

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent —December 12, 2021



### Grace Lutheran Church

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[www.GraceLutheranChesapeake.org](http://www.GraceLutheranChesapeake.org)



<https://linktr.ee/gracelutheran>

Pastor—The Rev. Leslie D. Weber (she/her/hers)  
Minister of Music—Morgan Hatfield (they/them/theirs)

#### **Our Mission Statement:**

We are a community of believers in Christ called to be servants to all people.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent—December 12, 2021—9:45am Hybrid Worship**

Page numbers (p.) are in front half of the hymnal.  
Hymn numbers (#) are in back half of the hymnal.  
Everyone is invited to join in **bolded responses**.  
+ Please stand as you are able.

**+ Gathering +**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

**Praise & Worship**

“Bethlehem Highway”

There is hope on Bethlehem highway for the ones who will  
journey there.  
And the hope is the child in a manger bringing us love beyond  
compare.

It's a lifeline for the needy. It's sight to those who can't see.  
It's a freedom for the faithful in a Child of prophecy.

Let the angels go before us. Let the darkness become light.  
Now the Savior lives among us. Now truth has come to life.

“Jesus, Name Above All Names”

Jesus, name above all names, beautiful Savior, glorious Lord.  
Emmanuel, God is with us, blessed Redeemer, living Word

Jesus loving Shepherd, vine of the branches, Son of God  
Prince of Peace Wonderful Counselor, Lord of the universe Light  
of the world

Praise him Lord above all lords, King above all kings God's only  
Son  
The Prince of Peace who by his Spirit comes to live in us Master  
and Friend

“Awesome God”

Our God is an awesome God, He reigns from heaven above  
With wisdom, power and love, Our God is an awesome God.  
Our God is an awesome God, He reigns from heaven above  
With wisdom, power and love, Our God is an awesome God.

### Lighting of the Advent Wreath

ELW #240 verses 1-3

### Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.  
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.  
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.  
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954  
Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune  
Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

### + Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who alone does wonders,  
who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things.  
**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God for whom we wait, **in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you. We fail in believing that your good news is for us. We falter in our call to tend your creation. We find**

**our sense of self in material wealth. We fear those different from ourselves. We forget that we are your children and turn away from your love. Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace. Amen.**

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, † your sins are forgiven. You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise, and recipients of divine mercy. God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace. **Amen.**

**Gathering Song**

“Mighty to Save”

Everyone needs compassion, a love that's never failing, let mercy fall on me. Everyone needs forgiveness, the kindness of a Savior, the hope of nations.

**Refrain:** Savior, he can move the mountains. Our God is mighty to save. He is mighty to save Forever, author of salvation, he rose and conquered the grave. Jesus conquered the grave.

So take me as you find me, all my fears and failures, and fill my life again. I give my life to follow, everything I believe in, now I surrender.

Shine your light and let the whole world see, we're singing for the glory of the risen king Jesus, Shine your light and let the whole world see, we're singing for the glory of the risen king

**+ Greeting**

ELW p.156

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

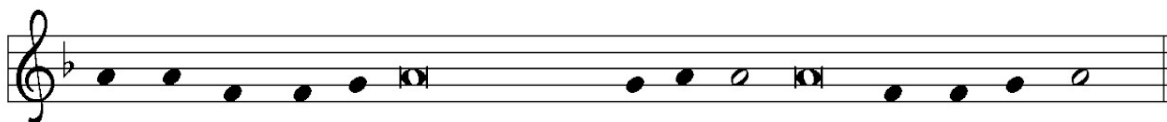
ELW p.156-7



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



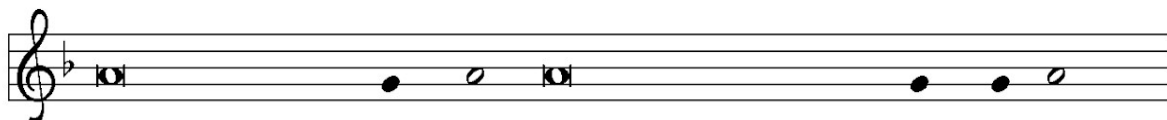
Lord, have mer - cy.



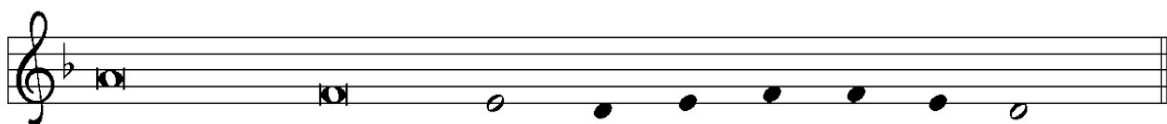
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-va-tion, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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.

***continued on the next page***

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Lord, have mer - cy.



For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

**+ Prayer of the Day**

ELW p.19

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**+Word+**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

**First Reading**

Zephaniah 3:14-20

A reading from Zephaniah.

<sup>14</sup>Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! <sup>15</sup>The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. <sup>16</sup>On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. <sup>17</sup>The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing <sup>18</sup>as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. <sup>19</sup>I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. <sup>20</sup>At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

**Psalmody**

**Isaiah 12:2-6**

Let us recite together Isaiah 12, verses 2 through 6.

<sup>2</sup>Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid,  
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has  
become my salvation.

<sup>3</sup>With joy you will draw water  
from the wells of salvation.

<sup>4</sup>And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on  
God's name;

make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations;  
proclaim that this name is exalted.

<sup>5</sup>Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;  
let this be known in all the earth.

<sup>6</sup>Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,  
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

**Second Reading**

Philippians 4:4-7

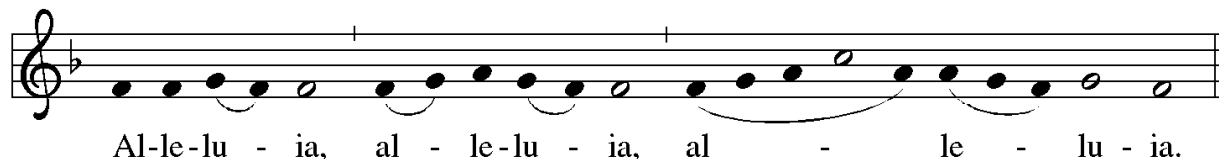
A reading from Philippians.

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God**

**+ Gospel Acclamation**

ELW p.160





**+ Gospel Reading**

Luke 3:7-18

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>7</sup>John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup>Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

<sup>10</sup>And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” <sup>11</sup>In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.”

<sup>12</sup>Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” <sup>13</sup>He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” <sup>14</sup>Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

<sup>15</sup>As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup>John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

<sup>18</sup>So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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

**Young at Heart Message & Sermon**

The Rev. Leslie D. Weber

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent—December 12, 2021—9:45am Hybrid Worship**

**+ Song of the Day**

“Even So, Come”

All of creation all of the earth, make straight a highway, a path  
for the Lord Jesus is coming soon

Call back the sinner, wake up the saint, Let ev'ry nation shout of  
Your fame Jesus is coming soon

**Refrain:** Like a bride waiting for her groom  
We'll be a Church ready for You  
Ev'ry heart longing for our King we sing

Even so come Lord Jesus come, even so come Lord Jesus come

There will be justice all will be new, Your name forever faithful  
and true Jesus is coming soon

So we wait we wait for You  
God we wait You're coming soon  
So we wait we wait for You  
God we wait You're coming soon

God we wait we wait for You  
God we wait You're coming soon  
God we wait we wait for You  
God we wait You're coming soon  
God we wait we wait for You  
Yes we wait You're coming soon  
God we wait You're coming soon oh

**+ Nicene Creed**

ELW p.104

With the whole church, let us confess our faith with the words of the 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.**

\* universal

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent—December 12, 2021—9:45am Hybrid Worship**

**+ Prayers of Intercession with sung refrain: “Wait for the Lord” ELW #262**

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

**Refrain: Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.  
Wait for the Lord” be strong, take heart!**

Holy God, renew your church and raise up leaders who announce your good news. Grant peace to congregations and seminarians in the midst of transition. Guide the work of candidacy and call committees.

Creating God, your Spirit brought forth the earth and all that is in it. Breathe life into us, that we are inspired to live in harmony with one another and the planet.

Shepherding God, you lead your people in paths of righteousness. Raise up prophets in our own day who warn against captivity to greed and point us to the freedom found in generosity.

**Refrain**

Nurturing God, you come near in times of worry and need. Cradle us in your arms, that we trust you and are not afraid. Attend to any who are hungry, imprisoned, or ill this day We pray especially those listed on our prayer list and those we name now aloud or silently (*pause for names*).

We give you thanks for your servants who showed us your goodness and grace. By the power of your Spirit, keep us steadfast in faith until we make our home with you.

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

**Refrain**

**+ Peace**

**+Meal+**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

**Offering**

Thank you for supporting the mission of the church as you are able! Electronic donations can be made at [https://tithe.ly/give\\_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/475611](https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/475611).

Checks can be also be sent to church:  
521 Providence Rd, Chesapeake, VA 23325



**+ Offering Prayer**

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept.*

God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace. **Amen.**

**+ Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you. **And also 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 our thanks and praise.**

Holy God, the Beginning and the End, our Salvation and our Hope, we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty. When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair, you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy. At this end of the ages your Son Jesus came to bring us your love and to heal all the suffering world.

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.

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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 life, death, and resurrection, we await his coming again in righteousness and peace.

Send your Spirit on us and on this bread and wine we share: strengthen our faith, increase our hope, and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen.**

**+ Lord's Prayer**

ELW p.163

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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**

Come to Christ's banquet. Feast on God's gift of grace.

*Where possible, commune one another saying "the body of Christ, given for you" and "the blood of Christ, shed for you."*

**Distribution Song**

“Lamb of God”

Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world.

Grant us your peace. Grant us your peace.

**+ Prayer after Communion**

Please stand as you are able.

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept.*

Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit’s power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest. **Amen.**

**+ Sending +**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

**+ Blessing**

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait. **Amen.**

**Announcements**

**+ Sending Song**

“Joy to the World” ELW#267  
(see next page)

**+ Dismissal**

Go in peace. Christ is near. **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

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## Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
 3 No more let sin, and sor - row grow nor thorns in -  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,