



**GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
WAUKESHA, WISCONSIN**

December 1/2, 2018

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

WELCOME

Thank you for joining us at God's house today. Please fill out the friendship folder located at one of the ends of your pew.

Restrooms are located in the fellowship hall which is located in the lower level of the building. Follow the signs or an usher can direct you.

Parent's Rooms are located off the gathering area right before you enter the sanctuary and also on the lower level of the building where there is a television broadcasting the service.

Children's Activity Bags intended for children ages 3-6 can be found in the Parent's Room hanging under the window.

TODAY'S WORSHIP

OUR WORSHIP SERIES: Our Lord Jesus is coming, bearing real gifts, profoundly important gifts. He came that first Christmas to win forgiveness and give all the gifts that come with it: hope, peace, joy, love. He is coming again at the end of this world to give the gift of resurrection to eternal life. In the season of Advent, we connect Christ's first coming with his second coming. We rejoice in all the unconditional gifts he gives. Each Sunday during the gathering rite Advent candles are lighted. Music occurs throughout this rite to accompany singing and as background music to communicate themes of longing and repentance.

THEME OF THE DAY: When you look at the downward spiral of humanity, it is easy to grow cynical. The world seems to grow more dangerous each year. People are more divided than they have been in a long time. Immorality is no longer something that people try to hide. As a nation, we have become largely disinterested in God. Disgusted by the world, we then look in the mirror, and things do not improve much. For we must confess that we are not pillars of nobility either. Looking at our world or at ourselves, we could become jaded. But today, Christ Jesus wants us to set that aside and, instead, to live in hope. Our hope is not a naïve wish that things will get better. Our hope is rooted in the fact that Christ came at that first Christmas to forgive every sin. Our hope is that just as he kept his promise to come the first time, Jesus will keep his promise to come again and destroy everything that is wrong with Creation. Judgment Day will be full of incomprehensible terror for those who have aligned themselves with the world. But Christians hope that day comes soon. Confident that we are wrapped in Christ's righteousness, it will be a day of great deliverance.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Rev. Jason C. Hacker
Presiding Minister

Mrs. Patty Bailey
Organ

Mr. & Mrs. Jon Bartos
Cantors

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Readings -- The Holy Bible: The Evangelical Heritage Version

The readings are from a newly published translation of the Bible, called the Evangelical Heritage Version (EHV). For more information on the EHV, please visit www.wartburgproject.org.

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In consideration of those who are meditating prior to the service, please remain as silent as possible upon entering the Lord's house.

+ + +

Stand

GATHERING RITE

INVOCATION

Matthew 28:19

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

When God created the world, he made the crown of his creation—the human race—in his image. Perfect people lived in a perfect world in a perfect relationship with God.

But mankind rebelled against God, bringing sin into the world and death to all. God declared the wages of sin to be death. We too are guilty, and we confess our sinful thoughts, words, and actions.

However, God—who is Love—did not want to be separated from his children forever. He promised a Savior who would bear the punishment for sin, defeat the devil, and break the bonds of death.

Genesis 1:26; Romans 6:23

Congregation sings

O, come, O, come, Em-man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive
Is - ra - el That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
Un-til the Son of God ap-pear. Re-joice! Re-joice!
Em-man - u - el Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

When the time had fully come, God sent his Son. Jesus, our Savior, has paid the ransom for your debt; your sins are forgiven. In view of God's mercy, today we light the hope candle. The Spirit declares through the psalmist, "Put your hope in the Lord, for with the Lord is unfailing love, and with him is full redemption."

We wait for the Lord, and in his word we put our hope.

Galatians 4:4,5; Psalm 130:5,7

O, come, our Hope, who has de-clared "Sal - va - tion's won; do not de-spair." Help us be-lieve that once for all You bore God's wrath, re - deem - ing all. Re-joice! Re-joice! Em-man - u - el Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

In the hope of God we go to the world—to our friends, relatives, acquaintances and neighbors. We regard no one from a worldly point of view. If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.

God has committed to us the ministry of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. Jesus, who had no sin, became sin for us; in him we have become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Re-joice! Re-joice! Em-man - u - el Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

THE WORD

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

FIRST READING — Jeremiah 33:14-16

¹⁴Listen, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the good promises that I have spoken to the house of Israel and concerning the house of Judah.

¹⁵In those days and at that time,

I will cause a righteous Branch to grow up from David's line.

He will establish justice and righteousness on earth.

¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved,

and Jerusalem will dwell securely.

This is what she will be called:

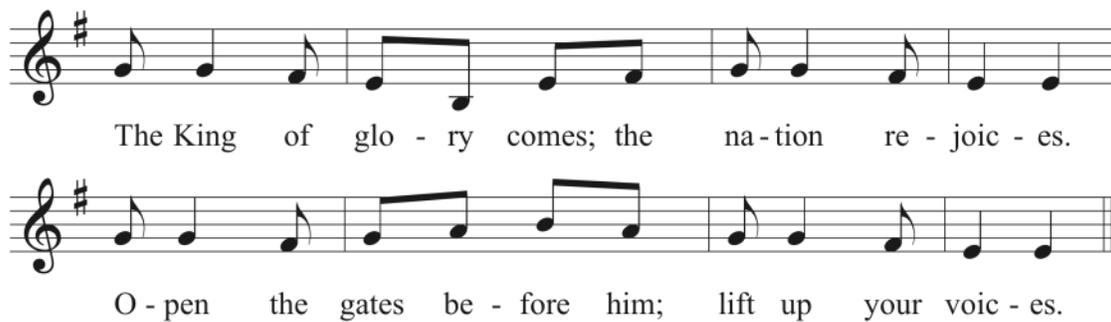
The LORD Our Righteousness.



PSALM 25

Congregation sings refrain

Refrain



The King of glo - ry comes; the na - tion re - joic - es.
O - pen the gates be - fore him; lift up your voic - es.

Tone



In you, LORD my God, I / put my trust.

I trust in you; do not let me be / put to shame.

Show me your ways, Lord, teach me / your paths.

Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my / Savior.

Remember, LORD, your great mer-/cy and love,

for they are / from of old.

Do not remember the sins of my youth and my re-/bellious ways;

according to your love remember me, for you, / Lord, are good.

Refrain

LORD, forgive my iniquity, though / it is great.

Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and af-/flicted.

Look on my affliction and / my distress

and take away / all my sins.

Glory be to the Father and / to the Son

and to the Holy / Spirit,

as it was in the be-/ginning,

is now, and will be forever. / Amen.

Refrain

SECOND READING — 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

⁹Indeed, how can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have before God on account of you? ¹⁰Night and day we are praying earnestly to see you in person and to supply what is lacking in your faith.

¹¹May God our Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord increase your love and make it overflow for each other and for all people, just as ours does for you, ¹³so that he may establish your hearts as blameless in holiness before our God and Father, when our Lord Jesus comes with all his saints.

VERSE — Matthew 21:9

Cantors

Hosanna, to the Son of David.

Hosanna to the Son.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

Stand

GOSPEL — Luke 21:25-36

The Holy Gospel of St. Luke, chapter 21!

Glory be to you, O Lord!

²⁵“There will be signs in the sun, moon, and stars. And on the earth nations will be in anguish, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the surging waves, ²⁶people fainting from fear and expectation of the things coming on the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸But when these things begin to happen, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is near.”

²⁹He told them a parable. “Look at the fig tree and all the trees. ³⁰As soon as they are sprouting leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is actually near. ³¹So also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Amen I tell you: This generation will not pass away until all these things happen. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

³⁴“Watch yourselves or else your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and the worries of this life, and that day may come on you suddenly. ³⁵For it will come like a trap on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Stay alert all the time, praying that you may be able to escape all these things that are going to happen and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.”

The Gospel of the Lord!
Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY — #2 Savior of the Nations, Come

SERMON



Stand

APOSTLES' CREED

Romans 10:9

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian* Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Public confession is faith's response to God's saving Word. Christians composed the Apostles' Creed as early as the second century as the "baptismal" creed; the basics of the Christian faith.

**The original text here reads "catholic," a word meaning "universal." The Church consists of all believers in heaven and on earth, of every time in history*

Be seated

OFFERING

Sunday only

Moved by God's love in Christ, we offer him our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to him. Visitors should not feel obligated to participate, but be comfortable in simply passing the plate.

Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

1 Timothy 2:1-3

Almighty God, we give You thanks for bringing us to the end of one church year and to the beginning of another. As You have kept us in the days that have passed, so do we pray You would keep us in the days to come. Teach us to be faithful in all things, grateful for all Your gifts, urgent in Your work and hopeful for Christ's coming again. Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Almighty God, we long for an end to the struggles of this mortal life and for the start of everlasting life with Christ and all the saints in Your presence forevermore. Keep us from becoming contented with this life and from despair over the burdens of the flesh. We pray ever more earnestly to see Your face and to know in full the joy of Your presence. Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Almighty God, we know how easily the good things You have supplied can be abused and used for harm instead of good. Deliver all who struggle with addiction, restore us when we fall and bring us the strength of Your Word and Sacraments to sustain us. Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Almighty God, we enjoy the many and rich blessings You have showered upon our nation. Grant to us wise and faithful leaders who will help us use Your bounty for good. Establish Your peace among the nations, and bring to nothing the plots of those who delight in evil, terror and violence. Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Almighty God, we face illness, pain, suffering, grief and death, but not without Your grace to comfort us or Your hope to encourage us. Give grace to each as they have need, that sustained through their afflictions they may rejoice in Your promises. Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Almighty God, we claim nothing as our own, for all things come from You. Accept the worship of our lips, the service of our lives, and the tithes and offerings we bring in Jesus' name. Grant that we may use all things for Your glory, for the blessing of those in our care and for the support of Your Church. Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Almighty God, we pray not as we ought but as we are able, trusting in Your mercy to supply us with all things needful and beneficial. Keep far from us all things harmful, that we may be kept holy and blameless to the day of Christ's coming; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

Taught by our Lord and trusting in His promises, we are bold to pray:

**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.**

CLOSING PRAYER

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart, that being strengthened and comforted by your Holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.
Amen.

Be seated

HYMN -- #21 Hosanna to the Coming Lord



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