

Grace Lutheran Church
1300 Kishwaukee Valley Road
Woodstock, IL 60098
www.gracewoodstock.org

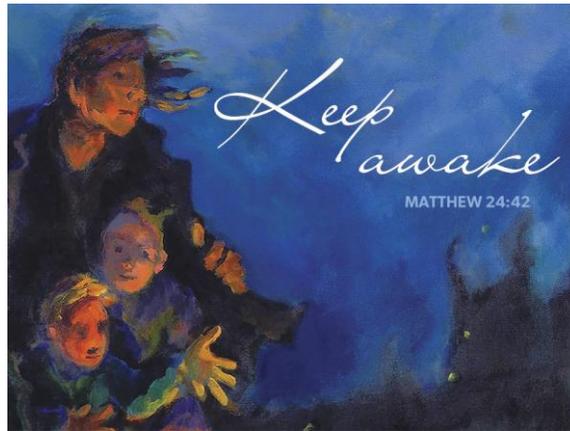


November 27, 2022; 9:00 A.M.
First Sunday of Advent

Thank you for extending care and respect for one another. Grace is following CDC recommendations for universal indoor masking.

In preparation for worship at home, you may wish to light a candle. It can be a symbol of the presence of Christ, the light of the world. If you wish to commune, please prepare wine (or grape juice) and bread to be at hand when that part of the service arrives.

God of grace, you have given us minds to know you, hearts to love you, and voices to sing your praise. Fill us with your Spirit, that we may celebrate your glory and worship you in spirit and truth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen (ELW pg. 72)



GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

OPENING MUSIC

"Each Winter As the Year Grows Older"

setting, David Lasky (Augsburg Fortress)

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.

Blessed be God's name forever.

Amen.

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep.
Let us confront our sins,
and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of new beginnings,

we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign.

We have strayed from your paths.

We prepare for war instead of peace.

We dishonor one another and your creation.

Purify us with your refining fire

and set us again on your way of love,

that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance,

and welcome your coming among us. Amen.

People of God,

a new thing is growing in our midst,

a tender branch,

a living sign.

By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder.

You have put on † Christ,

and your sins have been washed away.

Rejoice in the way of the Lord. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN

"Fling Wide the Door"

ELW 259 (One License)

Please be seated.

WELCOME

Please stand as you are able.

ADVENT WREATH CANDLE LIGHTING

The congregation will sing a portion of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" before the lighting of the Advent candle.

♪ **O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near.

You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world.

You show up in our lives at unexpected times.

Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival.

We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour,

you hurry to gather all people to your peace. **Amen.**

GREETING

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

PRAYER

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

Please be seated.

FIRST READING:

Isaiah 2:1-5

A reading from Isaiah.

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM:

Psalm 122

I was glad when they said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the LORD."

**Now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

Jerusalem is built as a city
that is at unity with itself;

**to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD,
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD.**

For there are the thrones of judgment,
the thrones of the house of David.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:

"May they prosper who love you.

Peace be within your walls
and quietness within your towers.

**For the sake of my kindred and companions,
I pray for your prosperity.**

Because of the house of the LORD our God,
I will seek to do you good."

SECOND READING:

Romans 13:11-14

A reading from Romans.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

Matthew 24:36-44

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples,] "About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Each Winter As the Year Grows Colder"

ELW 252 (One License)

CREED

Let us confess our faith with the words of the 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 INTERCESSION

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope. *A brief silence.*

God of all, your children everywhere cry out for mercy. Awaken the global church to the urgent needs of our time. Break down barriers of culture and custom and unite people of all faiths in your redemptive and healing work. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of wonder, the earth's beauty and abundance is your gift. Teach us your ways of sharing resources and caring for life. Guard fragile habitats, preserve the wild places, and protect endangered plants and animals. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of peace, you judge the nations. Beat our weapons into tools for serving the neighbor. Strengthen the resolve of all who work for an end to war. We pray for lasting peace in the land of Jesus' birth. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of lovingkindness, you desire fullness of life for everyone. Fill those who hunger. Comfort the grieving and attend to those near death. Bring help and hope to any who are sick or needing your care, especially those we now name aloud or in the silence of our hearts _____. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of community, you are present when we gather in your name. Guide congregations in transition or conflict. Give wisdom to congregational councils, call committees, and ministry leaders. Keep us alert to unexpected opportunities for mission. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of promise, your goodness is everlasting. We give thanks for the lives of the faithful who now rest in you. We trust that you will bring us into the company of all the saints with rejoicing. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

PEACE

After praying for the whole world, we receive and extend to one another the gift of Christ's peace. We invite you to share a physically distant sign of God's peace with one another—wave a greeting of peace to people around you, and/or text a greeting of peace to someone.

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Please be seated.

OFFERING

Thank you for your generous offerings and commitment to Grace's mission and ministry. You are invited to place your financial offerings in the offering plate as you leave today. Additional ways to give include mailing your offering to the church office, or by giving online: by texting the amount you would like to give to 877-698-3604, through the Vanco Mobile App, or online at Grace's website (Use the QR code provided). You are also invited to call the church office to learn more about the automatic withdrawal Electronic Giving Program.



OFFERING ANTHEM

"Come, Lord Jesus"

Michael Bedford (One License)

Let us pray. Eternal God,
 you make the desert bloom
 and send springs of water to thirsty ground.
 Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money,
 and make us messengers of your mercy and love
 for all in need of your healing and justice.
 We ask this through Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Please stand as you are able.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And also with you.
 Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
 It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, . . . and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 Ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All are welcome at the Lord's table.

Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God, who has come to save you.

Please be seated. Beginning with the front pews, you are invited to come forward, extend your hands to receive the bread and grape juice from the pastor or communion assistant, and return to your seat to commune. Gluten free elements are available upon request. If you would like the communion elements to be brought to you, please notify an usher.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

"Come Now, O Prince of Peace"

ELW 247 (One License)

Please stand as you are able.

COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

God the eternal Word,
who dwells with us in Jesus,
and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit,
✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

"Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!"

ELW 246 (Public Domain)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.
Thanks be to God.

CLOSING MUSIC

"Fling Wide the Door"

setting, David Lasky (Augsburg Fortress)



Worship Team

A/V Team: Bill Nattress, Andy Bellavia, Mark Miller

Communion Assistants: Michelle Anderson, Robin Gibbs

Acolyte: Teagan Jones

Greeters: Donna Freeman, Robin Gibbs

Reader: Maren Filetti

Ushers: John Widmayer, Wes Krueger

Children's Sermon: Kim Ethridge

Advent Wreath Candle Lighting: Nellessen Family

Altar Guild: Carole Gerloff, Beth Miller

Musicians: Jan Burns, Tammy Baier, Joyful Messengers, Grace & Tim Nellessen

Lead Pastor: Pastor Amanda Bergstrom

Presence Light Sponsors:

In memory of Dorothy Bartram, given by Her family.

Bulletin Sponsors:

In honor of family, given by Diane Schulz.

Worship Videos Online. A video recording of worship will be posted to Grace’s website later in the day.

Thank you for sharing time to hear God’s word and pray together. Peace be with you as you go forth to share God’s grace.



You are welcome to join Grace Lutheran Church’s Facebook group for news & ministry opportunities.

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CHRISTMAS FLOWERS AT GRACE

Help provide decorations for our sanctuary this Christmas. Give a gift in “honor of someone” or “in memory of a loved one” or “to the glory of God.” Mail in or drop off your coupon below, along with your \$15.00 gift to Grace Lutheran Church, 1300 Kishwaukee Valley Rd., Woodstock, IL 60098. Please **print clearly**, as you want it to appear. Payments due in the office by **December 12, 2022.**

Poinsettias available for pickup after our service on December 25.

Amount: _____

CHOOSE ONE PER COUPON: (Please print)

In Memory Of: _____

In Honor Of: _____

To the Glory of God: _____

GIVEN BY : _____

