FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT



November 29, 2026 – 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

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness
Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.
Amen.

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

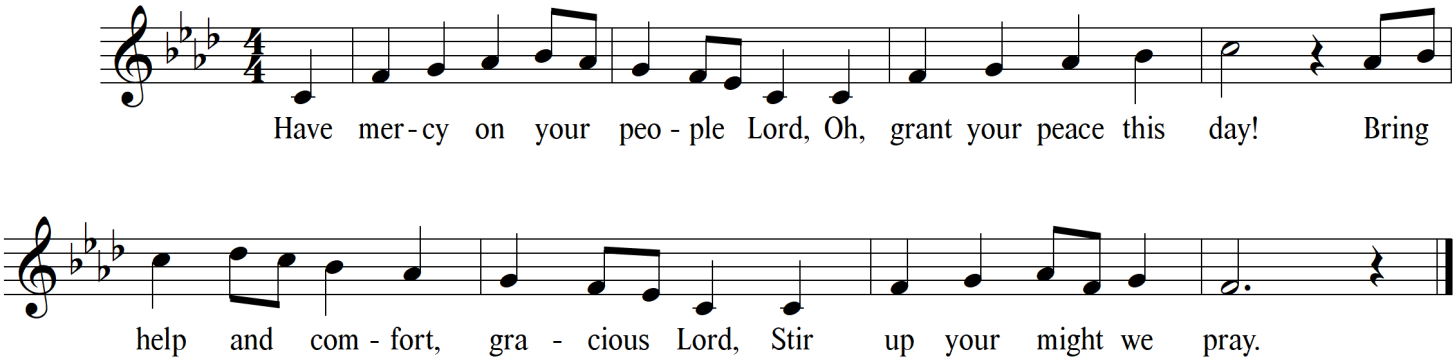
Compassionate God,
we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Hear this good news: We have peace with God through † Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.
Amen.

Opening Hymn Christ, Be Our Light #715

Apostolic 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.

Kyrie



Prayer of the Day

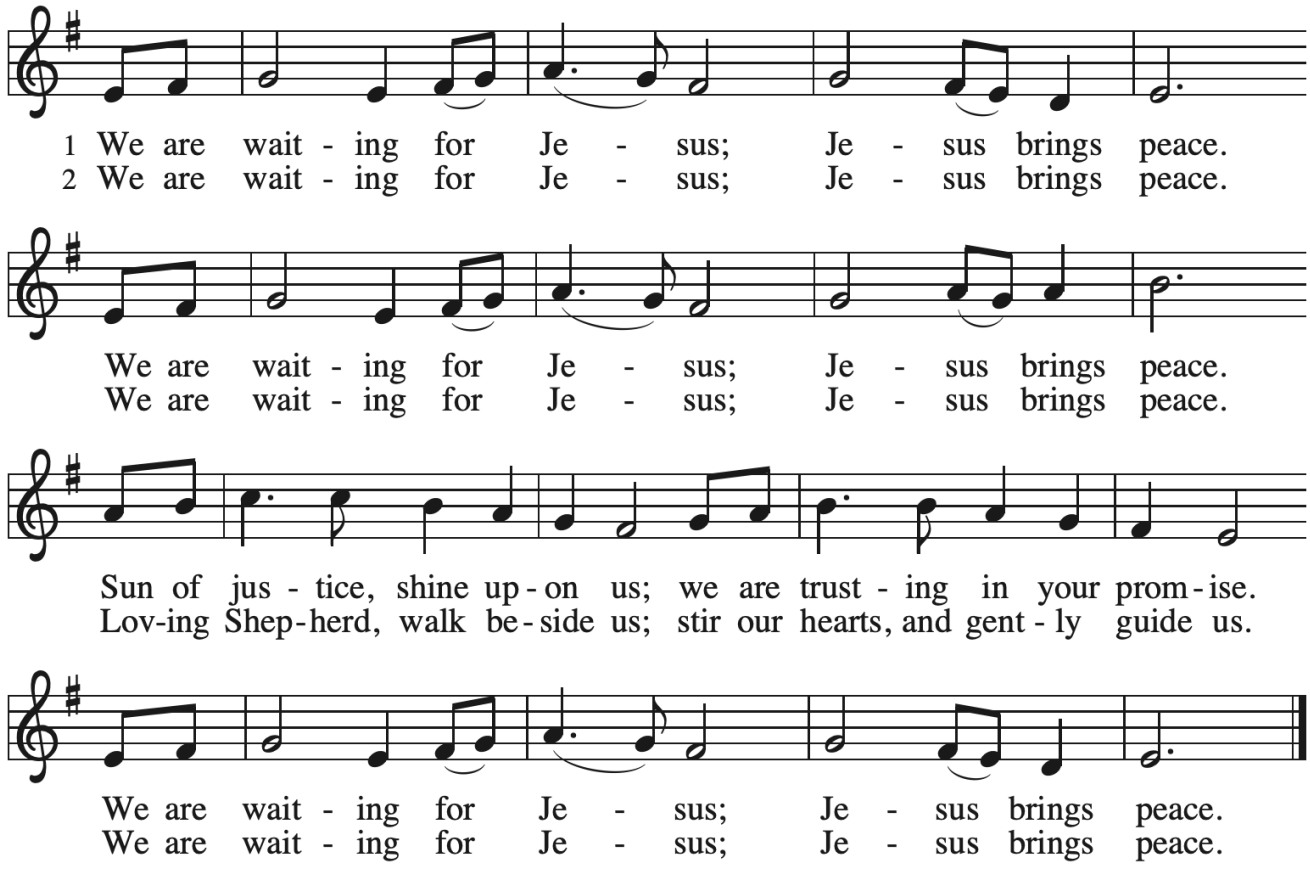
Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

Word

Children's Message & Lighting of the Advent Candles

We Are Waiting for Jesus



The First Reading is from Isaiah 64.

1 O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
2 as 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!
3 When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence.
4 From 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.
5 You 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.
6 We 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.
7 There 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.
8 Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
9 Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Word of God, Word of Life.
Thanks be to God!

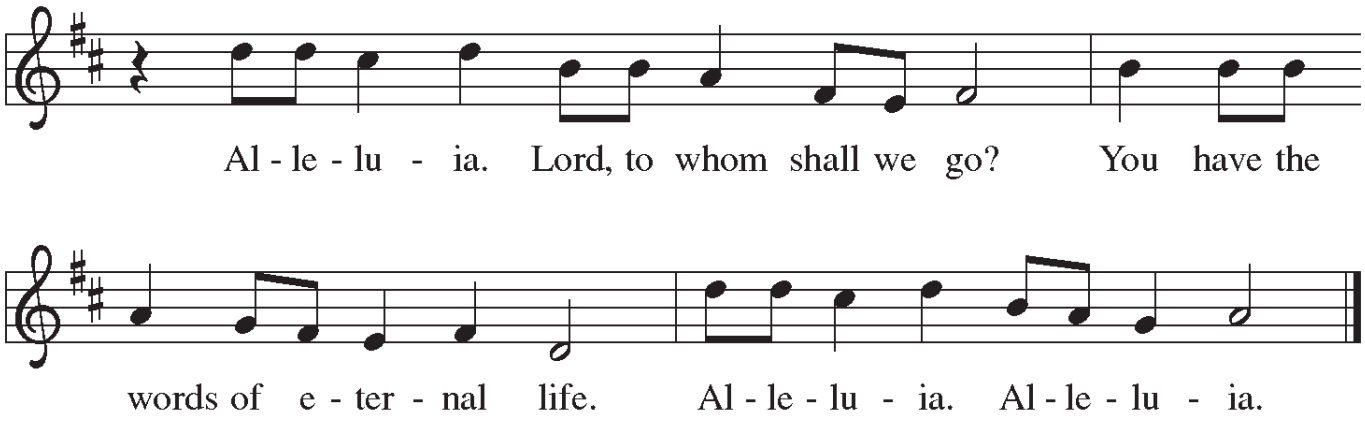
The Second Reading is from 1 Corinthians, Chapter 1.

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

Word of God, Word of Life.
Thanks be to God!

Anthem Advent Promise Ruth Elaine Schram

Gospel Acclamation



The Holy Gospel for today is from Mark, Chapter 13.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus continued, saying,
"However, in those days after that oppression,
'the sun will be darkened,
and the moon won't give its light,
and the stars will be falling from the heavens,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.'
And then people will behold The Human One coming on clouds with great power and glory. And then he will send out the angels and gather the chosen ones from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

Now from the fig tree learn the riddle. When its shoots have become tender and it's sprouting leaves, you know that summer's near. So also you, when you see these things taking place, you know that it's near, at the doors.

I tell you, this is the way it is, this generation definitely won't pass away before all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words definitely won't pass away.

But about that day or the hour, no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, only the Father. Look out! Stay awake! 'Cause you don't know when the opportune time will be. It's like a man off on a trip, on leaving his house and giving authority to his slaves, to each their work, he also ordered the doorkeeper to keep watch.

So, keep watch, 'cause you don't know when the lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening or at midnight or at the rooster crow or early in the morning. Otherwise, he might come unexpectedly and find you sleeping. And what I say to you, I say to everyone. Keep watch!"

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

Sermon Pastor Phil Ruge-Jones

Hymn O come, O Come, Emmanuel (verses 1–4) #257

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
In hope and expectation, we bring to God our prayers for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

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

We entrust these and the prayers of our hearts to you, most holy God, in the name of Christ Jesus our Savior.
Amen.

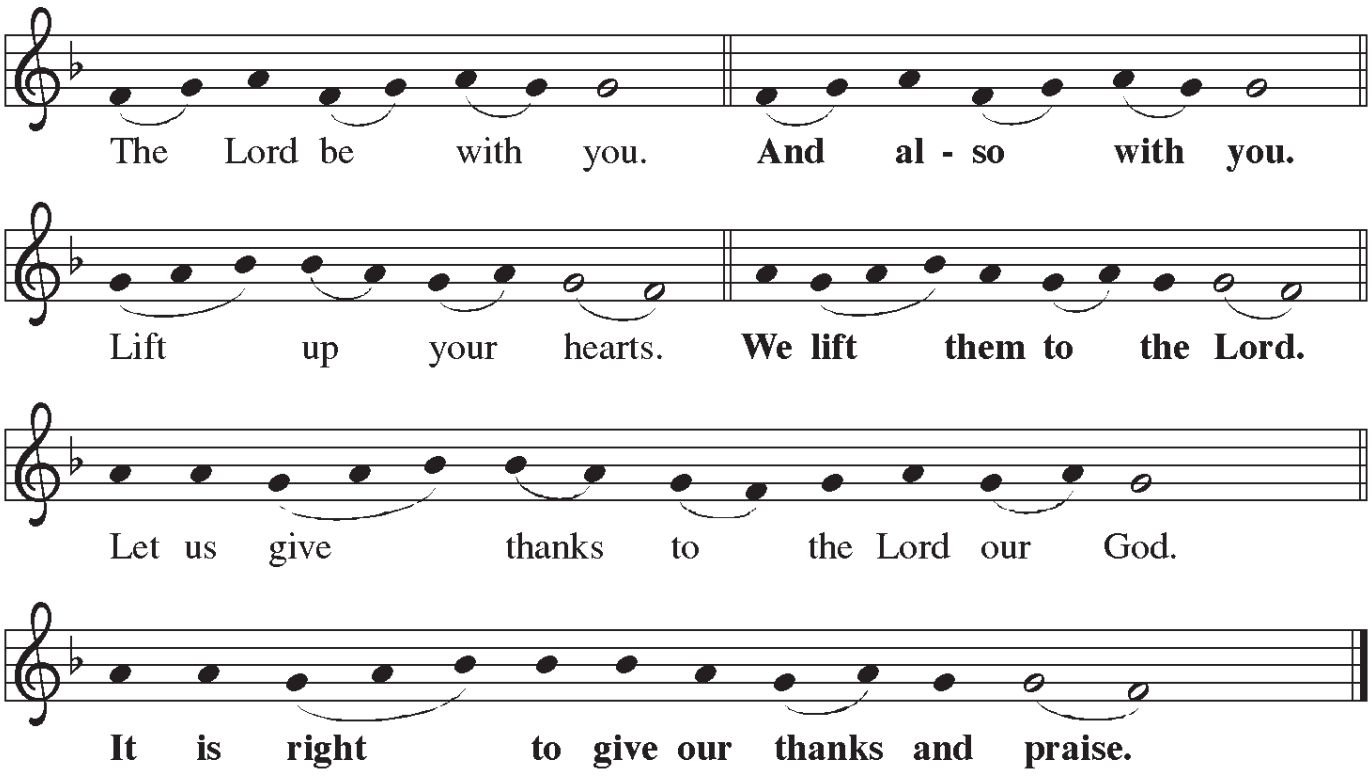
Peace

Meal

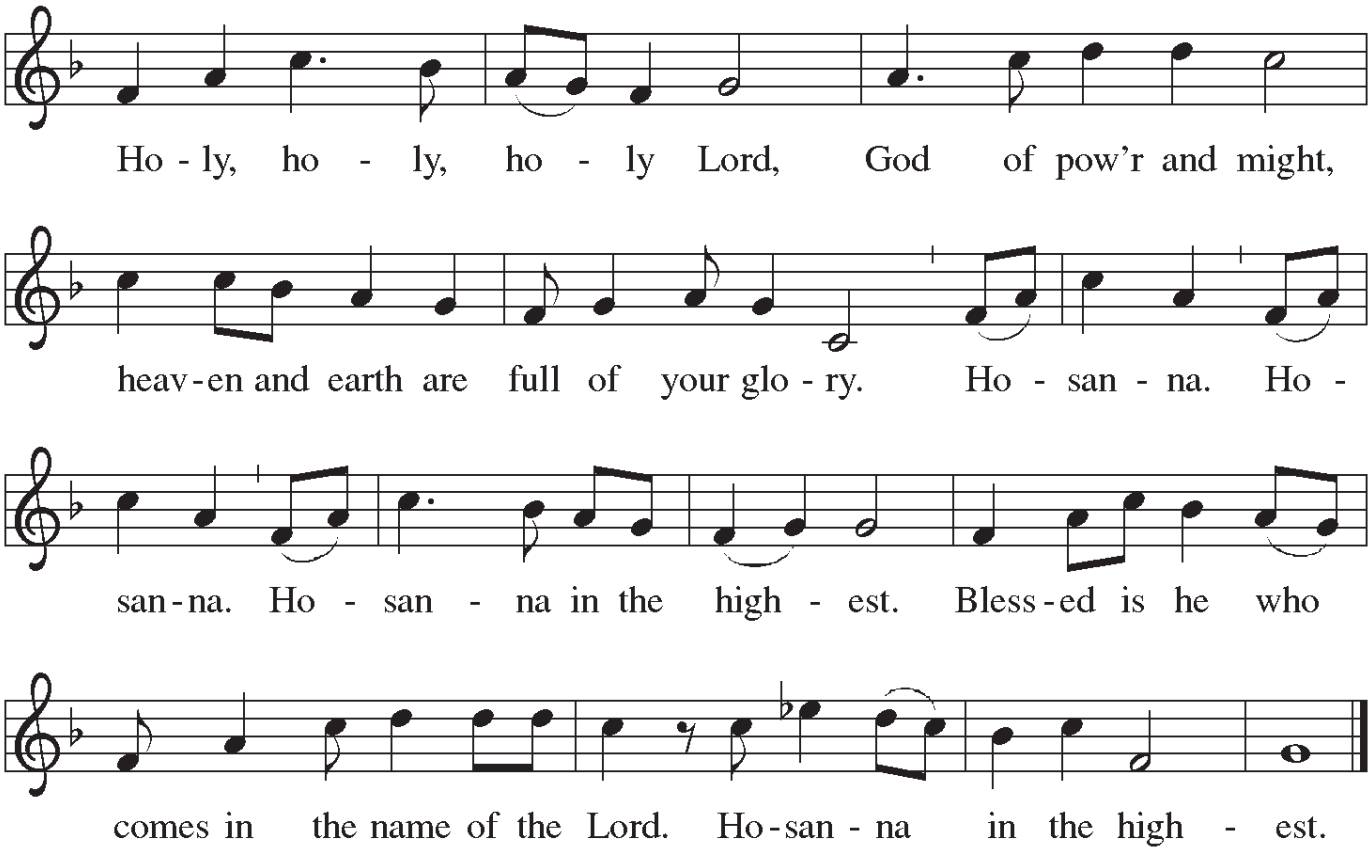
Offering

Offering Prayer
Holy Creator, we are the clay and you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. Receive these gifts shape them and our lives for your purpose, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Great Thanksgiving



It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy, . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Eucharistic Prayer

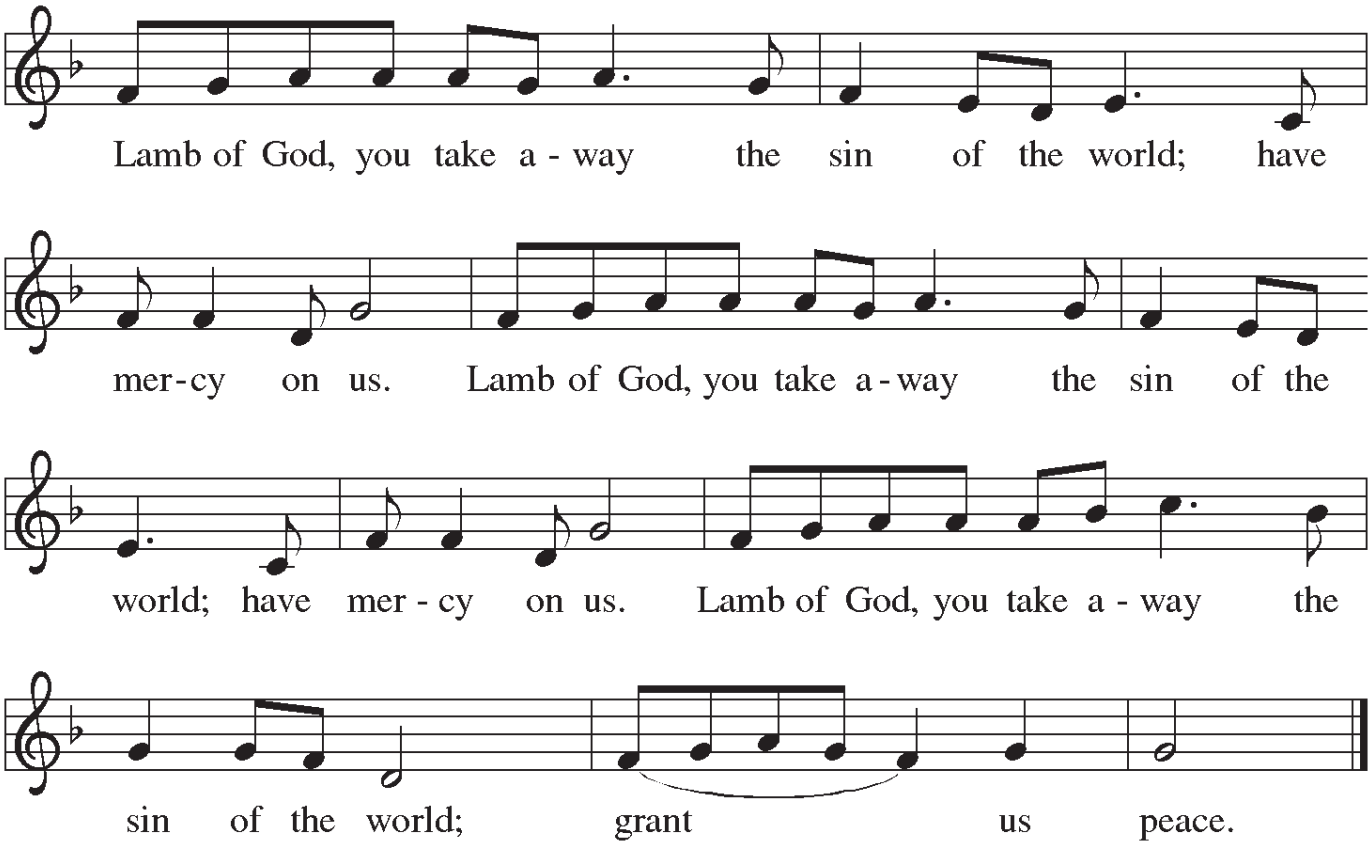
Words of Institution

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.



Prayer After Communion

Providing God, you feed your flock like a shepherd and gather your people in your arms. We praise you for the care and sustenance you give at this meal and always. As we leave your table, carry us near your heart, and send us with confidence in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

Sending

Blessing

Sending Hymn Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers #244

Dismissal

Go in peace. Bring good news the brokenhearted.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

2026–11–29

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Portions of service from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License SAS103714

Licensing Permission

All music Reprinted/Streamed with permission under One License # A–724795

Copyright

Christ, Be Our Light, Text and music © 1993 Bernadette Farrell, admin. OCP Publications. All rights reserved.

O come, O Come, Emmanuel, Text © 1997 Augsburg Fortress

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers, Public Domain

We Are Waiting for Jesus, Text and music © 2013 Augsburg Fortress

Advent Promise, Ruth Elaine Schram ©1995 Alfred Publishing

Minister: Pastor Phil Ruge–Jones
Assisting Minister: Arthur Grothe
Reader: Barb Piper

Organist: Joan Neumann
Choir Director: Dr. Ryan Rogers
Pacibells Director: Karen Lionberger

Weekly Calendar

Sunday (29th)
Coffee Hour – 9:30am
Worship – 10am

Monday
Scouts – 6pm

Tuesday
Prayer Group – 11am
ADRC – Strong Bodies – 1pm

Wednesday
Napoleon defeats a Russo–Austrian force at the Battle of Austerlitz – 1805
Crafters – 9am
Text Study – 12noon
EC County Annual Meeting – 12noon
AA meeting – 7pm
Choir Rehearsal – 7pm

Thursday
ADRC – Strong Bodies – 1pm
Pacibells Rehearsal – 6pm

Friday
Hanukkah Starts
Clearwater Parade Warming House

Sunday (6th)
Coffee Hour – 9:30am
Worship – 10am

Other groups using the building this week: Brighter than Sunshine, ECWiT, Theater Guild, Randall Park Neighborhood Association, Alcoholics Anonymous

Warming House

On Friday December 4th we have our annual warming house to provide shelter during the Clearwater Parade. Christmas music is played by our handbells and choir; we serve cookies and popcorn working with the Scouts and the city. We welcome people into our space. We love to have volunteers to help with the six hundred people who pass through. Let Pastor Phil know if you will join us.

Spiritual Care

Grace Lutheran Communities is offering an accompaniment opportunity.

The Spiritual Care department provides spiritual, emotional and social support residents and family members within Grace Lutheran Communities. Volunteers are a crucial part of our program, so we are looking for individuals who might be interested in visiting with residents on a regular basis: weekly, bi–weekly or monthly.

THE CHIPPEWA VALLEY CONCERT BAND
INVITES YOU

A CHRISTMAS CONCERT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6
2:00PM
DELONG MIDDLE SCHOOL
2000 VINE ST. EAU CLAIRE, WI

FEATURING...

THE WISCONSIN PREMIERE OF
"A CHRISTMAS CAROL"
BY ERIKA SVANOE
WITH ART BY ERIK EVENSEN

AND HOLIDAY CLASSICS SUCH AS:
SLEIGH RIDE, HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS, A CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL, AND MORE!

FREE ADMISSION,
DONATIONS GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED

SPONSORED BY

Green Oasis Est. 1978

Spiritual care volunteers are assigned to individuals after an assessment of needs/interests by the department. Some examples of volunteer support include: life review, discussion about faith/support systems, activities/cards/games, walks, devotionals/readings, prayer, emotional and social support.

Volunteers are supported individually and as a group with quarterly lunch meetings (food provided), ongoing education, and regular check–ins with the director.

If you have any questions or are interested in signing up to be a spiritual care volunteer, please contact Jordan.

Jordan Berg, Director of Spiritual Care
(715) 598–7815
Jordan.berg@graceluthfound.com

Lutheran Cemetery Donation

There are envelopes in the Narthex if you would like to donate to the maintenance of the Lutheran Church Cemetery on Omaha Street. Please make any checks out Grace Lutheran Church and put "Lutheran Church Cemetery" in the memo line so we can get the donation to the right place. Thank You.

Church Office Hours

Monday — Thursday : 10AM — 2PM
Phone: 715–832–9713
PO Box 965, Eau Claire, WI 54702
202 W Grand Ave, Eau Claire, WI 54703
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 — http://grace–church.org/our–ministry

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