

Establish  
your **HEARTS**,  
for the coming of  
the **LORD**  
is at hand.

James 5:8, ESV

## THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 8, 2024 | 8:00 and 10:30am

## GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Thornville, Ohio

### VISITORS

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We welcome you in the name of Christ and hope his word of forgiveness and freedom finds you while you are with us this morning. If you are visiting or are new to our church, we ask that you complete a yellow Connection Card and pass it to the center isle for collection during the Entrance Hymn. We would like to be in touch with you and to let you know more about Grace Lutheran. We are glad you are with us.

### OUR WORSHIP

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Lutherans think of worship not in terms of something we do for God, but rather what God does for us. We often call our worship a "service," and that means that God serves us in our need. At the end of his life in 1546, Martin Luther famously said, "We are beggars" before God. In our liturgy (order of worship), which includes hymns and songs, specially selected Bible readings, preaching, and Holy Communion, God serves us by delivering to us sinful human beings the good news of Jesus Christ as Savior, which we grasp by faith. We respond with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving, which carries over into our everyday lives.

### PARENTS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

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Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me." The presence of children in worship, even when they are noisy, is a gift to the Church and a reminder that our parish is growing. If you have to leave worship with your children, feel free to do so, but even more so, feel free to come back in!

### PRAYER BEFORE HOLY COMMUNION

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*We do not presume to come to your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, and so to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him and he in us. Amen*

## ORDER FOR WORSHIP - LBW SETTING 1

*Watchword: Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near. - Luke 21:28 ESV*

### PRELUDE | WELCOME | OPENING PRAYER

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#### Confession and Absolution

##### INVOCATION

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*The people stand.*

P: In the Name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

##### PRAYER OF PREPARATION

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P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

##### CONFESSION

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P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*The people kneel for silent reflection and self-examination.*

P: Most merciful God,

**C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

##### ABSOLUTION

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*The pastor stands and addresses the assembly.*

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

*The people stand.*

#### Gathering

##### ENTRANCE HYMN

*Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel* Green Book 34

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*Connection Cards/Prayer Requests should be passed to the center isle at this time.*

##### APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

**C: And also with you.**

## THE KYRIE

A=Leader; C=all voices

**A** In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**A** For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**A** For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **C** A - men

The Advent candle is lit during the Prayer of the Day

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.

**P:** Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

The people may be seated.



## The Liturgy of the Word

### THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

**L:** A reading from Isaiah.

*By the power of God's Word, His people are planted like trees, oaks of righteousness, to bear witness to God's goodness among all the peoples of the earth.*

<sup>1</sup>The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; <sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; <sup>3</sup>to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified. <sup>4</sup>They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall



L: The Word of the Lord.      C: Thanks be to God.

**THE VERSE**

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*The people please stand.*

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

**THE GOSPEL**

*Luke 21:25-36*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 21<sup>st</sup> chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

<sup>25</sup>“And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, <sup>26</sup>people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup>And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup>Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” <sup>29</sup>And he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. <sup>30</sup>As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. <sup>31</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup>Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. <sup>33</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. <sup>34</sup>“But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon

you suddenly like a trap. <sup>35</sup>For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup>But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

P: The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

**CHILDREN’S SERMON**

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*The people may be seated.*

**SERMON**

Pastor Tom Jacobson

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*

Green Book 25

*The people stand.*

**THE NICENE CREED**

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**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; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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.

## THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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*After each petition:*

*A: Lord, in your mercy, C: hear our prayer.*

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.



## *The Liturgy of Holy Communion*

## THE PEACE

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P: The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

*The people greet one another in the name of the Lord and then are seated.*

## OFFERING

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*Stationary plates have been placed in the sanctuary for giving offerings before or after service. Online giving through the church's website is also highly encouraged. Music will play to provide a time for prayer and reflection.*

*Choir Anthem (10:30 only): "Let Your Hearts Make Him Room"*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## OFFERTORY RESPONSE

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*The people stand.*



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our



cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the



seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.



Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the



prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

## THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

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A: Let us pray. Merciful Father,

C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us — our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## THE 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 him thanks and praise.

## THE PREFACE

P: It is indeed right .... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## THE SANCTUS

☩ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:

Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.

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.

## THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

**C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P: In the night in which he was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**C: 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.**

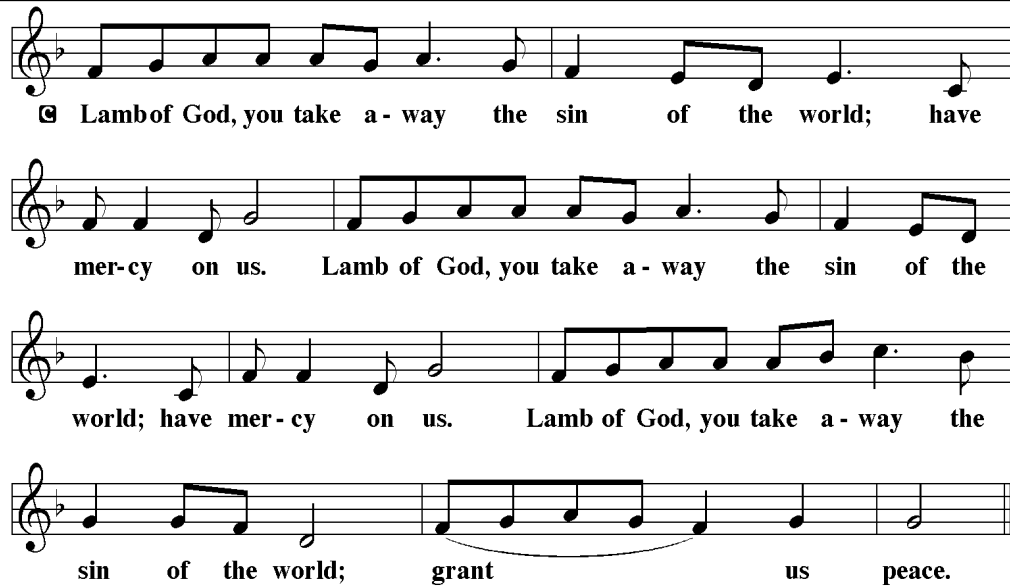
## THE FRACTION

P: Our Lord, Emmanuel, shares his life with us.

**C: Hosanna in the highest!**

*The people may be seated.*

## LAMB OF GOD



☞ 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.

## DISTRIBUTION

*Lutherans teach that Holy Communion (the Lord's Supper) was instituted by Jesus Christ himself for us to eat and drink. As his words declare, with bread and wine, he imparts to us his body and blood, and with it the grace of God. This sacrament is God's way of giving us the good news of Jesus in a concrete, physical way as we continue our pilgrimage on earth. We are rightly prepared to receive this great gift when we come before God with humility and faith. All are welcome to receive the Lord's Body and Blood who are baptized and believe that Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, is truly present in, with and under the forms of bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.*

To receive Holy Communion, come forward in two lines (10:30) or one line (8:00) as the ushers direct you. With open hands, you will receive the bread from the pastor or assisting minister. For those not able to receive regular bread, some gluten free wafers are available. Then proceed to receive the wine from an assistant on your side of the sanctuary. Take an empty cup, which will be filled using a pouring chalice. For those not able to receive wine, there are some pre-filled cups of grape juice available. After receiving the Lord's Supper, the communicant may say "Amen" and return to your pew for prayer. Those choosing not to receive Holy Communion may come forward for a brief prayer and blessing. You may indicate that by crossing your arms over your chest.

*Hymns during distribution: Green Book 327, 27, 290*

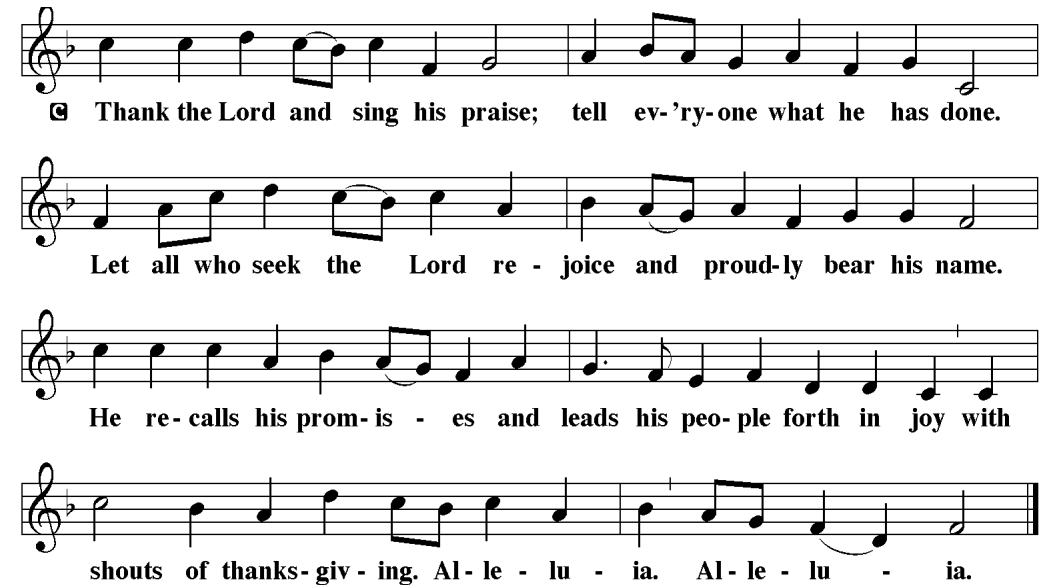
## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

*The people please stand.*

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

C: Amen.

## POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



☞ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.  
Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear his name.  
He re-calls his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with  
shouts of thanks-giv - ing, Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.





## Sending

### THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

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

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**SENDING HYMN**

*The Advent of Our God*

Green Book 22

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### THE POSTLUDE

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*We are sent into the world to proclaim God's grace in word and deed.*

### PRAYER AFTER WORSHIP

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*Almighty God, grant that the words we have heard this day with our ears may be grafted onto our hearts through your grace, that they may produce in us the fruit of a good life, to the praise and honor of your name, through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord. Amen*



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The Rev. Dr. Thomas Jacobson, Pastor



**COMMEMORATIONS:**

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As Christians in the twenty-first century, we are called to remember that God's people of the past form a great "cloud of witnesses" (Hebrews 12:1). In that spirit, we commemorate memorable Christians of the past, usually on the day of their death. Though imperfect, their witness inspires us today as we run the race of faith. This week, the Church commemorates:

- Dec. 8 Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, 397
- Dec. 11 Lars Olsen Skrefsrud, missionary to India, 1910

**WEDNESDAY ADVENT SERVICE (DECEMBER 11) 7:00PM**

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Advent hymn: Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel (LBW 34)  
Scripture reading: James 5:7-11  
Christmas hymn: O Little Town of Bethlehem (LBW 41)

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR 3 ADVENT (DECEMBER 15)**

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Malachi 4:1-6 Ps. 89:1-5, 19-29 Romans 16:25-27 Luke 7:18-28