

GRACE

Third Sunday of Advent December 13, 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

Who are you? This was the question on everyone's mind in response to John's preaching. Was he the Messiah, Elijah, a prophet? No. John, in fact, has no interest in telling them anything about himself. His job is to prepare the way, pointing to the One who is to come. In the wilderness of sin and death, John points to Jesus, who will dress us with the promised garments of salvation. In baptism, our old life comes to an end. Who I am is now defined by the I Am. In Christ, we see our tears transformed into songs of joy as righteousness erupts all around us.

+ GATHERING +

PRELUDE: Prepare the Royal Highway

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

G 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.

Paul Manz

ENTRANCE HYMN: Prepare the Royal Highway



Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent. Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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 the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

+ WORD +

FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; ²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³to provide for those who mourn in Zion to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. ⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. ⁸For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. ⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.

The reading continues on the following page.

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 126

ANTIPHON: The Lord has lifted up the lowly.

- L When the Lord restored the for- | tunes of Zion,* then were we like | those who dream.
- Then was our mouth | filled with laughter,* and our tongue with | shouts of joy.
- L Then they said a- | mong the nations,* "The Lord has done great | things for them."
- The Lord has done great | things for us,* and we are | glad indeed.
- L Restore our for- | tunes, O Lord,* like the watercourses | of the Negev.

• Those who | sowed with tears* will reap with | songs of joy.

L Those who go out weeping, carry- | ing the seed,* will come again with joy, shoulder- | ing their sheaves.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil.

²³May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

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

Mary David Callahan

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



L I am sending my messenger before you, who will prepare your way before you.

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C REFRAIN
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HOLY GOSPEL: John 1:6-8, 19-28

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²²Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³He said,

"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,

'Make straight the way of the Lord,"

as the prophet Isaiah said.

²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" ²⁶John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

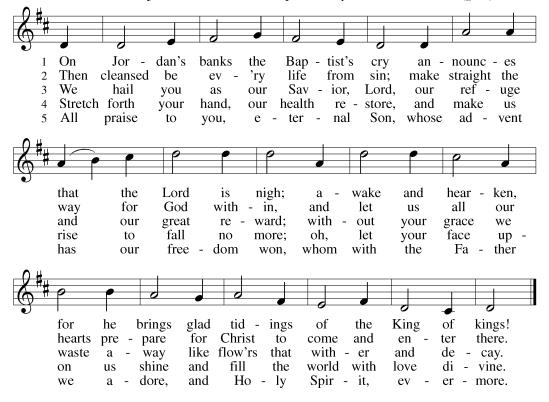
- **P** The Gospel of the Lord.
- **G** Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON: I Am Not

Pastor David. R. Lyle John 1:6–8, 19–28

HYMN OF THE DAY: On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry



Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. composite Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621



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.

ANTHEM: Rejoice Greatly

Healey Willan

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion, shout, O daughter of Jerusalem. Rejoice, O daughter of Zion, rejoice, O daughter of Jerusalem. Behold, the King cometh unto thee, Zechariah 9:9

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each petition concludes:

A Lord, in your mercy,

G 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.

SENDING HYMN: People, Look East



Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965 Music: BESANCON, French carol; arr. Barry Rose, b. 1934 Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates. Arr. © 1999 Novello & Company Ltd., London, United Kingdom. All rights reserved. International copyright secured.

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE: La Réjouissance

Georg Friederich Händel

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Troy E. Medlin, presiding minister The Rev. David R. Lyle, preaching minister Rebecca Dahlstrom, assisting minister The Rev. Michael D. Costello, cantor Ellie Beck and Sadie Beck, soloists Daniel Johnson, trombonists Eunice Eifert, videographer Julie Hinz, sound board operator

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LET US PRAY...

Those who are sick and recovering from illness

Rose Mary Anderson Annalise Balock Cathy Barker Ruth and **Jim Barker** Anne-Marie Bogdan Ed Borg Marilyn Gotsch Carl and Donna Gruendler David Gruendler Kathy Hayes Patricia Herendeen Joan Koerber Jerry Koenig **Margaret Kruse**

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) Linda DeMeyere (friend of Randy and Ellie Schnack) Peggy Dickenson (mother of Paul Eichwedel) Jane Duda (friend of Karen Eckstein) David Eastman and family (brother of Pat Anderson) 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)

Beth Smoots McClanahan Karen McMahon Jennifer Murtoff Paul Nelson Tim Sandvoss Marge Sanger Pat Scala Carl Schalk Ron Serpico Madison Staples Rich and Bonnie Stasack

Leone, Gracie, and Brian Maxwell (cousins of Tom and Deb Maxwell) 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) Randi Woodworth (sister of Tammy Bretscher) Veronica Zurowski (mother of Tom)

Benevolence ministries

The Night Ministry

For those who mourn

Elvis Burleson (son-in-law of Tina Moore) Richard Cattau (brother of Dan Cattau) Marian Hogue (mother of Merrily Smith)

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	
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 Oakhill 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

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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