



"And now, O Lord, what do I wait for?
My hope is in you. Psalm 39:7

The First Sunday in Advent
December 3, 2023

PRESERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Quiet to Prepare for Worship – Ringing of our Bell

CALL TO WORSHIP AND WREATH LITANY

P: There is an ember of hope -

C: The banked fire of creation -

P: The promise of God

C: To Adam

P: To Eve

C: To us.

P: It glows in every heart;

C: In every soul it seeks to burst into flame.

CANDLE LIGHTING HYMN: #244 Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers, Verse 1

The Advent Wreath is lit during the song.

P: Here is the ember of hope: In a story passed on through the ages,

C: In a love surpassing all loves,

P: In a God who sacrifices self, in the birth of a child

C: Who is God,

P: Jesus of Nazareth, Emmanuel, God with us?

C: An ember whose flame will kindle the world.

GATHERING HYMN: #242 Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY (Read in unison)

C: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live

and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

READINGS

Isaiah 64:1-9

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
²as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
⁴From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
⁵You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
⁶We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
⁷There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

**²In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.**

³Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

**⁴O LORD God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

**⁶You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

**¹⁷Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one you have made so strong for yourself.**

¹⁸And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name.

**¹⁹Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

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 has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Mark 13:24-37

P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ²⁴“In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power

and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

MONOLOGUE: Elizabeth, wife of Zechariah and cousin of Mary

HYMN OF THE DAY: #265 The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

PEACE

Please share a sign of peace with those nearby in whatever way you are most comfortable.

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OFFERING

If you have brought your offering with you today, please place it in the basket in the back as you leave. You may send your giving to the church

office or give through the link on our website.

P: Let us pray.

God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

Communion at Grace Lutheran is open to all who believe in Jesus our Lord.

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 our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn by speaking:

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION (*In the night in which he was betrayed . . .*)

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together. Come, take your place at the table.

SHARING THE MEAL

COMMUNION HYMNS: #251 My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

P: The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit ✠ remain upon you now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN: #249 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

Quiet pause for the ringing of our bell

BENEDICTION

P: Go in peace. Keep awake.

C: Thanks be to God.

Wreath Litany written by Lisa Frenz in **Word of God Come Be With Us: An Advent Order for Holy Communion**, Copyright Lisa Frenz. All Rights Reserved. Used with permission.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The flowers are given in memory of Frieda Dallmann from Tom Dallmann

The sign-up chart to **sponsor flowers for worship** for 2024 is now hanging in the hallway. The cost to sponsor the flowers is \$30 and you may take the flowers home after the service.

The **poinsettia order forms** are on the table at the back of the church. If you would like to order a poinsettia in honor or in memory of someone this is your opportunity. You may take the poinsettia home after Christmas worship. Deadline to place orders is TODAY.

Parents' Night Out! Fundraiser for the Grace Luther League.
Saturday, December 16th, 5:00-9:30 pm at Grace. Children ages 2-12 welcome. \$10 for initial child, \$5 for each additional sibling. To reserve

WE PRAY FOR: Holly Hinzpeter, Kandy Hagen, Suzanne Soltvedt, John Thompson, Dawn Ertel, Dorothy Klipstein, Ethel Mae Baldwin, John Miller, Hunter Clark, Hank Benthauser, Dean Burmaster, Bob Brod, David Denter, Ed Miller, Adda DeMarco, and Megan Braund



Come Grow
in Grace

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Synod Authorized Minister: Kris Stauffacher

Custodian: Dave Clark and crew