



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.



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.

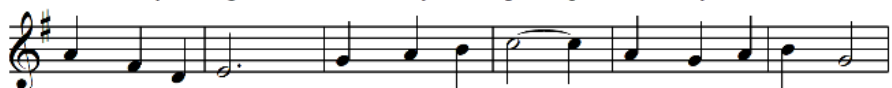
P: God's Son breaks into our lives;

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 church-gath-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.

Christmas Pageant

O Come All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem:
Come and behold him, born the king of angels:
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

The Angel Gabriel

1. The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
"All hail," said he to meek and lowly Mary,
"most highly favored maiden." Gloria!
2. "I come from heav'n to tell the Lord's decree:
a blessed virgin mother you shall be.
Your Son shall be Immanuel, by seers foretold,
most highly favored maiden." Gloria!
3. Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;
"To me be as it pleases God," she said.
"My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name."
Most highly favored maiden, Gloria!

Once in Royal David's City

1. Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little Child.

2. He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and His shelter was a stable,

and His cradle was a stall:
with the poor, and meek, and lowly,
lived on earth our Savior holy.

3. And our eyes at last shall see Him,
through His own redeeming love;
for that Child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heav'n above,
and He leads His children onto the
place where He is gone.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

1. O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

2. For Christ is born of Mary,
and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king,
and peace to all on earth!

3. How silently, how silently
the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming;
but, in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.

4. O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel!

Angels We Have Heard on High

1. Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains
Gloria, in excelsis Deo,
Gloria, in excelsis Deo

2. Shepherds why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be?

Which inspire your heavenly song.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo,
Gloria, in excelsis Deo

3. Come to Bethlehem and see,
Him whose birth the angels sing,
Come, adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo,
Gloria, in excelsis Deo

The First Noel

The First Noel, the Angels did say,
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel!

We Three Kings Of Orient Are

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.*

2. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign.

3. Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, voices raising,
worshiping God on high.

4. Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

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

Silent Night

Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace.
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, Holy night!
Shepherd's quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heav'n afar,

Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior is born!
Christ, the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Away In A Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for His bed
The little Lord Jesus, lay down His sweet head
The stars in the sky, look down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay

The cattle are lowing, the poor Baby wakes
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, nook down from the sky
And stay by my side, 'til morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray
Bless all the dear children, in Thy tender care
And take us to Heaven, to live with Thee there.

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. What Child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?

*This, this is Christ, the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!*

3. So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come, peasant, king to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him

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

Communion Hymns

272, 278, 282

1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath
2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in
3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet - ness fills the
4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man

sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as
mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the
air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the
woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who

seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -
 vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she
 dark-ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from
 dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to

mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
 bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.
 sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.
 the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

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

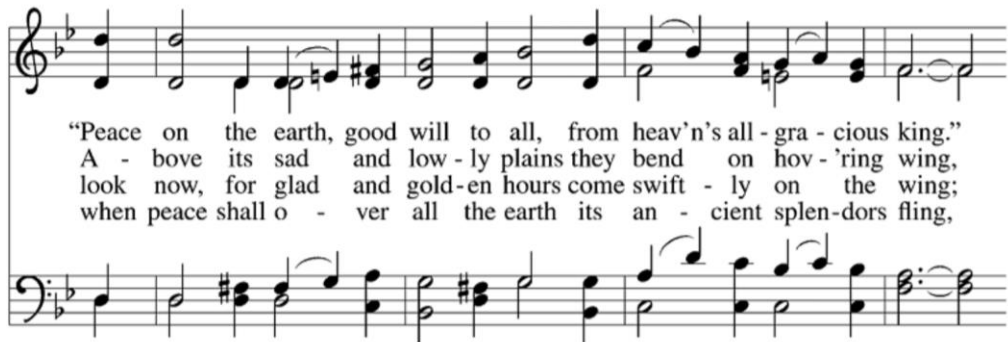
the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head;
 but lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes.
 close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.

the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
 I love you, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky
 Bless all the dear chil - dren in your ten - der care

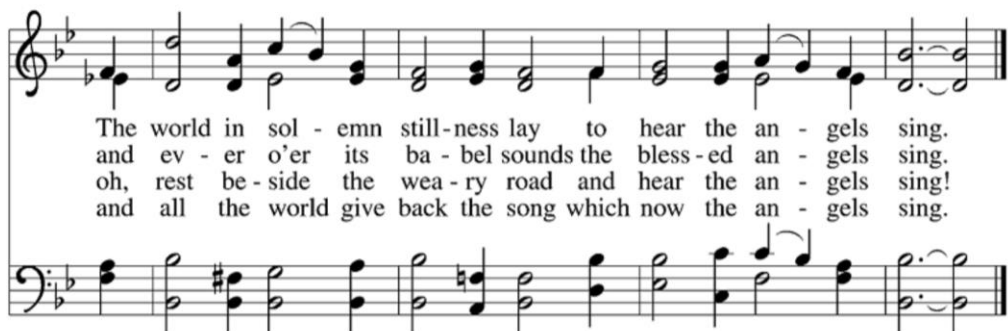
the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
 and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is night.
 and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

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.

Post Communion Prayer

Benediction

Recessional

Prepare the Royal Highway

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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 Regular worship
 9:45 a.m. No Confirmation
 10:00 a.m. Worship & Sunday
 School Christmas Pageant,
 followed by Holiday
 fellowship – bring Christmas

breakfast dishes 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 donate to St. Mary's Christmas Food Drive

Saturday, December 21

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

Sunday, December 22

Advent IV

8:30 Worship

No Sunday School or Confirmation Classes

11:00 a.m. Worship

Special Holiday Fellowship after each service – bring your favorite 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!


December 15
Worship 8:30 a.m.



Come
&
Know



Pageant Service
10:00 a.m.



Christmas Eve

3:00 p.m. Casual
7:00 p.m. Traditional

10:00 a.m.

Christmas Day!



2025

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 Media* • Rev. Dr. Timothy Kennedy, *Pastor Emeritus*

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