



Prelude
Confession and Forgiveness

Advent III

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

Once in Royal David's City

269



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,
2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of all,
3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love;
4 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing by,



where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:
and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;
for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;
we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;



Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
with the poor and meek and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.
there his chil - dren gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.



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. Longing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for truth,
2. Longing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for hope,
3. Longing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long-ing for wa - ter,
Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the hearts



we turn to you. Make us your own, your ho - ly peo - ple,
man - y de-spair. Your word a - lone has pow'r to save us.
man - y still thirst. Make us your bread, bro - ken for oth - ers,
yearn-ing to love. Let us be ser-vants to one an-oth - er,



light for the world to see. Christ be our
Make us your liv - ing voice.
shared un - til all are fed.
signs of your king - dom come.



light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the dark - ness.



Christ, be our light! Shine in your churchgath-ered to - day.

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you. C: And also with you

P: Let us pray:

C: Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Often Your ways are not our ways and being faithful does not always mean doing what is socially approved, but socially marginal. Fill us with the Spirit so that we will have the same courage and confidence that Joseph had in responding to Your Word, that we will not count the cost of faithfulness, but gladly hear,

know, and obey. For you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Lesson

Isaiah 7:10-16

Again, the Lord spoke to King Ahaz, saying, "Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven."

But King Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test."

Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Emmanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

Reader: The Word of the Lord! **C: Thanks be to God!**

Psalm

The Great "O Antiphons" of the Advent Season

These Antiphons are an Advent tradition throughout the Church. Each one begins with a name for Christ and reflects one of his attributes in scripture.

P: O Rex Gentium:

**C: O King of the nations, and their desire,
the cornerstone making both one:
Come and save the human race,
which you fashioned from clay.**

Antiphon Hymn

257

O come, O come, Immanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O King of Nations, come,
O Cornerstone that binds in one;
refresh the hearts that long for you;
restore the broken, make us new.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

Second Lesson

Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a slave of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which God promised beforehand through the prophets in the holy scriptures, about the son who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be "Son of God" with power according to the spirit of holiness, by resurrection from the dead, Jesus

Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ. To all God's beloved . . . who are called to be holy: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Reader: The Word of the Lord! **C: Thanks be to God**



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,

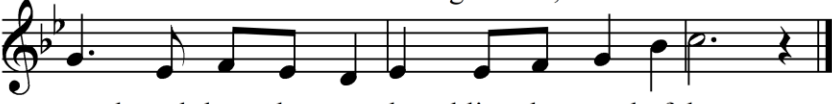
2. All Your bless - ings de - clared through - out the land,



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 Matthew the 1st chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

Gospel

Matthew 1:18-25

The genesis of Jesus Christ:

After his mother Mary had become engaged to Joseph, but before they "came together," she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. But Joseph, her husband, being righteous and not willing to make a show, desired to release her secretly.

But as he was considering doing this, behold, an angel of the Lord was fluoresced to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid. Take Mary as your wife, for the one conceived in her from the Spirit is holy. She will give birth to a son, and you are to call his name, 'Jesus,' for he will save his people from their sins."

But this all happened in order that what the Lord said speaking through the prophets may be fulfilled:

Behold! the virgin will have in the womb and will birth a son, and they will call his name Emmanuel, [which being translated means, "The God with us."]

And Joseph, having been awakened from the sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife and had no marital relations with her until she had birthed a son, and he called his name "Jesus."

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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* **282**

1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,
3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,

from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
 and still their heav'n-ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.
 who toil a - long the climb-ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:
 when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,

“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king.”
 A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,
 look now, for glad and gold-en hours come swift - ly on the wing;
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen-dors fling,

The world in sol - emn still-ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
 and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
 oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!
 and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the

dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the Church and Passing of the Peace

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 . . . 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.

Communion Hymns

277, 279



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord
2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -



Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked
Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look
ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is night.
your ten - der care and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
 4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Post Communion Prayer

Benediction

Recessional

Prepare the Royal Highway

1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.

Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
 His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.

Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
 All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
 So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain

Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Dismissal *A: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!*
C: Thanks be to God!

Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God in loving memory of
Lauren Carney by Lynne & Jim Carney



Sunday, December 15

Advent III

Pageant Sunday

Deadline to drop off Angel Tree Gifts

8:30 a.m. Regular Worship

9:45 a.m. No Confirmation

10:00 a.m. Worship & Sunday School

Pageant followed by Holiday

Fellowship in the hall – bring a Christmas breakfast dish to share!

Monday, December 16

9:30 a.m. Widowed Support Group Christmas Party

Tuesday, December 17

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

7:30 a.m. Finance Committee Meeting

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

4:30 p.m. NO Confirmation Class

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

Wednesday, December 18

9:00 a.m. Peacemakers quilting group

Thursday, December 19

Deadline to drop off donations for Christmas Food Drive

Saturday, December 21

3:00 p.m. Grace Youth Christmas Caroling & Party

Sunday, December 22

Advent IV

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

9:45 a.m. NO Sunday School or Confirmation Classes

Holiday fellowship after each service – bring your favorite Christmas
Cookies to share!

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