

Welcome to Worship

*Our Mission: To boldly live out
our faith in Jesus through worship,
fellowship, and service to God and
our neighbor, here and around the
world.*

November 30, 2025 - 8:30 AM

First Sunday of Advent



Grace Lutheran Pastors, Staff, and Musicians

Rev. Dr. Allison Cobb: Senior Pastor
Rev. Cole McCormick: Associate Pastor
Nicole Kolbe: Office Administrator
Brad Anderson: Maintenance
Jane Reiman: Finance Director

Amber Hansen: Open Door Meal Coordinator
Organist: Carol Madsen
Chancel Choir Director: Joyce Jorgenson
Pianist: Molly Bleess
Praise Band: Jen Kahler and Musicians

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Please Note: Worship services are broadcast on local TV and online. Being in the Sanctuary implies consent to be on camera. If you do not wish to be on camera, please sit in the back rows or balcony. Communion may be brought to you in your pew.

At Grace Lutheran, we believe in the real presence of Christ in Holy Communion, and we practice eucharistic hospitality with an open table. **All persons**, whether visiting or a member, are welcome to meet Jesus at the table. Please ask your communion server if you prefer grape juice or a gluten free communion kit. The ushers will direct you to the front for communion or you may receive communion in your pew. Jesus invites all to come and be fed, forgiven, and free!

Prelude and Bell Ringing

Welcome and Offering of Peace

P: The Peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also with you.

P: Welcome to Worship!

Announcements

Call to Worship

Chancel Choir

Candle Lighting *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah v.1* #240

Reader 1: The prophet Isaiah calls to us from the past to imagine the future when God's reign will be fully realized and recognized throughout creation. When that time comes, God "shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more" (Isaiah 2:4).

All: Today, we choose to live in hope, believing that the time of God's reign has come and is coming among us.

Reader 2: We light this candle of hope as a sign of our promise to follow the Light as we answer God's call to transform our hope into reality today and in the days to come.

Light the first candle of the Advent wreath.

Confession & Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.

All: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Long-expected God,

All: we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.

P: God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.

All: Amen.

Gathering Hymn

Fling Wide the Door

#259

Greeting

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

All: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. **By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

¹ The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

² In days to come
the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

³ Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴ He shall judge between the nations

and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation;
neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵ O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD!

Lector: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Lector: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Children's Message

Gospel Acclamation

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Pastor: A reading from the Gospel of Matthew. **All: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel Reading: Matthew 24:36-44

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶ "About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴² Keep awake,

therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into.⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord. **All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Cole McCormick

Hymn of the Day

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

#244

Apostles' Creed

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

Prayers of the Church

P: God of grace,...

C: ... hear our prayer.

Offering

Chancel Choir

Loaves and Fishes Offering

Youth are invited to walk forward and place their offering into the basket. Just like the little boy who gave his 2 fish and 5 loaves to Jesus, who multiplied them to feed thousands, the youth offering will go to The Grace Food Pantry. Adults are welcome to give a child an offering to bring up too.

Offering Hymn

Come Now, O Prince of Peace (v.1)

#247

Offering Prayer

Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. Amen.

Holy Communion

Great Thanksgiving (spoken)

p.144

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (sung in unison)

p.144

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

heav'n and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Thanksgiving at the Table

Children of all ages may receive communion or a blessing. They are also invited to take an instrument to praise God during the sending song. All are welcome at Christ's table.

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.
Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

Holy Communion

Children of all ages may receive communion or a blessing. They are also invited to take an instrument to praise God during the sending song. All are welcome at Christ's table.

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

Lamb of God

p.112

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Communion Hymn

My Lord, What a Morning

#438

Prayer after Communion

P: God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness.
Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and
bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

All: Amen.

Blessing

P: May God who comes among us, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good
news to share today and always.

All: Amen.

Sending Hymn

Hark, the Glad Sound!

#239

Sending

P: Go in peace. Keep awake.

All: Thanks be to God.

Postlude