

# SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT



*December 4, 2022*

*10:00am*

# GATHERING

## Prelude

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying  
Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

J. S. Bach  
Hans-André Stamm

## Welcome

## Hymn

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

#249

## Opening Litany

At every beginning there is a yearning.

**O Emmanuel, prepare us for your coming.**

Transform our hearts and comfort us with your peace,

**O Emmanuel, prepare us for your coming**

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.**

## Kyrie

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

## Prayer of the Day

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Children's Time / Lighting of the Advent Candles

# Christ the Lord Is Coming



**Advent 1:** Christ the Lord is com - ing, bring - ing hope and light,

**Advent 2:** Christ the Lord is com - ing to this wea - ry land!

**Advent 3:** Christ the Lord is com - ing, sent from God a - bove

**Advent 4:** Christ the Lord is com - ing! Sing this hap - py morn



Re - a - wake - ning hearts now bur - dened by the night.  
Rise, re - pent, pro - claim the King - dom is at hand!  
to re - veal God's mer - cy, jus - tice, truth, and love.  
of the Word In - car - nate in whom we are re - born!



“No - ël” sing with glad - ness, “No - ël” sing with cheer, put a -



way all fear and sad - ness, Christ the Son of God is near!



“No - ël” sing with glad - ness, “No - ël” sing with cheer, put a -



way all fear and sad - ness, Christ the Son of God is near!

# WORD

## First Reading: Isaiah 11:1–10

- <sup>1</sup>A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
- <sup>2</sup>The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
- <sup>3</sup>His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.  
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;
- <sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
- <sup>5</sup>Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
- <sup>6</sup>The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.
- <sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
- <sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
- <sup>9</sup>They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain;  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord  
as the waters cover the sea.
- <sup>10</sup>On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him,  
and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God!**

## Second Reading: Romans 15:4–13

- <sup>4</sup>Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup>May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- <sup>7</sup>Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. <sup>8</sup>For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, <sup>9</sup>and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,
- “Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,  
and sing praises to your name”;
- <sup>10</sup>and again he says,

“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people”;

<sup>11</sup>and again,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,  
and let all the peoples praise him”;

<sup>12</sup>and again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse shall come,  
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;  
in him the Gentiles shall hope.”

<sup>13</sup>May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God!**

### Anthem

*Come My Way, My Truth, My Life*

arr. Tony Alonso

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:

Such a way as gives us breath;

Such a truth as ends all strife;

Such a life as killeth death.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:

such a joy as none can move:

such a love as none can part;

such a heart as joys in love.

Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:

such a light as shows a feast;

such a feast as mends in length;

such a strength as makes a guest.

### 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.

**The Gospel for today is from Matthew the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.**

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup>“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” <sup>3</sup>This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.’”

<sup>4</sup>Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, <sup>6</sup>and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup>But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruit worthy of repentance. <sup>9</sup>Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>10</sup>Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup>"I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

Pastor Phil Ruge-Jones

**Hymn**

Prepare the Royal Highway

#264

**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

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, 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.**

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## MEAL

### Offering

Lo, How A Rose Is Blooming

Johannes Brahms

### Offering Prayer

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.**

### Great Thanksgiving

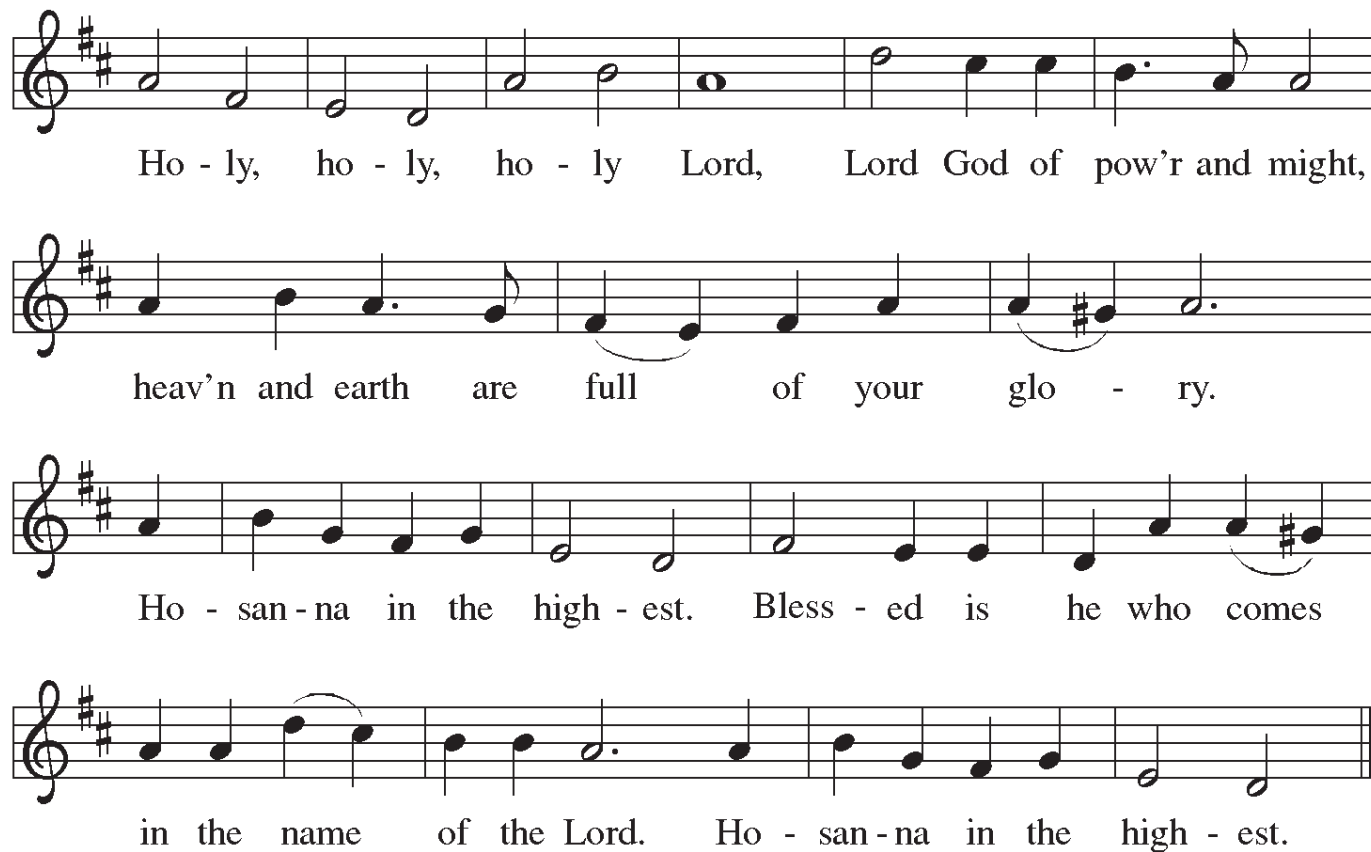
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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, ... we praise your name 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.

## Eucharistic Prayer

### 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



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## Prayer after Communion

Faithful God,

in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

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## SENDING

## 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.**

# Tidings of Comfort and Joy

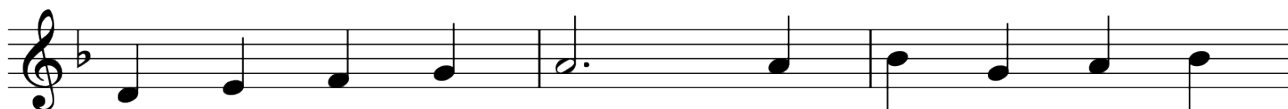
*Unison:*



1. I - sai - ah, proph - et, seer of old, re - spond-ing to God's  
2. Pre - pare your heart, lift up your voice, join in this Ad - vent



call, pro - claimed the com - ing of the Lord to  
song; walk in the light of God's own Son to



peo - ple, great and small. Now on this day we  
whom we all be - long. A lit - tle child shall



hear God's word: de - clare good news to all! O  
lead us all, his love will make us strong!

*SATB (opt.):*



tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com-fort and



joy, O tid - ings of com - fort and joy!



Verses: Michael Burkhardt, and copyright © 2020 Birnamwood.

Refrain: Traditional English carol (PD).

Tune: *GOD REST YE*, Traditional English carol (PD).

## **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Christ is near.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Postlude**

Fling Wide the Door

Hans-André Stamm

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**Minister:** Rev. Phil Ruge-Jones

**Assisting Minister:** Molly Wilson

**Reader:** Roger Pomplun

**Organist:** Elaine Mann

**Choir Director:** Diana Cataldi



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## After Worship Conversation to Come

Our congregation is at a point where it is very important to be clear about what our primary vision is for ministry and mission. We long to not only survive, but also thrive in our faithfulness for years to come. Part of what that means is imagining what role key parts of our building will play in making our vision sustainable (for example, the aging education building, what should be its purpose? At the moment it is both an asset and also a liability). We invite you to begin to gather your hopes and dreams for Grace so that we can start formulating this together. On Sunday, January 8th, immediately after a shortened service, we hope you will share your thoughts with us all.

## Joys of Christmas

Grace Lutheran Communities is happy to provide employees of our owned and managed programs the opportunity to participate in our Joys of Christmas program. The goal of the project is to help Foundation employees who need extra financial support during the holidays by providing Christmas gifts for their children ages 0-18 years old.

Last year, a total of 78 children were sponsored and provided with gifts through the Grace Lutheran Foundation, Joys of Christmas program. Our congregation donated \$1,030.00 to the cause and several shoppers participated.

You have 2 ways to support a family:

1. Support the program financially by placing a check made out to Grace Lutheran Foundation in the offering plate or send your donation to the Corporate Office by Wednesday, December 15.

2. Shop for a child and drop off the gift (@\$50) at the corporate office by Friday December 16th to allow for time for gift distribution. To start the process enter the following link to go to the electronic survey that will ask you to complete donor information: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XYZTV77>

Address:

Grace Lutheran Foundation Corporate Office  
3410 Sky Park Blvd  
Eau Claire, WI 54702

For more information contact:

Jamie Larson, [jl Larson@graceluthfound.com](mailto:jl Larson@graceluthfound.com)

## Sunday School

Sunday school will be held on the first and third Sunday of the month through the end of the year. That will be:

- December 4
- December 18

Sunday school will take place during the service right after the Children's Sermon.

## Audio Repairs

The transmitter for the church's hearing impaired devices is currently broken and the repair company was not able to fit the church into their schedule this week. We apologize to everyone who uses these devices and want you to know we are working to fix the problem as soon as possible.

## Blessing Box

Please help us replenish our Blessing Box

Our Blessing Box, located at the front entrance of Grace Church, provides non perishable food as well as hygiene items to our neighbors in need. Our Blessing Box is getting low! Since this is an ongoing need, the Mission Outreach Ministry will keep a basket for nonperishable and personal hygiene items in the Narthex for collection. We will not be collecting canned goods or liquid items during the winter since they may freeze and explode.

Suggested items:

- Cereal
- Packaged Soup
- Tuna Pouches
- Granola Bars
- Crackers
- Packaged Noodles
- Packaged Potatoes
- Peanut Butter
- Soap
- Toothpaste
- Scarves
- Gloves
- Hats
- Hand Warmers
- Socks

You are always welcome to put your items directly in the Blessing Box at any time. Thank you!

## Christ in Our Home

January, February, March  
2023



## Christ in Our Home

The latest Christ in Our Home for the first quarter of 2023 have arrived. There are standard and large print copies located in the magazine rack by the Friendship Door and the rack outside the office. Feel free to pick one up at your convenience.

## Christmas Decorations

Visual Ministry will be decorating the Sanctuary for Christmas on December 10 starting at 9:30am. Everyone is welcome to attend and help decorate for the holiday season.

## Carols & Barrels

Some of you may remember singing Christmas carols at the Lazy Monk pre-pandemic. Trinity Lutheran has invited us to join them for their "Carols & Barrels" event, Thursday, December 8 at 6pm in the Brewing Projekt. All ages are welcome.

## Church Office Hours

Monday — Thursday : 10AM — 2PM

Phone: 715-832-9713

Email: [info@grace-church.org](mailto:info@grace-church.org)

Rev. Dr. Phil Ruge-Jones: [pastorphil@grace-church.org](mailto:pastorphil@grace-church.org)

If you missed one of our services, you can find them on the “Grace Lutheran Church ELCA Eau Claire Wisconsin” YouTube page. If you would like to follow along with a bulletin they can be found on our website (<https://grace-church.org/>) under the “Our Ministry” section.

Services are also broadcast on the following platforms:

### Televised Service

Sunday 10:30am WQOW Channel 18, Cable 9, 618HD (every other week)

Thursday 1:30pm Cable Channel 993 (ChipVal CTV Pub Ed)

### Radio Service

Sunday 8:30am WAYY 790 AM

Do you have information for the bulletin and Grace at a Glance? Deadline is Thursday by 12:00 p.m. by emailing Andrew at [info@grace-church.org](mailto:info@grace-church.org) or by calling the office at 715-832-9713