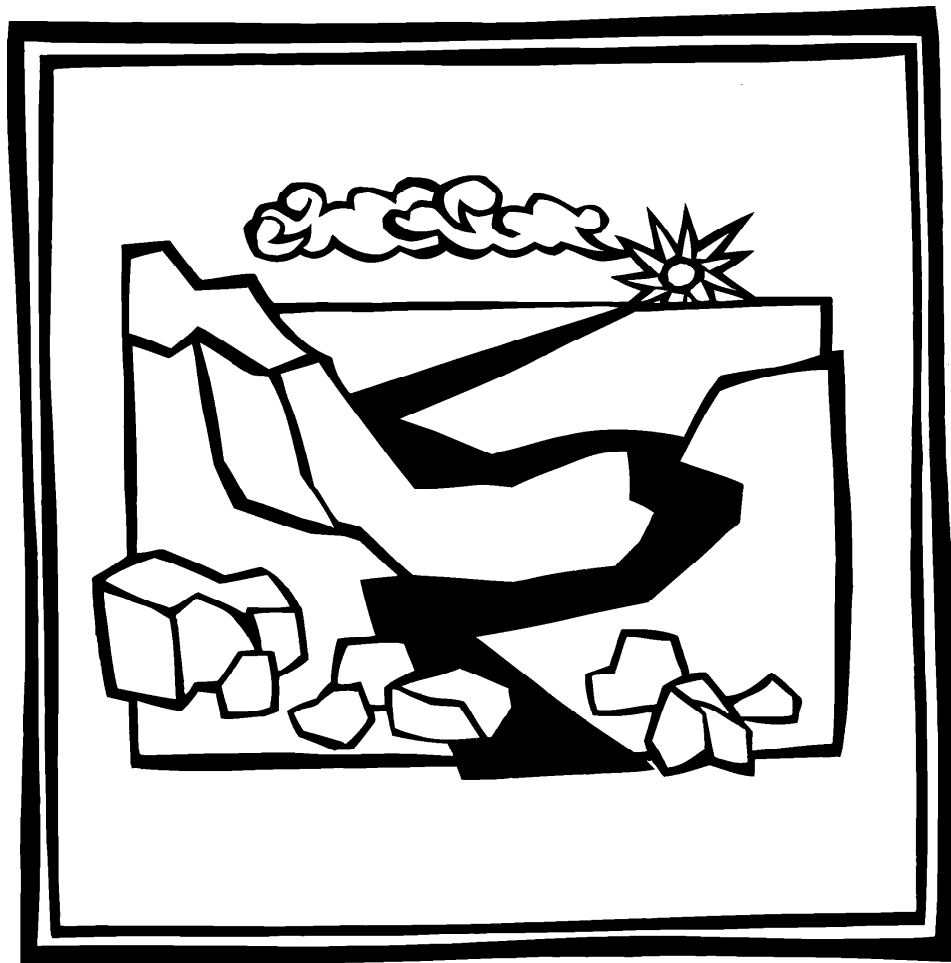


## 2nd Sunday of Advent —December 5, 2021



### Grace Lutheran Church

521 Providence Road  
Chesapeake, VA 23325  
757-420-4704

[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.

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent—December 5, 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.*

**Prelude**

“Even So, Come”  
*arr. by Morgan Hatfield*

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

ELW #240 verses 1 & 2

**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**

“Here I am to Worship”

Light of the World, You stepped down into darkness, opened my eyes, let me see. Beauty that made this heart adore You, hope of a life spent with You.

**Refrain:** Here I am to worship, here I am to bow down,  
here I am to say that You're my God.  
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,  
altogether wonderful to me.

King of all days, oh so highly exalted, glorious in heaven above.  
Humbly You came to the earth You created, all for love's sake  
became poor.

And I'll never know how much it cost to see my sin upon that  
cross. And I'll never know how much it cost to see my sin upon  
that cross.

**+ 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.



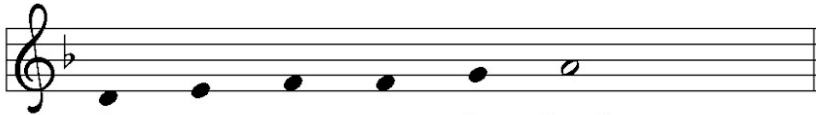
Lord, have mer - cy.

*continued on the next page*

*continued from the previous page*



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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; 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**

Malachi 3:1-4

A reading from Malachi.

<sup>1</sup>See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>2</sup>But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; <sup>3</sup>he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. <sup>4</sup>Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

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

**Psalmody**

Luke 1:68-79

Let us recite together Luke 1, verses 68 through 79.

<sup>68</sup>Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel,  
you have come to your people and set them free.  
<sup>69</sup>You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,  
born of the house of your servant David.  
<sup>70</sup>Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us  
from our enemies,  
<sup>71</sup>from the hands of all who hate us,  
<sup>72</sup>to show mercy to our forebears,  
and to remember your holy covenant.  
<sup>73</sup>This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:  
<sup>74</sup>to set us free from the hands of our enemies,  
free to worship you without fear,

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent—December 5, 2021—9:45am Hybrid Worship**

<sup>75</sup>holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.  
<sup>76</sup>And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,  
<sup>77</sup>to give God's people knowledge of salvation  
by the forgiveness of their sins.  
<sup>78</sup>In the tender compassion of our God  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,  
<sup>79</sup>to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of  
death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

**Second Reading**

Philippians 1:3-11

A reading from Philippians.

<sup>3</sup>I thank my God every time I remember you, <sup>4</sup>constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, <sup>5</sup>because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup>I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup>For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup>And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight <sup>10</sup>to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, <sup>11</sup>having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

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



+ Gospel Acclamation

ELW p.160



+ Gospel Reading

Luke 3:1-6

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

<sup>1</sup>In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup>during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup>as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. <sup>5</sup>Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; <sup>6</sup>and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.' "

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

**Sermon**

The Rev. Leslie D. Weber

**+ Song of the Day**

“There’s a Voice in the Wilderness” ELW#255

There's a voice in the wilderness crying,  
a call from the ways untrod:  
Prepare in the desert a highway,  
a highway for our God!  
The valleys shall be exalted,  
the lofty hills brought low;  
make straight all the crooked places  
where God, our God, may go!

O Jerusalem, herald good tidings,  
ascend to the heights and sing!  
Proclaim to a desolate people  
the coming of their king.  
Like flow'rs of the field we perish,  
like grass our works decay;  
the pow'r and the pomp of nations  
shall pass like a dream away.

But the word of our Savior is faithful,  
the arm of our God is strong,  
who stands in the midst of the nations  
and soon will right the wrong.  
Lord, feed your flock like a shepherd,  
the lambs so gently hold;  
in pastures of peace now lead them,  
and bring them to your fold.

**+ 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

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent—December 5, 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!**

You send messengers into the world to proclaim the day of your coming. Make our bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay preachers confident in their preaching, that their words and our lives witness to your grace.

Send your Spirit to all living creatures that are endangered. Provide them with shelter and care, and bring us into right relationship with the earth that you create and call good.

Send leaders to our nations, cities, schools, and businesses to work on behalf of those who have lost parents, spouses, and loved ones; immigrants; the imprisoned; those living in poverty; and all who are oppressed. Make them bold in their commitments to justice and reconciliation.

**Refrain**

Send your servants to care for those who suffer. Use our ministries and our lives to reach out with compassion to those who are hungry, oppressed, lonely, or ill, especially those listed on our prayer list and those we name now aloud or silently (*pause for names*). Grant them healing and wholeness.

We remember your saints, both those publicly celebrated and those more humbly remembered. Confident that your work will be completed, we live in faith until the day of your coming.

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/#/tithe.ly/give-one-time/475611](https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithe.ly/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.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent—December 5, 2021—9:45am Hybrid Worship**

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**

“A Story For All People”

As people wait in darkness, in fear of endless night, send forth your word of comfort, a message of great light. The world stands proud before you, conflicted, hungry, poor. Come, scatter pride and foolishness, and mend all souls with Savior love once more.

**Refrain:** A story for all people, old story new today.  
A song of love and healing, a light to show the way.

We come into your presence, in hope and joy restored. With eager hearts we listen, and gather 'round your word. We watch and wait your coming and pray for greater trust, to know that while we wait for you, Emmanuel, you watch and wait with us.

A time of preparation: the guest is drawing near, as mountain places crumble and straightened paths appear. Prepare a humble welcome in ev'ry heart and home, and celebrate the promise of our God who is, and was, and is to come.

You call us to repentance, to turn and start again. You send your Holy Spirit to drown the pow'r of sin. We wonder in your mercy, your singing festal voice; and in your meal of bread and wine we join the invitation to rejoice!

Renewed by this encounter, we'll go out and proclaim. We'll tell of your salvation, and magnify your name. The servant words of Mary will swell the faithful soul, and you will bring your children home that day when all creation will be whole.

**+ Dismissal**

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

**Postlude**

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