

# Second Sunday in Advent

December 4, 2011



**“Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.”**

**-Luke 3:4**



*From the fullness of his GRACE we have all received one blessing after another.*

*John 1:16*

## DIVINE SERVICE I

*Christian Worship Supplement*

CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS CHOIR (10:00 AM)

Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful  
*Christian Worship #55*

WELCOME

HYMN

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry  
*Christian Worship #16*

STAND

**MINISTER:** In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.**CONGREGATION:** Amen.

## CONFESSION OF SINS

**M:** Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.**C:** Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray; Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

## LORD, HAVE MERCY

*Kyrie**Please join in singing the response below following a brief introduction:*

C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy

on us. Lord have mer - cy on us. A - men.

**M:** God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.**C:** Amen.

## PRAYER AND PRAISE

**M:** In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

# GLORY TO GOD

*Gloria in Excelsis*

*Please join in singing the response below following a brief introduction:*

C: Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his peo-ple on earth. Lord God,  
heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we  
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry! Glo - ry to God in the  
high - est and peace to his peo - ple on earth. *(music)* Lord Je - sus  
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. You are seat - ed at the  
right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer, re - ceive our prayer.  
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth. For  
you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,  
you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the  
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and  
peace to his peo - ple on earth. Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God!

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**M:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** And also with you.

**M:** Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** Amen.

*BE SEATED*

## THE WORD

### FIRST LESSON

**Isaiah 40:1-11**

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. A voice of one calling: "In the desert prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out." And I said, "What shall I cry?" "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field. The grass

withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people are grass. The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever." You who bring good tidings to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and his arm rules for him. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

### SECOND LESSON

**2 Peter 3:8-14**

But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people

ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness. So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.

## VERSE OF THE DAY

**Luke 3:4, 6**

**M:** Alleluia. Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. All mankind will see God's salvation. Alleluia.

## GOSPEL

Mark 1:1-8

*After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:*



The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in Isaiah the prophet: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way"—"a voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'" And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him.

Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And this was his message: "After me will come one more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

*After the Gospel, the congregation sings:*



## 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 fully 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 in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian 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.**

**BE SEATED**

## HYMN OF THE DAY

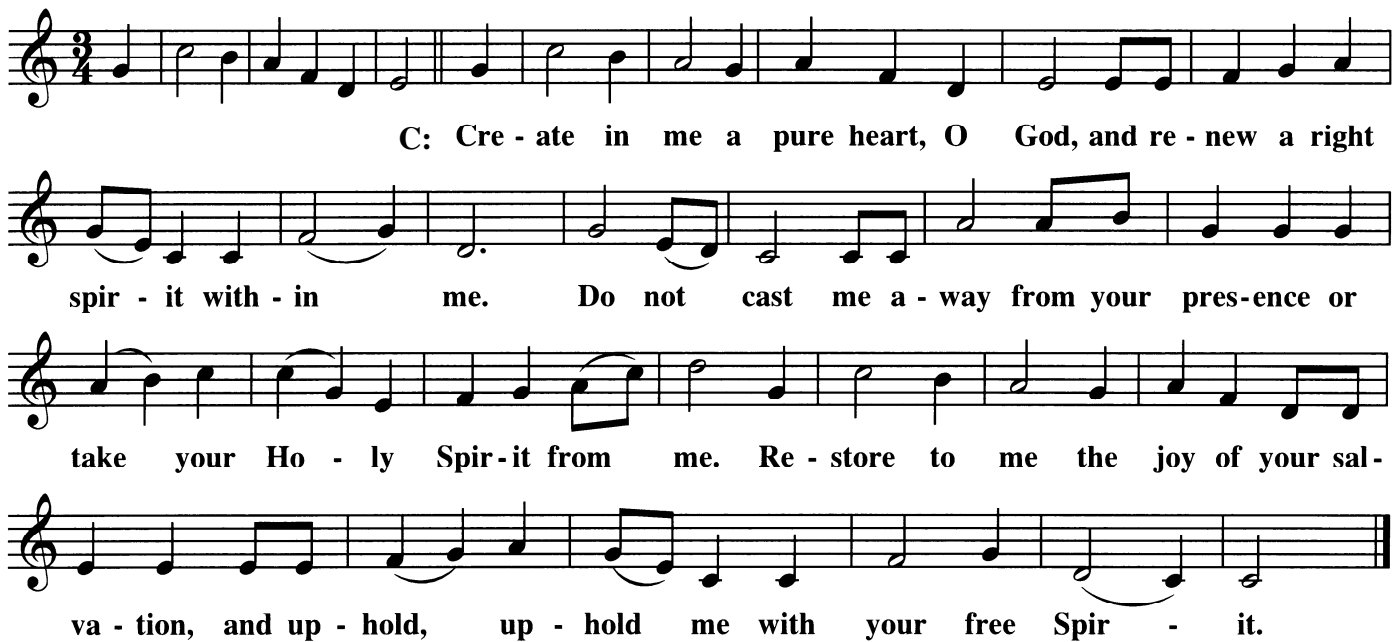
**Comfort, Comfort All My People**  
*Christian Worship #11*

## SERMON

**2 Peter 3:8-14**  
**We're Not There Yet**

**STAND**

After the sermon, please join in singing the response below following a brief introduction:



C: Cre - ate in me a pure heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Do not cast me a - way from your pres-ence or  
take your Ho - ly Spir-it from me. Re - store to me the joy of your sal-  
va - tion, and up - hold, up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

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#### BE SEATED

**OFFERING** *Members of Grace respond to their Savior's love with offerings that are given joyfully, generously, regularly, and in a way that is proportionate to how the Lord has blessed them. Their cheerful gifts support the mission and ministry of our congregation. If you are a guest today, please know that we do not expect you to contribute to our congregation's work. However, if you would like to give an offering to the Lord in response to his love to you, we are happy to receive it and put it to work in God's kingdom.*

*Please fill out the Friendship Register located in the red folder at the end of the pew and pass it along. Thank You!*

#### OFFERTORY MUSIC

7:45 AM

**Prepare the Royal Highway**  
*Christian Worship Supplement #702*

10:00 AM

**Prepare the Royal Highway**  
*By Berden Väg För Heran*

#### STAND

#### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH—ADVENT

**M:** Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

**C:** We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.

**M:** As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

**C:** **Move us to take to heart the words of John: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.”**

**M:** You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

**C:** **Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.**

**M:** Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

**C:** **Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

**M:** Hear us, Lord, as we bring your our private petitions.

*Silent Prayer.*

**M:** Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

**C:** **Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**C:** **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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

*7:45 AM - Please continue on page 7 with the Words of Institution.*

## **THE SACRAMENT**

### **PREFACE**

**M:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** **And also with you.**

**M:** Lift up your hearts.

**C:** **We lift them up to the Lord.**

**M:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C:** **It is good and right so to do.**

**M:** It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er, God of might:  
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san - na in the high -  
 est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -  
 na in the high - est. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

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## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

**M:** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C:** Amen.

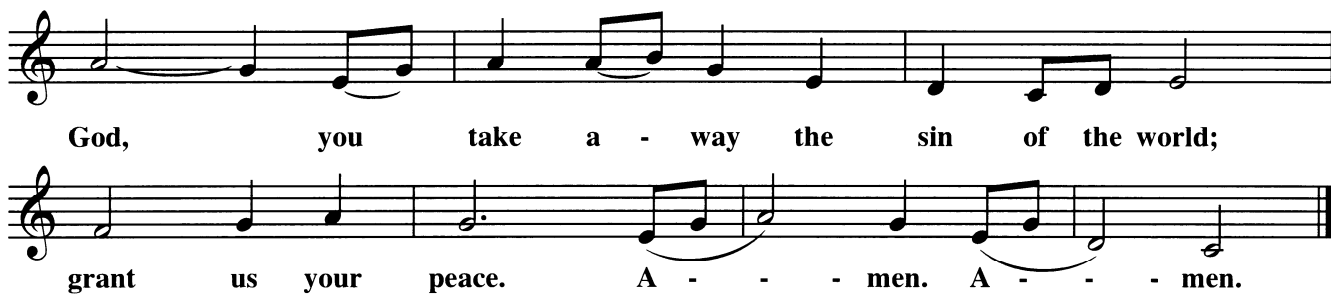
## O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

*Agnus Dei*

*Please join in singing the response below following a brief introduction:*

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
 mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
 sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of





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## BE SEATED

## DISTRIBUTION

*Our church practices "Member Communion." If you are a guest today and are a confirmed member of another WELS church, we invite you to the Lord's Table with us. If you are a guest today and are not a member of one of our Wisconsin Synod churches, we ask that you would speak to one of the pastors after church today or at some other time to discuss receiving the Lord's Supper with us in the future.*

## DISTRIBUTION MUSIC (7:45 AM)

**Humbly We Adore Thee**  
*By Michael Larkin*

## DISTRIBUTION HYMN (10:00 AM)

**Blest Be the God of Israel**  
*Christian Worship #275*

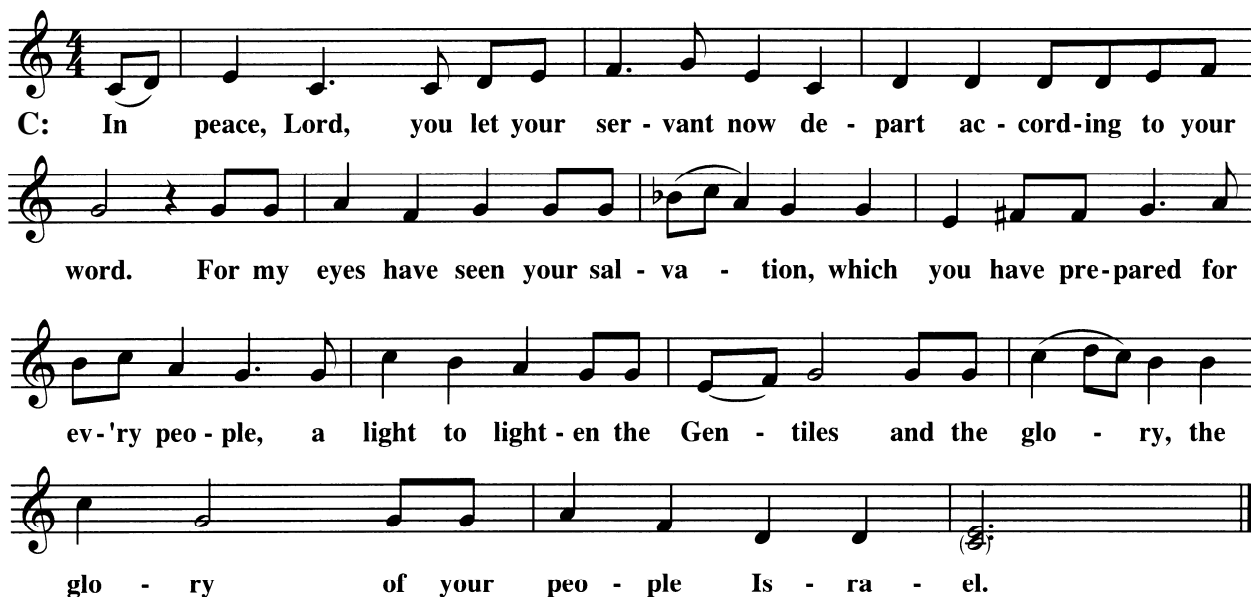
## STAND

## THANKSGIVING

## SONG OF SIMEON

*Nunc Dimittis*

*Please join in singing the response below following a brief introduction:*



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**M:** O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

**C:** And his mercy endures forever.

**M:** We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this Holy Supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** Amen.

**M:** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

**C:** Amen.

*BE SEATED*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

<b>HYMN</b>	<b>Hosanna to the Coming Lord</b> <i>Christian Worship #21</i>
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<b>POSTLUDE</b>	<b>7:45 AM</b>	<b>Rise, Arise</b> <i>Christian Worship #30</i>
	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>Tell Out My Soul</b> <i>Setting by Paul Manz</i>

**THOSE ASSISTING IN WORSHIP THIS MORNING**

**Preacher** ..... Pastor Nathan Kassulke

**Worship Leader** ..... Pastor Colin Rieke, *Grace’s Mission Pastor to Vail* (10:00 AM)

**Communion Assistants** ..... Pastor Sam Clemons, Pastor Ron Koehler (10:00 AM)

**Accompanists** ..... Gloria Gerds & Amanda Schulz (7:45 AM)  
Tina Christianson (10:00 AM)

**Pianist** ..... Kathy Parra (10:00 AM)

**Clarinets** ..... Beth Kassulke & Missy Wiechmann (10:00 AM)

**Sound & Recording Tech** ..... Chris Stuhr (10:00 AM)



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### ***To Aid You in Worship...***

- LARGE PRINT BULLETINS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX. ASK A GREETER OR USHER FOR A COPY.
- *For those with young children:* A private Mother's Room is located across the courtyard in the Ladies' Restroom. Parents of young children may also use the Child Care Room in the basement at any time to quiet and care for them (the service can be heard in both locations).
- Sermon copies & service CDs are available in the narthex.

## **Welcome to Grace!**

**Our mission at Grace** is to teach the inspired and inerrant Word of God, to proclaim that Jesus Christ is the crucified and risen Savior of the world and to nurture believers for lives of Christian service.

### **Holy Communion**

There are before-communion and after-communion prayers in our Christian Worship hymnal on p. 11, and a personal preparation guide on p.156 to help prepare you to receive the Lord's Supper. If you are a guest with us today, please see p. 8 in today's worship folder under "Distribution" for information about our practice of Member Communion.

**Altar flowers** have been given by the Morris and Sloyan families in thanks to God for blessings, in celebration of Vera Hess' 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday, and in memory of Verna Retberg.

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#### ***Read Ahead for Next Sunday:***

Malachi 4:1-6  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24  
John 1:6-8, 19-28

#### ***Next Sun. Sermon Text & Theme:***

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24  
*How to Prepare for Christ's Coming*

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### **You Are Invited**

You are invited to a coffee fellowship following 10:00 AM worship today hosted by the Morris and Sloyan families. Please join us in the courtyard.

### **Usher Training TODAY**

There will be usher training immediately following the 10:00 AM service **TODAY**. All ushers who are currently serving, and all who would like to serve are asked to attend. Please contact Mark Christianson at 575-0168 if you have any questions.

### **Thrivent Presentation TODAY**

If you are 70½ years old and have an IRA—or you know someone in that situation—there is something you need to know about before the end of the year. Grace has invited Thrivent Financial for Lutherans representatives to provide a very brief explanation to you of how to manage this unique tax situation well. You will also have the opportunity to ask questions. **They will start the presentation at 11:15 AM in the fellowship hall.** This is a free professional service provided to Grace members and friends. You do not need to be a Thrivent member to attend this short presentation. As managers of God's gifts with the desire to be smart about handling money, you will appreciate this opportunity!

### **Advent Services and Suppers**

Our Advent theme this year is "Who is the Coming Savior?" We will celebrate Midweek Advent Services December 7 and December 14. We will have a morning Advent service at 10:00 AM and an evening service at 7:00 PM. You are also invited to join us for supper at 6:00 PM before the evening service. We do need some volunteers to host the meals (individuals, families, groups, or any combination). Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall if you'd like to help in this way! There is also an additional sheet with more information about hosting a meal.

## This Week's Schedule (12/4/11 - 12/11/11)

### Today

- Worship Services/Communion.....7:45 & 10:00a
- Children's Christmas Service Rehearsal.....8:45a
- Youth Confirmation Class (Christmas Rehearsal) .....8:45a
- Adult Bible Classes:
  - *The Life of Christ: The Baptism of Jesus*.....9:00a
  - *Grow in Grace Class* (Conference Room in Office).....9:00a
- Lifeliners (High School Group): *Bible Study* .....9:00a
- Coffee Fellowship Following 10 AM Worship .....
- Usher Training in Church** ..... 11:15a
- Thrivent Presentation in Fellowship Hall** ..... 11:15p
- WELS Tucson Campus Ministry Bible Study ..... 7:00p

### Monday

- Financial Peace University in Vail..... 12:00p
- English as a Second Language Classes..... 6:30p

### Tuesday

- Handbell Practice..... 5:30p
- English as a Second Language Classes..... 6:30p

### Wednesday

- Midweek Advent Worship** ..... 10:00a
- Wind Ensemble Practice..... 5:30p
- Advent Supper in the Fellowship Hall ..... 6:00p
- Midweek Advent Worship** ..... 7:00p

### Thursday

- Women's Bible Class: *Prayer* .....9:00a
- Financial Peace University at Grace ..... 6:30p
- Worship Choir..... 6:30p
- Men's Bible Study ..... 7:30p

### Friday

- In-Betweeners' Christmas Party** ..... 5:00p

### Saturday

- Children's Christmas Eve Service Rehearsal.... 9:00a-12:00p
- Christian Fellowship Christmas Potluck**..... 12:00p

### Sunday

- Worship Services .....7:45 & 10:00a
- Children's Christmas Eve Service Rehearsal.....8:45a
- Youth Confirmation Class (Christmas Rehearsal) .....8:45a
- Adult Bible Classes:
  - *The Life of Christ: The Baptism of Jesus* .....9:00a
  - *Grow in Grace Class* (Conference Room in Office) .....9:00a
- Lifeliners (High School Group): *Bible Study* .....9:00a
- Grace-Vail Service at Cottonwood Elementary** .....9:00a
- Coffee Fellowship Following 10 AM Worship .....
- WELS Tucson Campus Ministry Bible Study..... 7:00p

### In-Betweeners' White Elephant Party

The In-Betweeners will have a White Elephant Christmas party on Friday, December 9 at 5:00 PM at the clubhouse of Cinda Drescher & Geri DeRosa (the clubhouse is at the end of the street just south of their home, 5716 N. Camino De Las Estrellas). There is also parking at the end of the next street, Camino Noche. The meat and beverages will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share and a wrapped White Elephant gift. If you have questions call Cinda or Geri at 615-6059. *This is a once a year social activity that is open to all adults.*

### Christian Fellowship Group Christmas Potluck

The Christian Fellowship Group will hold their annual Potluck Christmas Party at Jo Davis' home (1899 W. Camelot) on Saturday, December 10 at noon. Following the meal Christmas carols will be sung. Call Jo at 624-9156 if you need directions. *The Christian Fellowship Group provides people 55 and older with an opportunity to enjoy the company of others on a very informal basis. All are welcome to come December 10!*

### Saguaro Circuit Supports Mission Work

The offerings from the Tucson Area Reformation Service in October were designated for the outreach efforts of the Saguaro Circuit, which includes Dove Mountain, Grace, Holy Cross, Shepherd of the Hills, and Redeemer. In the November meeting of the circuit, the Tucson pastors chose to give those offerings, along with some other funds, to the mission congregation in our circuit, Dove Mountain Lutheran Church. The total gift to Dove Mountain was \$1963.29. Thank you for your gifts to the Lord as we work together to share Christ!

### TVs & Equipment Available

The 36" TVs and equipment that used to be in the Fellowship Hall are now available for donation. Please talk to Jeff Weinstein (909-7649) or call the church office (623-6633) if you are interested in them.



## Grace-Vail Opening Service – December 11 at 9:00 AM

Next Sunday, December 11, Grace-Vail will hold their opening worship service at Cottonwood Elementary School (9950 E. Rees Loop). As we begin our journey of being “one church at two sites,” Grace members are invited and encouraged to participate in worship services at both locations. Consider joining us at Grace-Vail for one (or more) of our four monthly services as we gear up to our LAUNCH on April 1. Many members of Grace have already helped get the word out about Grace-Vail in a variety of ways. Take a look at the display case in the courtyard to see what they’ve been doing.

## Tuition Tax Credit

Students from Grace at Redeemer Lutheran School and Arizona Lutheran Academy have received over \$30,000 this year in tuition tax credit awards. You can help support Lutheran education and receive a credit on your Arizona state income taxes (up to \$500 per person and up to your income tax liability). Donations made to the HELP Scholarship Foundation before the end of the year will be awarded to students in early spring. Please make use of this program if you are able to do so. If you have any questions, please speak to Stephanie Weinstein (623-3759) or one of the pastors. **Pick up a flyer and a donation form brochure in the Fellowship Hall.**

Grace currently has 11 students enrolled at Redeemer and 5 at ALA.

## Anniversary Scrapbook DVDs

There are DVDs available of the 100th Anniversary Scrapbook if you were unable to view it during the anniversary celebrations. The DVDs are \$1 each and include all the pictures that are found in the scrapbook. The DVDs can be purchased from the Kramms, Groruds, or Rauhs on Sunday mornings. Please contact Diane Kramm if you have any questions at 743-5134.

## Entertainment Books

Entertainment Coupon Books are available from the Lifeliners for \$30 this week and next. Our Entertainment Book Fundraiser needs to be completed after next weekend. These books include a number of valuable coupons and two-for-one offers at local restaurants and businesses. Visit the Lifeliner table in the Courtyard to learn more. Also available: Bible Verse Calendars for \$8 (or 2 for \$15).

## HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### Midweek Advent Services

Wednesday, December 7 & 14  
at 10:00 AM & 7:00 PM with a supper at 6:00 PM.

### Christmas Eve Children’s Service

Saturday, December 24 at 7:00 PM.

### Christmas Day Festival Worship

Sunday, December 25 at 10:00 AM.

**\*Please note that there will only be one service that day.**

### New Year’s Eve Worship

Saturday, December 31 at 7:00 PM.



## Cans for the Women of Grace

The Women of Grace are collecting aluminum cans and will use the recycling proceeds for upcoming projects. If you have cans please bring them to Grace and put them in the receptacle located just inside the parking lot gates.

# **"Chrismons"**

## **Christ-Monograms**

*Chrismons are symbols that proclaim Jesus' name and his works of salvation for us. Here are explanations for the Chrismons you see on our Christmas trees.*



THE ANCHOR CROSS represents our certain hope of salvation anchored in Christ.



THE BUDDED CROSS with its trefoil ends emphasizes the Trinity.



THE CELTIC CROSS has a circle in the middle symbolizing eternity. Because it has ancient ties to Christians in Ireland, Iona and Scotland, it is also called the Irish or Iona Cross.



THE CROSS WITH ORB symbolizes the world united under Christ, as the Lord cares for heaven and earth.



THE GREEK CROSS has four arms of equal length. Early Greek artists used this cross.



IHS is the acrostic of the first three letters of Jesus' name in Greek (**Ιησους**). Various meanings have been attached to each letter. The horizontal line that forms the cross is the sign for an abbreviation.



THE IOTA CROSS is the first letter of "Jesus" in Greek (**I=IOTA**) combined with the first letter of "Christ" in Greek (**X=CHI**).



THE JERUSALEM CROSS (also known as the CRUSADER'S CROSS) represents the city of peace. The 5 crosses represent the 5 wounds of our Lord. The 4 smaller crosses are also said to represent the spread of the gospel to the 4 corners of the earth.



THE MALTESE CROSS is comprised of 4 arms shaped like spear-heads. Each points to the center, with the broad end having 2 points. The 8 points in all represent the beatitudes (Matt. 5:3-10). This is the emblem of John the Baptist. The cross was the emblem of the Knights of St. John, who were driven from Rhodes to the island of Malta by the Turks. Malta is the island where St. Paul was shipwrecked.



THE ROMAN CROSS consists of the Latin Cross and the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, the alpha (**Α**) and omega (**Ω**) symbolizing Jesus as the Eternal One: the 'First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.' Though he died on the cross, he reigns in glory forever.



THE STAR (NATAL) CROSS reminds us of the star that marked our Savior's birth.

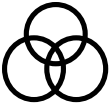


THE TAU CROSS, shaped like the Greek letter **Τ** (tau), depicts the type of cross Moses is believed to have raised in the desert with the serpent on it. It is also the traditional sign that Israelites made with lamb's blood on their doorposts in Egypt on the night of Passover. Therefore this is the cross of penitence and prophecy.





CHALICE AND WAFER represent the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.



THREE INTERLACING CIRCLES represent the three distinct persons of the Holy Trinity, yet just one God.



THE DESCENDING DOVE symbolizes the Holy Spirit, remembering the baptism of Jesus when he descended in the form of a dove.



THE TABLET OF STONE is a symbol of the Ten Commandments given by God to Moses on Mt. Sinai.



THE BUTTERFLY brings to mind our Lord's resurrection from the dead and reminds us that all believers in Christ will also rise to eternal life. The first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, the alpha (Α) and omega (Ω) are sometimes added to signify the eternal life enjoyed by those who die in the Lord.



THE CROSS CROWN is a symbol of the Kingship of our Lord, reminding us that he is the King of kings and the Lord of lords. It also reminds us of the crown of life given to believers for their lives of faith.



THE CHI-RHO is a monogram consisting of the first two Greek letters of 'Christ', **Χ** and **Ρ**.



THE FISH is the most ancient symbol of Christ. Christians drew the image of the fish to identify each other in times of persecution. The Greek word for fish is **ΙΧΘΥΣ** (ichthus). The acrostic represents this meaning: **Ι**=Jesus **Χ**=Christ **Θ**=God's **Υ**=Son **Σ**=Savior.



THE 5-POINTED STAR/EPIPHANY STAR represents the star of Bethlehem and is shaped roughly like a human being representing Christ's incarnation.



THE 6-POINTED STAR/CREATOR'S STAR/STAR OF DAVID symbolizes creation. Each point refers to a day of God's creating work.



THE TREFOIL AND TRIANGLE is a symbol of the Holy Trinity showing both the unity of the Godhead as well as the diversity of the Persons.

*May these Christian symbols enrich your worship and fill your Christmas celebration with even more meaning and joy!*

