



Prelude

Advent IV

Confession and Forgiveness

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 *Rejoice, Rejoice Believers*

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1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ring bore,
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
 go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
 shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
 a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
 A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.
 in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!



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.

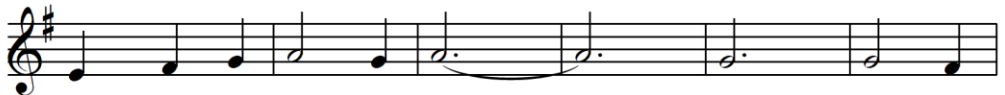
Lighting of the Advent Wreath



1. Longing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Longing for truth,
2. Longing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Longing for hope,
3. Longing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Longing for wa - ter,
4. Longing for shel - man - y are home - less Longing for warmth
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,
man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing shel - ter - ing 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.
walls made of liv - ing stone.
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: God of Grace and Love, in this season where you have sent the joy and peace of Jesus, stir up your Spirit within us, that as we now light the fourth and final candle of the Advent wreath, we will come and celebrate your great gift, and wait with patient expectation for the fulfilling of His promise to return in glory for a celebration that will have no end. In His name we pray. Amen.

First Lesson

Genesis 17:15-22

God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name "Sarai," for "Sarah / Princess" is her name. I will bless her, and I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, so she becomes nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

But Abraham fell on his face and laughed.

He said in his heart, "Can a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Can Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?"

And Abraham said to God, "If only my son by Sarai's servant Hagar, Ishmael, might live in your sight!"

God said, "Your wife Sarah will indeed bear you a son, and you will name him Isaac. He laughs. I will establish my covenant with *him* as an everlasting covenant for *his* seed after him. As for Ishmael, I have heard you; Here, I will make him blessed, I will make him bear fruit, I will make him many, many descendants; he will be the father of twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation. But my covenant I will establish with *Isaac*, whom Sarah will bear to you at this season next year."

When God had finished talking with Abraham, God went up, from beside Abraham.

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 Radix Jesse

C: O Root of Jesse, standing as a sign among the peoples;

**before you kings will shut their mouths,
to you the nations will make their prayer:
Come and deliver us, and delay no longer.**

Antiphon Hymn

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 Branch of Jesse, free,
Your own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell your people save,
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave.

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

Second Lesson

Revelation 12:1-12

And a great sign was seen in heaven: a woman enwrapped with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. And she is pregnant, and she cries out, laboring, and struggling mightily to deliver.

And another sign was seen in heaven: behold, a great dragon, red-hot, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads, seven diadems. And his tail drags a third of the stars of heaven and throws them into the earth. And the dragon stood right in front of the woman verging on delivery, so that whenever she might birth her baby, he might gobble it up.

And she birthed a male son, who is about to shepherd all the ethnicities with an iron rod that cannot be broken. But her child was snatched away and taken to God and to God's throne and the woman fled into the wilderness where she has a place prepared for her from God, so that there the angels may nourish her for one thousand two hundred and sixty days.

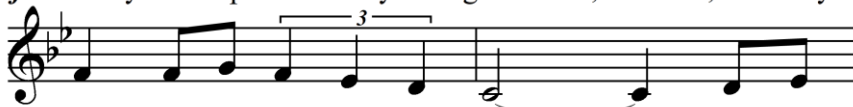
And a war began in heaven; Michael and his angels fought with the dragon. The dragon and his angels fought, they were not strengthened, and there was no place for them in heaven. And the great dragon, the ancient serpent, the one being called "Devil" and "The Satan," who is leading astray the whole inhabited world was thrown. He was thrown into the earth, and his angels were thrown with him.

Then I heard a great voice in the heaven speaking, "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of God's Messiah, because thrown into the earth is the accuser of our comrades, the one accusing them before our God day and night. And they have conquered him on account of the blood of the Lamb and on account of the word of their witnessing - they did not love their lives over death. By this, rejoice then, you heavens and those dwelling in them! Alas, the earth and the sea, for the devil has come down to you with great wrath, because he knows that his critical time is short!"

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



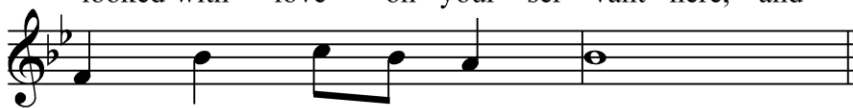
Refrain: My soul pro-claims your great-ness, O God, and my



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



looked with love on your ser - vant here, and



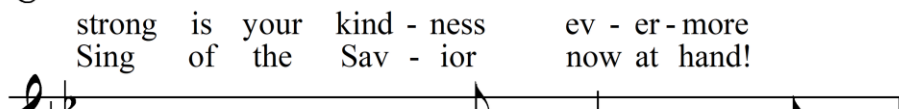
blessed me all my life through.



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.

Word, so meek and mild, He is the Ho - ly Child! *Refrain*

Gospel Acclamation

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

And when Elizabeth's due date arrived she gave birth to a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had declared his great mercy with her, and they joined her in rejoicing. In obedience to God's Law, on the eighth day, they brought the child to be circumcised. The people gathered there were calling the child "Zechariah" after the name of his father, Zechariah.

But his mother said, "No! He is to be called 'John.'"

They said to her, "But, none of your relatives has this name."

Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him.

Zechariah asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is 'John'."

And all of them were amazed. Immediately, his mouth was opened, and his tongue was freed and he began to speak, praising God. And it came about that fear overcame all their neighbors, and throughout the entire hill country of Judea everyone was talking about these words.

They took all that they were hearing to heart, wondering, "What, then, will this child become?" For indeed, the mighty hand of the Lord was with the child.

Then the child's father, Zechariah, was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy: "Speak well of the Lord God of Israel, for the Lord has looked favorably on the Lord's people and redeemed them and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of the Lord's child, David, as the Lord spoke through the mouth of the Lord's holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. The Lord has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has been caused to remember the holy covenant, the oath that was sworn to our ancestor, Abraham, to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might worship the Lord without fear, in holiness and righteousness before the Lord all our days. And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High. For you will go before the Lord to prepare The Way - to give knowledge of salvation to the Lord's people by liberation from their sins. By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us to give light to those sitting in darkness and in the shadow of death - to guide our feet into the way of peace."

The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he was manifested to Israel.

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

Sermon

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.

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; 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

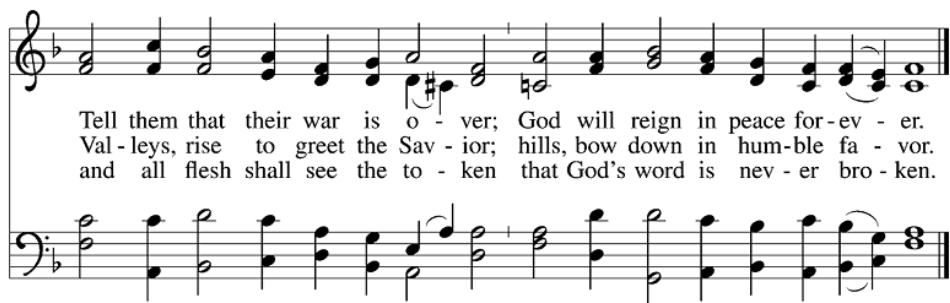
256, 250, 249

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 reign of God is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God's ho - ly reign.



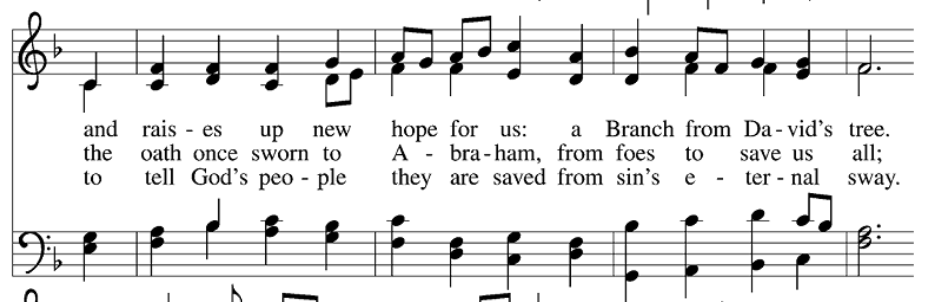
To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!
 Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
 For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



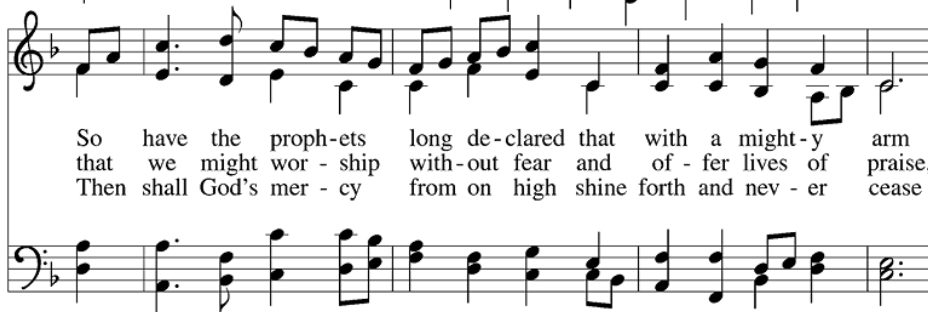
Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for - ev - er.
 Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum - ble fa - vor.
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.



1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free
 2 With prom - ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,
 3 My child, as proph - et of the Lord you will pre - pare the way,



and rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da - vid's tree.
 the oath once sworn to A - bra - ham, from foes to save us all;
 to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.



So have the proph - ets long de - clared that with a might - y arm
 that we might wor - ship with - out fear and of - fer lives of praise,
 Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease

God would turn back our en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.
 in ho - li - ness and righ - teous-ness to serve God all our days.
 to drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent

that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
 way for God with - in, and let us all our
 and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
 rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
 has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther

for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
 we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Post Communion Prayer

Benediction

Recessional

People Look East

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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 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.

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



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!

Tuesday, December 24

Christmas Eve

3:00 p.m. Casual Family Service

7:00 p.m. Traditional Christmas Eve Service

Wednesday, December 25

Christmas Day

10:00 a.m. Christmas Day Service

Sunday, December 29

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

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



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