Third Sunday in Advent

December 11, 2011





DIVINE SERVICE I

Christian Worship Supplement

WELCOME

HYMN

Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes

Christian Worship #12

STAND

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

CONGREGATION: Amen.

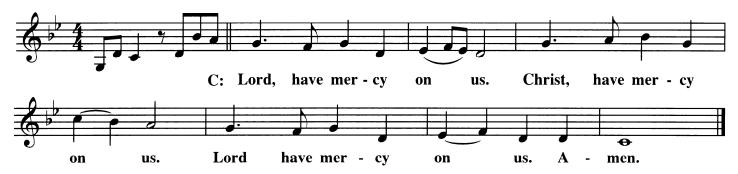
CONFESSION OF SINS

- 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:



- 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.

Gloria in Excelsis

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



PRAYER OF THE DAY

- **M:** The Lord be with you.
- C: And also with you.
- M: Let us pray. Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C: Amen.

BE SEATED

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

- M: We light three Advent candles remembering Jesus, the Light of the world. He came to defeat the prince of darkness.
- C: We remember Jesus, who came in answer to his people's prayers. John proclaimed him the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.
- **M:** We hear his call to see the light.
- C: We light three Advent candles as a sign of our trust and confidence.
- **M:** Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.
- C: Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.

Three Advent candles are lit.

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON Malachi 4:1-6

"Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and that day that is coming will set them on fire," says the LORD Almighty. "Not a root or a branch will be left to them. But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings. And you will go out and leap like calves released from the stall. Then you will trample down the wicked; they will be ashes under the soles of

your feet on the day when I do these things," says the LORD Almighty. "Remember the law of my servant Moses, the decrees and laws I gave him at Horeb for all Israel. See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse."

Refrain





- 1. In you, O LORD, I have taken / refuge;* let me never be / put to shame.
- 2. Rescue me and deliver me in your / righteousness;* turn your ear to me and / save me.
- 3. Be my rock of refuge to which I can / always go;* for you are my rock and my / fortress.

Refrain

4. Since my youth, O God, you have / taught me,* and to this day I declare your mar- / velous deeds.

- 5. Even when I am / old and gray,* do not forsake / me, O God,
- 6. till I declare your power to the next gener- / ation,* your might to all who / are to come.
- 7. Glory be to the Father and / to the Son* and to the Holy / Spirit, as it was in the be-/ginning,* is now, and will be forever. / Amen.

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not put out the Spirit's fire; do not treat prophecies with contempt. Test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil. May

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Matthew 11:10

M: Alleluia. I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia.

WORSHIP CHOIR (10:00 AM)

I Hear the Prophet Calling Words & Music by Pepper Choplin

GOSPEL John 1:6-8, 19-28

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. Now this was John's testimony when the Jews of Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Christ." They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us.

What do you say about yourself?" John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the desert, 'Make straight the way for the Lord." Now some Pharisees who had been sent questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" "I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know. He is the one who comes after me, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie." This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

BE SEATED

HYMN OF THE DAY

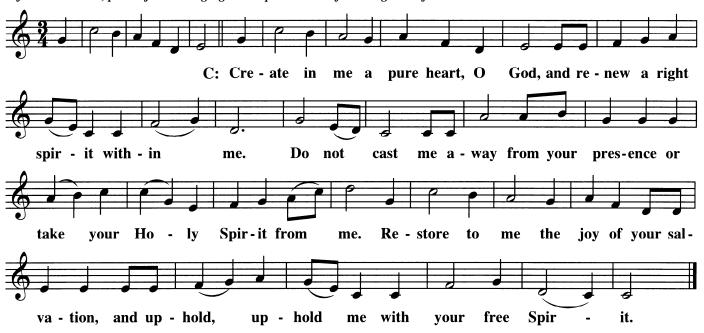
There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying

Christian Worship #13

SERMON

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

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



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

Give Thanks

Text & Tune by Henry Smith

10:00 AM

Advent Hymn

By Don Besig & Nancy Price

STAND

6

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.

BE SEATED

HYMN

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You Christian Worship #18

STAND

- M: Almighty God, grant to your Church the Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes from above. Let nothing hinder your Word from being freely proclaimed to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, so that we may serve you in steadfast faith and confess your name as long as we live, through 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

HYMN

How Blest Are They Who Hear *Christian Worship #325*

POSTLUDE

7:45 AM We Praise You, O God, Our Redeemer

10:00 AM On Jordan's Bank

Arr. by Valerie Floeter By Michael Burkhardt



830 N. First Avenue Tucson, Arizona 85719

Phone: 623-6633 Fax: 623-1514

Grace Website:
GraceTucsonWELS.com

Administrative Assistant:

Cora Kosanke office@gracetucsonwels.com

Pastors:

Ronald G. Koehler III revrgk3@gracetucsonwels.com

Nathan P. Kassulke revnpk@gracetucsonwels.com

Samuel M. Clemons revsmc@gracetucsonwels.com

Colin M. Rieke revcmr@gracetucsonwels.com

Counselor:

Cinda Drescher cinda@gracetucsonwels.com

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.

THOSE ASSISTING IN WORSHIP THIS MORNING

Preacher	Pastor Ron Koehler
Worship Leader	Pastor Sam Clemons (10:00 AM)
Accompanists	Kathy Parra (7:45 AM)
	Teri Guenther (10:00 AM)
Acolyte	Elizabeth Colton (10:00 AM)
Worship Choir Director	Teri Guenther (10:00 AM)
Brass Ensemble Director	Missy Wiechmann (10:00 AM)
Sound & Recording Tech	Jeremy Snavely (10:00 AM)

Altar flowers have been given by Pat Messer in memory of her mother, Lois Allen.

Read Ahead for Next Sunday:

2 Samuel 7:8-16 Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38 Next Sun. Sermon Text & Theme:

Luke 1:26-38

Answering the Call

You Are Invited

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

Advent Services and Suppers

Our Advent theme this year is "Who is the Coming Savior?" We have one more Midweek Advent Service this Wednesday, 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 meal this week (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.

Men's Fellowship This Week

Men's Fellowship will meet for an informal gathering this Thursday at 7:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Pizza and drink will be provided. All men of the congregation are invited to join us, to get to know each other better, and to support and encourage one another. We meet on the second and fourth Thursday of each month for Bible study as well.

This Week's Schedule (12/11/11 - 12/18/11)

Today	
-Worship Services	00a
-Children's Christmas Eve Service Rehearsal8:	
-Youth Confirmation Class (Christmas Rehearsal) 8:	45a
-Adult Bible Classes:	
• The Life of Christ: The Baptism of Jesus (F. Hall)	
 Grow in Grace Class (Conference Room in Office) 9: -Lifeliners (High School Group): Bible Study 	
-Grace-Vail Service at Cottonwood Elementary 9:	
-Coffee Fellowship Following 10 AM Worship	
-WELS Tucson Campus Ministry Bible Study 7:	
	•
Monday -Financial Peace University in Vail12:	00 <u>~</u>
-English as a Second Language Classes6:	
-Linglish as a Second Language Classes	Jop
<u>Tuesday</u>	
-Handbell Practice5:	
-English as a Second Language Classes6:	30p
Wednesday	
-Midweek Advent Worship10:	
-Wind Ensemble Practice5:	
-Advent Supper in the Fellowship Hall6:	
-Midweek Advent Worship7:	Э 0р

<u>Thursday</u>	
-Women's Bible Class: Prayer	9:00a
-Financial Peace University at Grace	
Mayahin Chair	6.20-

-Worship Choir6:30p -Men's Fellowship7:30p

Saturday

-Children's Christmas Eve Service Rehearsal 9:00a-12:00p -Pioneer Christmas Caroling......12:00-2:30p

<u>Sunday</u>
-Worship Services/Communion7:45 & 10:00a
-Children's Christmas Service Rehearsal8:45a
-Youth Confirmation Class (Christmas Rehearsal) 8:45a
-Adult Bible Classes:
• The Life of Christ: The Temptation of Jesus (F. Hall) 9:00a
• Grow in Grace Class (Conference Room in Office) 9:00a
-Lifeliners (High School Group): Bible Study9:00a
-Coffee Fellowship Following 10 AM Worship
-WELS Tucson Campus Ministry Bible Study

Visit us on the web: www.GraceTucsonWELS.com www.facebook.com/GraceTucsonWELS

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.

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).

Upcoming Voters' Meeting

The next voters' meeting is **Tuesday**, **December 20 at 7:00 PM.** Pastor and Council reports can be found at both exits and in the Fellowship Hall. The report keeps members informed and helps voters prepare for the meeting.



Grace-Vail Opening Service – TODAY at 9:00 AM

Grace-Vail will hold their opening worship service at Cottonwood Elementary School (9950 E. Rees Loop) this morning at 9:00 AM. 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.

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!

Engaging Christians In Outreach Ministry

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend the Kingdom Workers' annual Spiritual Renewal Event scheduled for Saturday, January 28, 2012, at Paradise Valley Lutheran Church, in Phoenix. Continental breakfast will be served starting at 7:45 AM with the meeting to start at approximately 9:00 AM. Kingdom Workers board members have heard each presentation, and each one is excellent! Each presentation is directly related to our command to "go and make disciples." Pastor Hintz is the Director of our Commission on Evangelism. The Kimerley's have been actively involved in home mission projects. The Felgenhauer's have been actively involved in world mission projects.

HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Midweek Advent Services

Wednesday, December 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

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.

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) if you are interested in them.

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.

Invite a Friend for Christmas

Invite a friend or family member who has no church home to join you at Grace as we celebrate our Savior's birth. Invitation postcards are available on the tables in the fellowship hall.

Grace Students in ALA Concert

Arizona Lutheran Academy will present their annual Christmas Concert this Friday at 7:00 PM. All five Grace students at ALA will be part of that concert: Nathanael Dyjak, Danny Koehler, Tyler Koehler, Ariana Weinstein, and Josiah Weinstein. ALA is located at 6036 S. 27th Avenue in Phoenix.



ALA Basketball Coming to Tucson

Save the date—On Friday, January 27 the Arizona Lutheran Academy boy's and girl's basketball teams will be playing here in Tucson at Desert Christian High School (7525 E. Speedway). Plan to come and cheer on our Coyotes!

Forward in Christ Article

In the November 2011 edition of the Forward in Christ, there is an article on our Grace Vail Mission (page 22)! There are a few extra copies in the church office if you would like to pick one up for yourself.

Together Newsletter

The newest edition of the *Together* newsletter is in the Fellowship Hall. It includes news from our WELS President and other informational items about our church body. You may also subscribe to receive the newsletter via e-mail at http://together.wels.net/subscribe.

"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 (Inσους). 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 (**A**) 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.

T

THE TAU CROSS, shaped like the Greek letter \mathbf{T} (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 (A) 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', X and P.



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 $IX\Theta\Upsilon\Sigma$ (ichthus). The acrostic represents this meaning: $I=Jesus\ X=Christ\ \Theta=God$'s $\Upsilon=Son\ \Sigma=Savior$.



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!