

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

*Blessed
is she who
believed*

*that there
would be a
fulfillment of
what was spoken
to her by the Lord!*

Luke 1:45

*December 15, 2024,
10:00am*

Land Acknowledgment

We recognize that we gather on the ancestral lands of the Ojibwe, Ho Chunk, and Dakota. We acknowledge their leaders, past, present, and emerging.

GATHERING

Prelude

Savior of the Nations, Come, BWV 659
Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

J. S. Bach
Michael Burkhardt

Welcome

Opening Hymn Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

#254

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Blessed are you, God of hosts, for you promised to send a son, Emmanuel, who brought your presence among us; and you promise through your Son Jesus to save us from our sin.

As we light these candles, turn again to us in mercy; strengthen our faith in the word spoken by your prophets; restore us and give us life that we may be saved.

O house of David, come,

let us rejoice, for the Son of God, Emmanuel, comes to be with us. Amen.

Hymn

We Are Waiting for Jesus



1 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
2 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise.
Lov - ing Shep - herd, walk be - side us; stir our hearts, and gent - ly guide us.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

Prayer of the Day

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

WORD

Children's Message

The First Reading is from Micah, chapter 5

²But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

³Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;

^{5a}and he shall be the one of peace.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

The Second Reading is from Hebrews, chapter 10

⁵Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,
“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;

⁶in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

⁷Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”

⁸When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law),
⁹then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

Anthem Is Your Heart Prepared for a King?

R. Lau

In the quiet of the night,
Or in morning's early light,
Is your heart prepared for a King?

Will you hear an angel sing?
Will your own hosannas ring?
Is your heart prepared for a King?

Wait! Watch! Pray for the One
Who brings hope to a wearied earth.

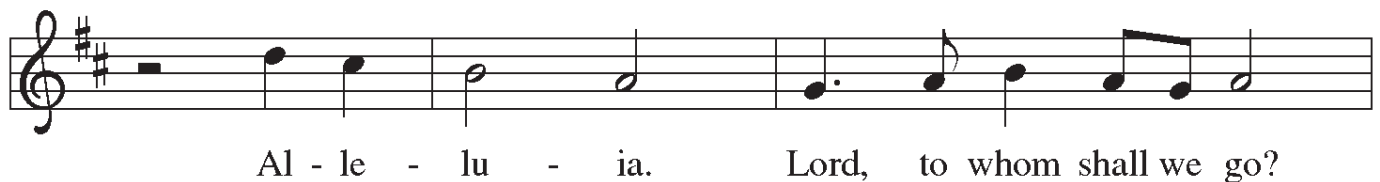
Wait! Watch! Pray for the One
Who brings peace by His birth.

Can you see the shining star?
Does it call you from afar?
Is your heart prepared for a King?

Will you watch? Will you pray?
Is the babe of whom we sing
Born to be our God and King?

Is your heart prepared for a King?

Gospel Acclamation



The Gospel for today comes from Luke, chapter 1 Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country,
⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth
heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy
Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the
fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes
to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped
for joy.

⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken
to her by the Lord."

⁴⁶And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
 and holy is his name.
⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him
 from generation to generation.
⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm;
 he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
 and lifted up the lowly;
⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things,
 and sent the rich away empty.
⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel,
 in remembrance of his mercy,
⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
 to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

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

Sermon Pastor Phil Ruge-Jones

Hymn of the Day *Unexpected and Mysterious*



1. Un - ex - pect - ed and mys - te - rious is the gen - tle word of
 2. In a mo - men - tar - y meet - ing of e - ter - ni - ty and
 3. We are called to pon - der mys - t'ry and a - wait the com - ing



grace. Ev - er - lov - ing and sus - tain - ing is the peace of God's em -
 time, Mar - y learned that she would car - ry both the mor - tal and di -
 Christ, to em - bod - y God's com - pas - sion for each frag - ile hu - man



brace. If we fal - ter in our cour - age and we doubt what we have
 vine. Then she learned of God's com - pas - sion, of E - liz - a - beth's great
 life. God is with us in our long - ing to bring heal - ing to the



known, God is faith - ful to con - sole us as a moth - er tends her own.
 joy, and she ran to greet the wom - an who would rec - og - nize her boy.
 earth, while we watch with joy and won - der for the promised Sav - iour's birth.

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 Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

A brief silence.

... Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

MEAL

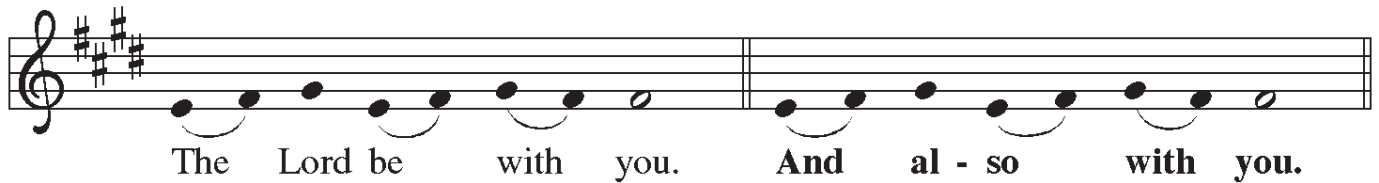
Offering

Offering Prayer

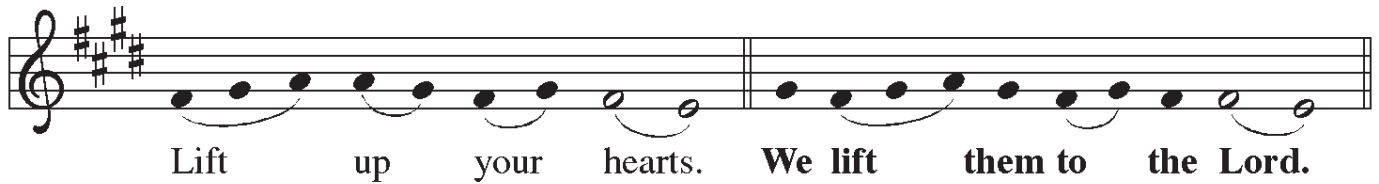
Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

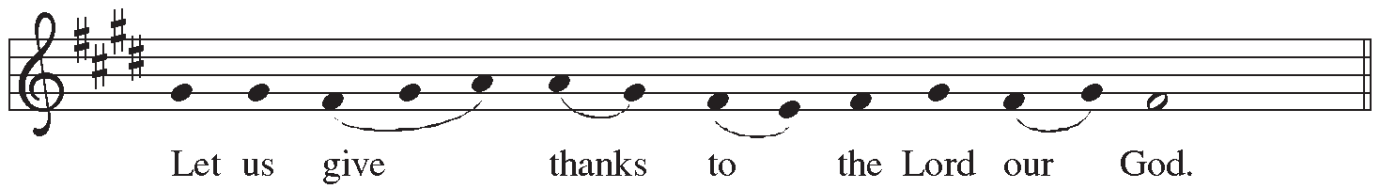
Great Thanksgiving



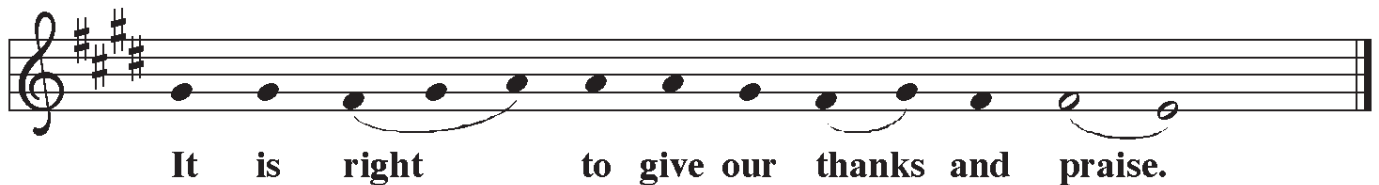
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

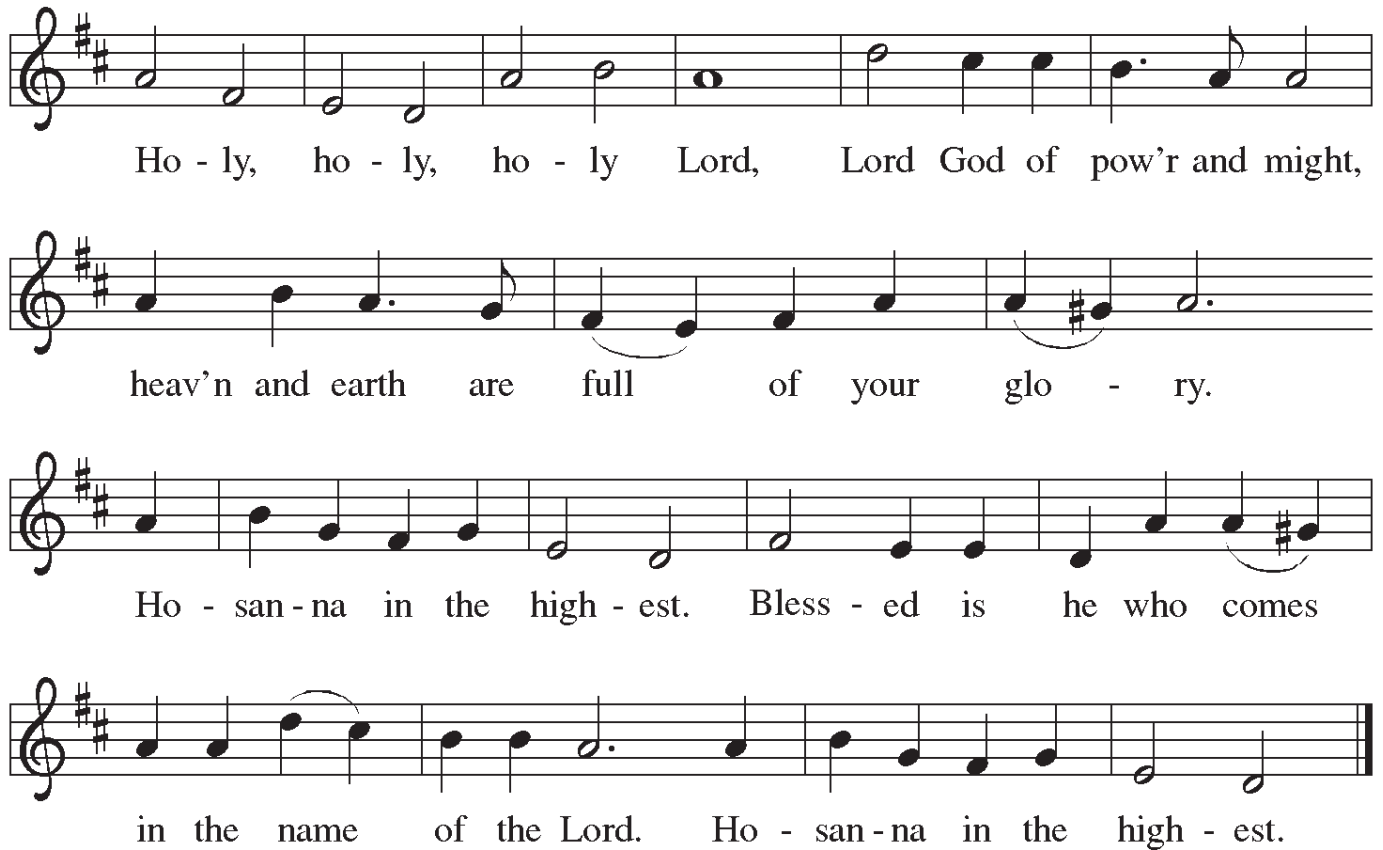


Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



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

Our communion bread is gluten free and the communion cups with clear liquid have grape juice instead of wine.



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

Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name.

Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

Sending Hymn Canticle of the Turning

#723

Dismissal

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

O How Shall I Receive Thee

Alexandre Guilmant



2024-12-8

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Minister: Pastor Phil Ruge-Jones **Organist:** Elaine Mann

Assisting Minister: Arthur Grothe **Choir Director:** Diana Cataldi

Reader: Stacy Geist

Weekly Calendar

SUNDAY (15th)

Coffee Hour – 9:30am

Worship – 10am

TUESDAY

ADRC – Stepping On – 10am

Prayer Group – 11am

ADRC – Strong Bodies – 1pm

WEDNESDAY

Text Study – 12pm

Choir Rehearsal – 7pm

THURSDAY

Retired Rostered Leaders Potluck – 9am

Pacibells – 6pm

SUNDAY (22nd)

Coffee Hour – 9:30am

Worship – 10am

Other groups using the building this week: ADRC, Jonah, Scouts, ECWiT, EC Theater Guild

Habitat & Building Sale Update

The Habitat sale continues to have unexpected obstacles pop up, the most recent was again caused by HUD regulations. Habitat was told they would need to do an environmental study before moving forward. And when they did it, HUD responded that it had to be even more thorough (a level 3 rather than a level 1 study). That study is now in process. Unfortunately, since funds cannot be released until that box is checked, the asbestos abatement work scheduled for right now could not be done. The contracting company has no more openings until late January. Related to this, the Habitat board will not be ready to sign a contract until those funds are officially available to them. So the study process continues and they seek funding sources for about \$300,000 more needed for construction's first phase. We remain convinced this will all eventually happen, and appreciate everyone's continued patience as we await for resolution of these issues.

Lessons & Carols

The worship service on Dec 22 will be a Service of Nine Lessons and Carols. Christmas services in this format have been a tradition around the world since the late 1800s. The story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus is told in nine short Bible readings. The adult choir, family choir, and Pacibells will present special music. Christmas carols will be sung by all.

Donating to the Habitat project

Several people have asked how they might contribute to the Habitat veteran project. Monetary donations can be made via mail-in check or by donating online. When donating, you can add "Fund to Grace Lutheran build". When they receive a restricted donation, the funds will be deposited into their Restricted Funds account and kept track of in their accounting software by project until the funds are needed.

Online donations can be made here: <https://www.cvh4h.org/donate/>

Check donations can be sent to our mailing address at:

145 N. Clairemont Ave
Eau Claire, WI 54703

Thanks for your interest.

Sunday School

Sunday School continues this fall and into the winter. Check out the following schedule for the rest of the year and the first half of 2025.

- December 15
- January 5
- January 19
- February 2
- February 16
- March 2
- March 16
- April 6
- May 4

Sunday school takes place right after the Children's Time during the service. See you there!

FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN

Isaiah 9:6

Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

December 22, 10am

The story of Christmas in
Scripture and music

Reception to follow

Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 4:30pm

With choirs, candlelight,
and communion

Grace Lutheran Church

202 W. Grand Ave

Eau Claire

grace-church.org

Church Office Hours

Monday — Thursday : 10AM — 2PM

Phone: 715-832-9713

Email: info@grace-church.org

Rev. Dr. Phil Ruge-Jones: pastorphil@grace-church.org

Services are live streamed Sundays at 10am on:

- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/gracelutheraneauclaire/>
- Youtube embedded in our website: <https://grace-church.org/our-ministry> *Bulletins may also be found on the same page.*

Recordings of worship services are broadcast Sundays 10:30am on WQOW Channel 18, Cable 9, 618HD (every other week)

Past services are posted at “Grace Lutheran Church ELCA Eau Claire Wisconsin” YouTube page — <https://bit.ly/49WLWPj>



Do you have information for the bulletin and Grace at a Glance? Deadline is Wednesday by 2:00 p.m. by emailing Andrew at info@grace-church.org or by calling the office at 715-832-9713