – cider & donuts sponsored by fellowship cmte

9:45 a.m. Sunday School & Confirmation classes

9:45 a.m. Post-Confirmation Class
12:00 p.m. Special Holiday

fellowship sponsored by GS Troop 1274

Monday, December 9

7:30 p.m. Church Council Meeting

Tuesday, December 10

6:30 a.m. Early Birds Bible Study & Breakfast

11:00 a.m. Bible Study w/ Pastor Chris – hybrid

4:30 p.m. Confirmation Class

7:00 p.m. Bible Study w/ Pastor Chris -online only

Wednesday, December 11

9:00 a.m. Peacemakers quilting group

Thursday, December 12

7:30 p.m. Digital Committee Meeting

Sunday, December 15

Advent III & Pageant Sunday

8:30 Regular worship

10:00 a.m. Worship & Sunday School Christmas Pageant

11:00 a.m. Holiday Worship – bring Christmas cookies to share



Pick up a copy of the Holiday Grace Notes located near the Sunday bulletins to see the upcoming schedule of Advent & Christmas Worship & Events!



A Thrill OF Hope
Invite Someone to Grace This Season!



Holiday Fellowship

Four special opportunities to share your Christmas cheer and gather over a good cup of fresh coffee and lively conversation after each worship service!



Dec 1 - *Thanksgiving Leftovers*

Bring your leftover Pumpkin Pie or other Thanksgiving treat to share.



Dec 8 - *Cider and Donuts*

No need to bring anything but an appetite for donuts and cider courtesy of the Fellowship Committee.



Dec 15 - *Christmas Cookies*

Bring your favorite Christmas Cookies and the recipes to share.



Dec 22 - *Christmas Breakfast*

Bring a traditional dish from your Christmas Breakfast table!

December 15
Worship 8:30 a.m.



Pageant Service
10:00 a.m.



Christmas Eve

3:00 p.m. Casual

7:00 p.m. Traditional

10:00 a.m.

Christmas Day!



Dec. 29th



GRACE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

New Year's Worship

A Biblical look to the Past, Present and Future

Grace Lutheran Church

- Christopher Chantelau, *Pastor* • Becki Advocate, *Dir. of Music*
• Kristen Halderman, *Parish Administrator* • Vinnie Tipa, *Sexton*
• Doug Jenkins, *Digital Ministry* • Rev. Dr. Timothy Kennedy, *Pastor Emeritus*