



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 1, 2024

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF NORTHEAST MINNEAPOLIS

Welcome to worship during the holy season of Advent. We are a congregation with a long history of loving God and serving our neighbors. We welcome and celebrate all of you, including race, culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, ability, age, and family.

*We welcome you to share fellowship with us in your joys and struggles. If you hunger for a good meal, a bag of groceries, the bread of communion, an opportunity to serve your neighbors, or a welcoming church home, **there is a place for you at Grace!***



When you see this symbol ☒ you're invited to stand as you are able.

We love to sing! When music and words are not printed in the bulletin, you can find the song in the red hymnal underneath the chairs at the page number listed.

Children belong in worship! We recognize that children aren't wired to "sit still" for an hour, so we welcome their quiet movement, joyous singing, and encourage their involvement in worship. Children of any age may pick out a book, toy, or art supplies in the Commons for use during the service.

Help love reach beyond these walls. You can give online at gracenempls.org/give or scan the code at the right. You can also place your offering in the plate as you come up for communion (envelopes are on the cart in the Commons).



All are welcome at Jesus' table to receive holy communion. We set the table with wheat bread, gluten-free crackers, white grape juice, and red wine.

Join us for fellowship time! All are invited to stay after worship for coffee, treats, and community connection in the Multi-Purpose Room.

Stay connected to what's happening at Grace: sign up for our weekly online newsletter, "The Scroll." Find the latest editions and the link to subscribe on our home page at gracenempls.org.

Two single-stall and wheelchair-accessible restrooms are just outside the sanctuary in the Commons, and another one is down the hallway across from the gym.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND GREETING

The grace of our savior Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

We light candles to mark our days of preparation for Christ's advent, when God will fulfill ancient hopes and transform the weary world.

#252

1 Each win - ter as the year grows old - er, we each grow old - er,
too. The chill sets in a lit - tle cold - er; the
ver - i - ties we knew seem shak - en and un - true.

The image shows a musical score for three staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are written below the staff. The second staff continues the melody and lyrics. The third staff concludes the phrase with a double bar line. The lyrics are: '1 Each win - ter as the year grows old - er, we each grow old - er, too. The chill sets in a lit - tle cold - er; the ver - i - ties we knew seem shak - en and un - true.'

Hear these words from the apostle Paul:

Dear ones, we urge you: comfort the discouraged,
help the weak, be patient with everyone,
rejoice always, pray without ceasing.

May you be found blameless

at our Lord Jesus Christ's coming.

1 Thessalonians 5

O God, our spirits flicker like a solitary candle flame.
Suffuse us with the warmth of your compassion,
and drive away the chill of apathy,
that, revived, we may reach out
to encourage one another, to comfort our neighbors,
and to cooperate in the pursuit of peace. **Amen.**

**O Child of ecstasy and sorrows,
O Prince of peace and pain,
brighten today's world by tomorrow's,
renew our lives again; Lord Jesus, come and reign!**

PEACE

In the tender compassion of our God, the dawn from on high
break upon us, to shine on us who sit the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace. *Luke 1:78-79*

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Please share a sign of peace with others as you are comfortable. When the hymn of praise begins, you may return to your seats and remain standing.

✠ HYMN OF PRAISE *Jesus, What a Wonderful Child* #297



Je - sus, Je - sus, oh, what a won - der - ful child.

Je - sus, Je - sus, so ho - ly, meek, and

mild; new life, new hope the child will bring.

Lis - ten to the an - gels sing: “Glo - ry, glo - ry,

glo - ry,” let the heav - ens ring!

OBJECT LESSON

Any children who are interested and comfortable are invited to come forward for a reflection and short prayer. Parents and guardians are welcome too!

CHORAL OFFERING

As we prepare to hear the Word, music opens our hearts to receive God's blessing.

FIRST READING

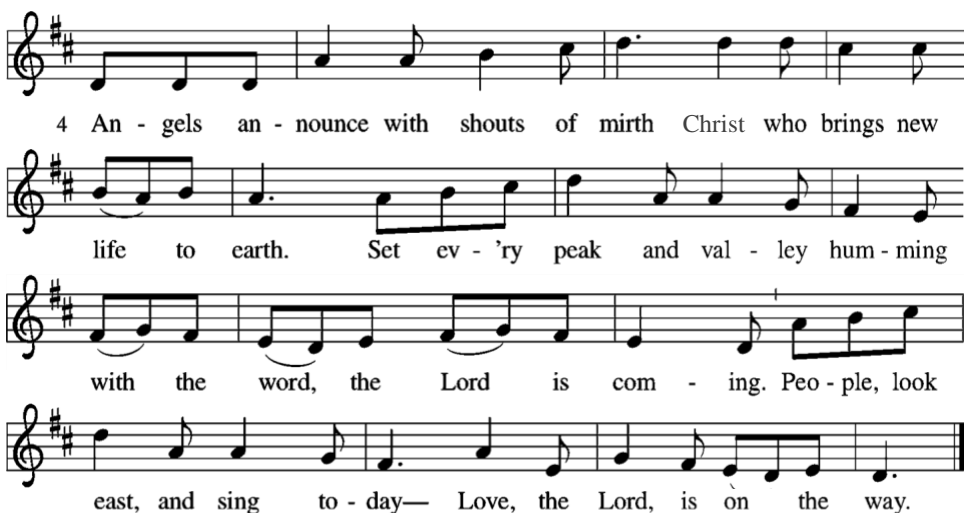
Jeremiah 33:14-16

The time is coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill my gracious promise with the people of Israel and Judah. In those days and at that time, I will raise up a righteous branch from David's line, who will do what is just and right in the land. In those days, Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is what David's heir will be called: "The LORD Is Our Righteousness."

This is the word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Let us rise with glad expectation, for the Savior is near at hand!



4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

✠ GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:5-25

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

During the rule of King Herod of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah. His wife Elizabeth was a descendant of Aaron. They were both righteous before God, blameless in their observance of all the Lord's commandments and regulations. They had no children because Elizabeth was unable to become pregnant and they both were very old...

Listen to this story of surprise and silence unfold.

This is the Good News.

Praise to you, O Christ.

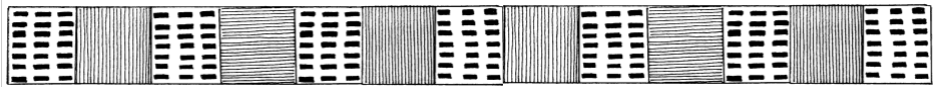
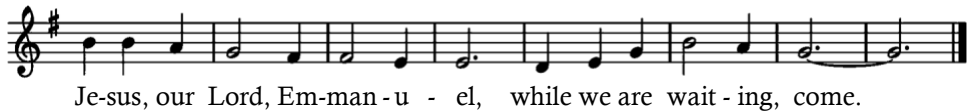
SERMON

guest preacher Erik Nelson

Erik Nelson has called Grace home since 2019 and is under our congregation's care while in the ELCA candidacy process. He is in his third year at Luther Seminary and will serve as a pastoral intern next year. Erik accompanies University of Minnesota students with Lutheran Campus Ministry and leads a weekly Science + Faith bible study on the Saint Paul campus.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

As we wait and watch for Emmanuel's new day, let us pray for the earth and all in need of healing and hope.



OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Grace members invite you to match their generosity and raise \$15,000 for our ministry. Throughout this season of gratitude, we'll hear stories of how this congregation has wrapped people in God's love.

Before and after each story, we'll sing a verse of "Blest Be the Tie that Binds."



1 Blest be the tie that binds our lives in Jesus' - love;
2 As hands, with yarn and thread, cre - ate a quilt to share,



such u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove.
God makes us one and, Spi - rit led, we wrap the world in care.



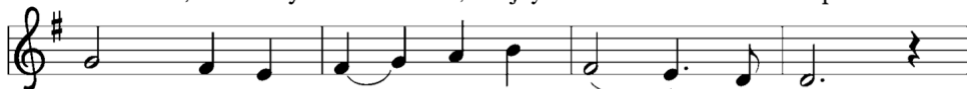
You can give online at gracenempls.org/give or scan the code at the left. You can also place your offering in the plate as you come up for communion. For each \$500 we raise we'll add a quilt square to our progress board, which our crafting ministry will transform into a beautiful blanket.

✠ COMMUNION: SINGING THE STORY

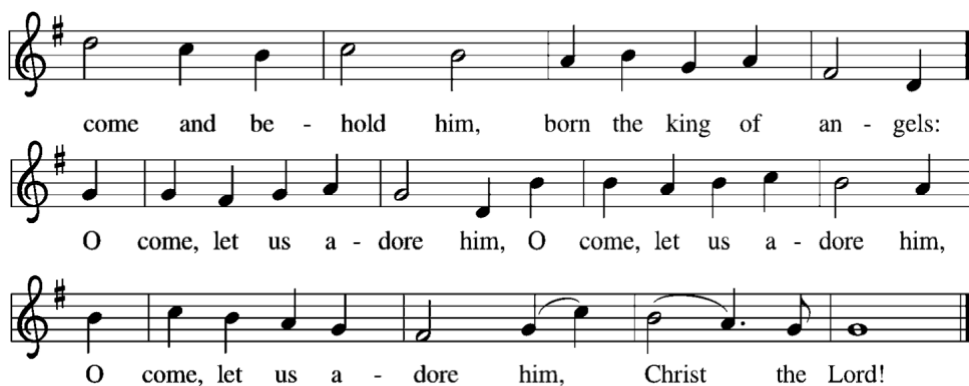
#283



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;



Sharing a table, Jesus and disciples,
blessing and breaking bread he said to them:

“This is my body. Take it and remember.”

**O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

Knowing his time on earth would soon be ending,
Christ took the wine, raised it, blessed it and said:

“For you and all, this is my new covenant.”

**O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

✠ COMMUNION: PRAYER

Holy One, the beginning and the end...

Echo each acclamation of praise as you are invited:

Blessed are you! **Blessed are you!**
Come, Lord Jesus! **Come, Lord Jesus!**
Come, Holy Spirit! **Come, Holy Spirit!**

Even now, you draw near in love,
and so we offer all glory and honor and praise to you:
covenanting Creator,
incarnate Word,
surprising Spirit,
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Yearning for God's coming reign, let us pray:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

Your will be done on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

COMMUNION: SHARING THE MEAL

God comes among us, close enough to cradle.

Come and receive the gift of Christ. **Amen.**

All are welcome at the Lord's table. If you wish to receive, ushers will invite you forward. The pastor will place a piece of bread or a gluten-free cracker in your cupped hand as you hear "Body of Christ, given for you." In the brass trays are cups of red wine or golden grape juice. Take a small cup as you hear, "Cup of Christ, given for you." You may respond with "Amen," "Thank you," or with quiet acceptance.

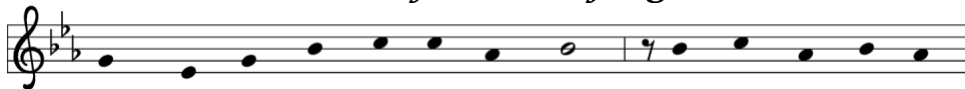
If you cannot come forward but wish to receive communion or a blessing, please let an usher know and the servers will come to you. If for any reason you do not wish to receive, you are welcome to come forward for a blessing with your arms crossed over your chest.

As we celebrate Communion, you may join in singing:

HYMN

Creator of the Stars of Night

#245



1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, your peo - ple's ev - er -
2 When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but not in



last - ing light, O Christ, re - deem - er of us all,
splen - dor bright, not as a mon - arch, but the child

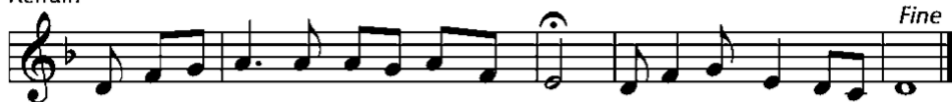


we pray you hear us when we call.
of Mar - y, bless - ed moth - er mild. A - men.

HYMN

My Soul in Stillness Waits

Refrain



For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits; tru-ly my hope is in you.



- 1 O Lord of Light, our on - ly hope of glo - ry,
- 2 O Spring of Joy, rain down up - on our spir - its;
- 3 O Root of Life, im - plant your seed with - in us,
- 4 O Key of Knowl - edge, guide us in our pil - grim-age;
- 5 Come, let us bow be - fore the God who made us;
- 6 Here we shall meet the Mak - er of the heav - ens,



your ra-diance shines in all who look to you; come, light the
 our thirst - y hearts are yearn - ing for your word; come, make us
 and in your ad - vent, draw us all to you, our hope re -
 we ev - er seek, yet un - ful-filled re - main; o - pen to
 let ev - ery heart be o - pened to the Lord, for we are
 Cre - a - tor of the moun-tains and the seas, Lord of the



to Refrain

hearts of all in dark and shad - ow.
 whole, be com - fort to our hearts.
 born in dy - ing and in ris - ing.
 us the path - way of your peace.
 all the peo - ple of God's hand.
 stars, and pres - ent to us now.



✠ POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

Now may the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

Let us pray: **God of promise, we thank you for feeding us at this table. Make our hearts your Spirit's home, that Christ may be born in us today and borne into the world by our acts of compassion and courage. Amen.**

✠ BENEDICTION

God blesses us to take up the mission of Jesus in the power of the Spirit, what Howard Thurman called "the work of Christmas."

When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flock,
the work of Christmas begins:

**to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the human family,
to make music in the heart.**

May the Holy Child bless you and keep you.
May the Holy Spirit shine on you with grace and mercy.
May the Holy One look upon you with favor
and give you peace, now and always. **Amen.**

✠ HYMN

The Bells of Christmas
verses 1, 2, 3, & 6

#298

✠ SENDING

Go in peace. Rejoice in God our savior!
We will. Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

SOURCES AND PERMISSIONS

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ELCA • LGBTQ+ Affirming

Worship with us Sundays at 10 AM

1500 6th Street NE, Minneapolis, MN 55413 • 612-788-2444

www.gracenempls.org

We are called
to love God,
serve neighbors, and
tell the story of Jesus Christ,
welcoming all.



**Help love reach
beyond these walls.**
Scan this QR code
with your phone's
camera app
to give online.

**We're the home of
Little Kitchen Food Shelf,**
a no-boundaries, no-restrictions
food shelf serving all people.

**Little Kitchen
FoodShelf** 

The logo for Little Kitchen Food Shelf features a stylized, abstract design of a cluster of small, dark, circular shapes.

Interested in volunteering?

Find opportunities to serve at gracenempls.org/foodshelf
or email Lynn Mena at admin@gracenempls.org

Need food? Pre-register by phone

9 - 11 AM Monday - Friday, 612-788-2444

Grace Center
for community life

**We're the founders of
Grace Center for Community Life**
empowering lives through
faith, learning, and service.

Interested in reserving space at Grace Center?

Call 612-810-6988 or email Lorrie Stromme at
Lorrie@GraceCtr.org