

## 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.*

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# December 21, 2025 - 10:45 AM

## Fourth 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 Bless  
**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!

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## **Prelude and Bell Ringing**

*Shepherd Boy*

**Praise Band**

## **Welcome and Announcements**

P: The Peace of Christ be with you always.

All: **And also with you.**

P: Welcome to Worship!

## **Call to Worship**

## **Candle Lighting**

Reader 1: Today, we come face to face with the scandal of Advent: Mary, the unmarried mother; God Incarnate growing in Mary's womb as a vulnerable baby; Joseph contemplating leaving Mary because of her pregnancy; God's love at work in ways that society and propriety could not understand; God calling Mary and Joseph to faithfulness despite the fear of disgrace.

**Congregation: With Mary and Joseph, we choose to wait, watch, and listen for the way of Love instead of responding in fear to the world's judgment.**

Reader 2: We light this candle of love as a sign of our faithfulness as we seek, find, and follow Emmanuel, God with us.

*Light the fourth candle of the Advent wreath.*

## **Advent Candle Song**

*He Came Down (v.4)*

**#253**

## **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 Song**

### ***Come Thou Long Expected Jesus***

Verse 1      Come Thou long expected Jesus  
                  Born to set Thy people free  
                  From our fears and sins release us  
                  Let us find our rest in Thee  
                  Israel's strength and consolation  
                  Hope of all the earth Thou art  
                  Dear desire of every nation  
                  Joy of every longing heart

Verse 2      Born Thy people to deliver  
                  Born a child and yet a King  
                  Born to reign in us forever  
                  Now Thy gracious Kingdom bring  
                  By Thine own eternal Spirit  
                  Rule in all our hearts alone  
                  By Thine all sufficient merit  
                  Raise us to Thy glorious throne

### **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. **With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

### **First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-16**

<sup>10</sup> The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, <sup>11</sup> “Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” <sup>12</sup> But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.” <sup>13</sup> Then Isaiah said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. <sup>15</sup> He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup> For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

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

### **Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7**

<sup>1</sup> Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup> which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, <sup>3</sup> the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup> and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup> through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his name, <sup>6</sup> including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

<sup>7</sup> To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

## **Children's Message (Sing)**

## ***Joy to the World***

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
 Let earth receive her king;  
 let ev'ry heart prepare him room  
 and heav'n and nature sing,  
 and heav'n and nature sing,  
 and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

## **Gospel Acclamation**

What are you look - ing for? Come,

see, come and see. What are you

look - ing for? Come and see. Come and see.

Pastor: A reading from the Gospel of Matthew.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

## **Gospel Reading: Matthew 1:18-25**

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and

said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.”<sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”<sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup> “Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.”<sup>24</sup> When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife<sup>25</sup> but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

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

### **Sermon**

**Pastor Allison Cobb**

### **Song of the Day**

### ***O Come O Come Emmanuel***

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| Verse 1 | O come O come Emmanuel<br>And ransom captive Israel<br>That mourns in lonely exile here<br>Until the Son of God appear                                    |
| Chorus  | Rejoice rejoice Emmanuel<br>Shall come to thee O Israel   |
| Verse 2 | O come Thou Dayspring come and cheer<br>Our spirits by Thine advent here<br>Disperse the gloomy clouds of night<br>And death's dark shadows put to flight |
| Verse 3 | O come Thou Wisdom from on high<br>And order all things far and nigh<br>To us the path of knowledge show<br>And cause us in her ways to go                |

Verse 4     O come Desire of nations bind  
               All peoples in one heart and mind  
               Bid envy strife and quarrels cease  
               Fill the whole world with heaven's peace

### **Baptism of Leo Dean Anderson**

p. 227

#### **Profession of Faith**

P:     Do you believe in God the Father?

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

P:     Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**All: 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.**

P:     Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**All: 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.**

#### **Thanksgiving At The Font**

P:     The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

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

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

## Welcome

**P:** Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**All:** We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

## Prayers of the Church

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

## 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 Song

### *Light of the World*

Verse 1     You are the light of the world  
               You are the light of the world  
               So shine shine shine where you are  
               You are the light of the world

Verse 2     You are the city on a hill  
               You are the city on a hill  
               So shine shine shine where you are  
               You are the city on a hill



Verse 3    You are a candle in the dark  
               You are a candle in the dark  
               So shine shine shine where you are  
               You are a candle in the dark

Verse 4    You are a star in the night  
               You are a star in the night  
               So shine shine shine where you are  
               You are a star in the night (Verse 1)

### **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**

*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.*

### **Lords 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 Song**

### ***Christ Be Our Light***

Verse 1    Longing for light, we wait in darkness.  
               Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
               Make us your own, your holy people,  
               light for the world to see.

Chorus    Christ, be our light! shine in our hearts, shine  
               through the darkness.  
               Christ, be our light! shine in your church gathered  
               today.

Verse 2    Longing for peace, our world is troubled.

Longing for hope, many despair.  
 Your word alone has pow'r to save us.  
 Make us your living voice. (Chorus)

Verse 3    Longing for food, many are hungry.  
               Longing for water, many still thirst.  
               Make us your bread, broken for others,  
               shared until all are fed. (Chorus)

Verse 4    Longing for shelter, many are homeless.  
               Longing for warmth, many are cold.  
               Make us your building, sheltering others,  
               walls made of living stone. (Chorus)

Verse 5    Many the gifts, many the people,  
               many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
               Let us be servants to one another,  
               making your kingdom come. (Chorus)

### **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 Song**

### ***Stand in Your Love***

Verse 1    When darkness tries to roll over my bones  
               When sorrow comes to steal the joy I own  
               When brokenness and pain is all I know  
               I won't be shaken I won't be shaken

Chorus    My fear doesn't stand a chance  
              When I stand in Your love (REPEAT)

Verse 2    Shame no longer has a place to hide  
              I am not a captive to the lies  
              I'm not afraid to leave my past behind  
              I won't be shaken I won't be shaken (Chorus x3)

Bridge     There's power that can break off every chain  
              There's power that can empty out a grave  
              There's resurrection power that can save  
              There's power in Your name power in Your name (Chorus x3)

### **Sending**

**P:**    Go in peace. Keep awake.

**All:**   Thanks be to God.

### **Postlude**

