

GRACE

Second Sunday of Advent December 6, 2020

8:30 a.m.

WELCOME TO GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcome

In the name of Jesus Christ, we welcome you as we hear God's holy Word. We are blessed by your presence, just as you are. As God welcomes all people through the saving grace of Jesus, so do we seek to welcome God's people of all races, social statuses, physical and mental abilities, sexual orientations, and gender identities to be together in Christ – to love, to grow, and to serve. We worship online in an effort to minimize the spread of COVID-19 and encourage you to follow along in this document as you also watch or listen to the live stream of our service. May the Lord bless our worship this day.

Grace Council Statement on Racism

The events that have unfolded in our nation in recent months have reawakened us to the deep divides that still exist within our country. Racism, manifested in individual acts and present throughout systems, continues to prevent us from being the beloved community that God intends. Our faith in the crucified and risen Christ compels us to speak. We speak against the sin of racism. We speak in solidarity with Black people and all people of color, each of whom is precious to God. We stand with and for Black people within our church and school and in the larger community.

We commit ourselves to following Jesus Christ into the world in the hope that, by the Spirit's power, God's Kingdom would come on earth as it is in heaven. We look with hope and anticipation to a season of growth and change as Grace becomes a more faithful witness to God's wide welcome in Christ. We see this as the beginning, not the end, of the conversation. We pray for the Holy Spirit to guide us, and for the courage to follow.

As We Gather

In this second week of Advent we find ourselves wandering with God's people through wilderness and exile. We hear the familiar words from the prophet Isaiah, "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God." Then John the Baptizer appears in his own wilderness joining Isaiah with calls to again "prepare the way of the Lord." Now, in our own wilderness lives, our own exile of sorts, as baptized children of God in a strange land, we find that we have all we need to join Isaiah and John in preparing for that day when "every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain...and when the Lord will feed his flock like a shepherd; and gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom." With a vision and promise like that we plead, prepare the way of the Lord!

+ GATHERING +

PRELUDE: O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

Donald Busarow

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

■ In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

 God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

G Amen.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

- P Gracious God,
- have mercy on us.

We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

- God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.
- **C** Amen.



- who sit in deepest gloom,
 who mourn your joys departed
 and tremble at your doom.
 Despair not; he is near you,
 there, standing at the door,
 who best can help and cheer you
 and bids you weep no more.
- 6 He comes to judge the nations, a terror to his foes,
 a light of consolations
 and blessed hope to those
 who love the Lord's appearing.
 O glorious Sun, now come,
 send forth your beams so cheering
 and guide us safely home.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676; tr. composite Music: WIE SOLL ICH DICH EMPFANGEN, Johan Crüger, 1598–1662

APOSTOLIC GREETING

- ▶ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- **G** And also with you.

Kyrie



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

We sit.

+ WORD +

FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. ³A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." 6A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

The reading continues on the following page.

⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" ¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

The Word of the Lord. L

С Thanks be to God.

PSALM 85:1–2, 8–13

ANTIPHON: Righteousness and peace shall go before the Lord. Mary David Callahan L You have been gracious to your | land, O Lord;* you have restored the good for- | tune of Jacob. **C** You have forgiven the iniquity | of your people* and blotted out | all their sins. L I will listen to what the Lord | God is saying,* for he is speaking peace to his faithful people and to those who turn their | hearts to him. **G** Truly, his salvation is very near to | those who fear him,* that his glory may dwell | in our land. Mercy and truth have | met together;* L righteousness and peace have | kissed each other. Truth shall spring up | from the earth,* С and righteousness shall look | down from heaven.

- The Lord will indeed | grant prosperity,* L and our land will | yield its increase.
- **C** Righteousness shall | go before him,* and peace shall be a pathway | for his feet.

7

SECOND READING: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

¹¹Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ¹⁵and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

- **L** The Word of the Lord.
- **G** Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL VERSE: Luke 3:4, 6

- L Alleluia. Alleluia.
- **G REFRAIN** (below)





- Prepare the way of the Lord.All flesh shall see the salvation of God.
- **C** REFRAIN



HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 1:1-8

▶ The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way;

³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight,""

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

- **P** The Gospel of the Lord.
- **G** Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON: Preparing in Our Wilderness the Way of the Lord

Pastor Troy Medlin Isaiah 40:1–11, Mark 1:1–8



HYMN OF THE DAY: Comfort, Comfort, Now My People



Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1611–1684; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829–1878, alt. Music: FREU DICH SEHR, *Trente quatre pseaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551

NICENE CREED

- **P** Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:
- 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.

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. Jean Philippe Rameau ed. Ronald A. Nelson

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. Charles Wesley, 1707–1788

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each petition concludes:

A Lord, in your mercy,

• hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

- Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, Trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- **G** Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

- Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- 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.

+ SENDING +

BENEDICTION

- P Almighty God: Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
- **G** Amen.



Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953 Music: LUCENT, Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929 Text © 1996 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Music © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

DISMISSAL

- **A** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
- **G** Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Paul Manz

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Troy E. Medlin, presiding minister The Rev. David Kluge, assisting minister The Rev. Michael D. Costello, cantor Dan Krout, tenor Lauren Conley, violinist Eunice Eifert, videographer Julie Hinz, sound board operator

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LET US PRAY...

Maxwell)

Those who are sick and recovering from illness

Rose Mary Anderson	Marilyn Gotsch	Jerry Koenig
Annalise Balock	Carl and Donna Gruendler	Beth Smoots McClanahan
Cathy Barker	David Gruendler	Karen McMahon
Ruth Barker	Kathy Hayes	Jennifer Murtoff
Anne-Marie Bogdan	Patricia Herendeen	Paul Nelson
Ed Borg	Joan Koerber	Tim Sandvoss

Felipe Altamirano (friend of Cathy and Paul Schnittker) Valerie Anderson (friend of Mary Margaret Bartley & Stewart Clarke) Bob Andree (friend of Deb Maxwell) Vera Leora Barnett (friend of Paul Eichwedel) James Beglin (cousin of Cathy Schnittker) Ira Birnbaum (friend of Sandy and David Lentz) Stephanie Bogue and Elva (friends of Pat Anderson) Mike and Beth Bullock (parents of Keith Bullock) Elvis Burleson (son-in-law of Tina Moore) John Cattau (nephew of Dan Cattau) Linda DeMeyere (friend of Randy and Ellie Schnack) Peggy Dickenson (mother of Paul Eichwedel) Jane Duda (friend of Karen Eckstein) Patti and Neal Enslin (friends of Marilyn Heppner) Joan Fudala (mother of Greg Fudala) Gene Fuerstenau (friend of Hans Dumpys) Ray Garmatz (son of Margaret Garmatz) Stacy Gibb and family (friends of Kristin Vogen) Mike Guss (friend of Lance and Stephanie Wilkening) Jerry Haase (friend of Mary Margaret Bartley & Stewart Clarke) Jill Hanssen (niece of Ann Mason) Harry Heppner (brother of Ken Heppner) John Hunt (friend of Ken and Marilyn Heppner) Mia Rose Jones (granddaughter of John and Loretta Lattyak) Doug Kelner (friend of Irmgard and Al Swanson) Don Kersten (brother of Phyllis Kersten) Sally Kindsfater (sister of Mary Jane Endicott) Andrew Korcek (friend of Eunice Spurgat) Ron and Jeanette Koski (parents of Jill Koski) George Kozuchowski (friend of Timothy Douma) Arnold Krubsack (brother of Irmgard Swanson) Kathryn Krubsack (niece of Irmgard Swanson) Marty Krueger (cousin of Irmgard Swanson) Maxx Kusper and family (friends of Deb Maxwell) John Larson (father of Morgan Anderson) Maria Laskowski (friend of Joe Modrich) Lily (friend of Carrie Douma) Karen Luebbe (mother of Jenny, sister of Stan Reddel) Joyce and John Lunde (friends of Susan Messerli) Kari Lyle (sister-in-law of Dave and Erika Lyle) Jim Maggio (brother of Joe Maggio) Jane Martin (mother of Justin Martin) Anne Matthys (mother of Susan Curran)

Denny McClerren (cousin of Stephanie Wilkening) Christopher Miller (friend of Bob and Kathryn Jandeska) Jean Miller (friend of Bill & Ellen Pullin) Monika Nash (daughter of Don and Verna Offermann) Joan Nelson (mother of Julie Modrich) Mary Kay Olson (friend of Paul and Cindy Koester) Rosie Parker (mother of Cameron Parker) Jacob Pletan (great-nephew of Ruth Rehwaldt & Gick Schmidt) James Powers (friend of Al Swanson) Susan Prather (cousin of Adrienne and Ronald Rott) Zach & Ellie Radosevich (grandchildren of Ginny & Frank Swaba) Phillip Rice III (friend of Pat Anderson) Ronald Riley (friend of Al Swanson) John Rohleder (friend of Sandy Grams) Florence Saeger (friend of Karl and Ruth Reko) Shirley Moyers Schnack (sister-in-law of Randy Schnack) John Schuurman (friend of Timothy Douma) Lindsay Shaner (brother of Bob Shaner) Mary Lu Shipstad (friend of Marilyn Heppner) Ken and Lori Shoup (friends of Marilyn Heppner) Zina and Huxley Shoup (friends of Marilyn and Ken Heppner) Ruth Soppet (friend of Bob and Kathryn Jandeska) Nancy Stelling (friend of Pastor Phyllis Kersten) Lee Stephens (brother of Tony) Jennifer Sylvester (daughter of Janet Sylvester) Martin A. Thieme (brother of Susan Franzone) Jan Thomson (sister-in-law of Christine Phillips) Donald Tremper (brother of Virginia Walker) Wes Van Dell (brother of Emily Hartung) Rev. Mark Van Scharrel (friend of Karl and Ruth Reko) Mary Lou and Ron Wagoner (sister and brother-in-law of Stan Reddel) Brian Walden (relative of Pat Gulik) Verna Walsh (aunt of Dan and Deanna Marotz) Sonja Wandro (sister of Al Swanson) Bob Weaver (husband of Gretchen) Lucy White (friend of Mary Beth Logas) Fr. Dennis Woerter (friend of Grace E. Marotz) Elise Wojack (niece of Pat Gulik) Kathie Wolff (friend of Tim Duoma)

Marge Sanger Pat Scala Carl Schalk Ron Serpico Madison Staples Rich and Bonnie Stasack

Leone, Gracie, and Brian Maxwell (cousins of Tom and Deb

Veronica Zurowski (mother of Tom)

Benevolence ministries

New Moms

For those who mourn

Rob Kay (brother of Tom Kay) **Gail Ravitts** (mother of Tammy Bretscher)

Those serving in the armed services

Timothy Berghaus (grandson of Len and Judy Berghaus) Kevin Buss (nephew of Christa Krout) Reid Beveridge (son-in-law of the Schnacks) David Danford (son of John and Karen) E. Michael Garcia Goetting (son of Mary Goetting) Matthew Garmatz (grandson of Margaret Garmatz) Bradley Larson (cousin of Rhea Sprecher)

Those in the foreign service

Julie Kmet (friend of Ed and Susan Schumacher) Kari Paetzold (niece of Jim and Sharman Galezewski)

Those studying abroad

Colleen Lattyak *(Germany)* Drew Krueger *(England)*

Those who are homebound

Barbara Bunjes	Marian Hogue
Christopher Davis	Carolyn Martin
Marie Gierke	Joanne Nelson
Ronald Gresens	Barbara Rinnan
Gloria Hillert	Kathleen Wrobel

Those who need encouragement

Bruce Burnside (friend of Bob and Margaret Burke) in Oregon Correctional Center Cheryl Luchetta (friend of Joan Koerber) in Logan Correctional Center

Sonny Putman (nephew of Susan Franzone) Rusty Robb (grandnephew of Margaret Kruse/Roberta Gillespie) Jason Brown (nephew of Tim and Sue Sandvoss) Matthew Shinkwin (friend of Eunice Spurgat) Christopher W. Sylvester (grandson of Janet Sylvester)

Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church

We are glad that you are worshipping with us!

If you are visiting us for the first time or would like to learn more about Grace, please complete this form, detach, and place it in the offering plate.

NAME(S)
E-MAIL ADDRESS
MAILING ADDRESS
CITY/STATE/ZIP
PHONE NUMBER

Check all that apply:

- I am visiting Grace for the first time.
- I would like to know more about Grace Church.
- **I** am interested in a path toward membership.
- I would like to know more about Grace School.
- □ I would like to receive Grace's weekly e-mail, Sunday Is Coming.
- □ I would like one of the pastors to contact me via (check one) □ Phone or □ E-mail.

GRACE LUHHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

7300 Division Street River Forest, Illinois 60305 Phone: (708) 366-6900 Fax: (708) 366-0966

www.graceriverforest.org gracechurch@graceriverforest.org David R. Lyle, Senior Pastor Troy E. Medlin, Associate Pastor F. Dean Lueking, Pastor Emeritus Michael D. Costello, Cantor Jeremy Zimmer, Assistant Cantor William Koehne, Principal Gerald Koenig, Principal Emeritus Pat Gulik, Parish Nurse Julie Modrich, Children's Ministry Coordinator Gwen Gotsch, Communications Coordinator Jim McClanahan, Director of Administration & Finance Rich Brooks, Facilities Manager

Bring in, build up, and send out disciples for Jesus Christ