

First Sunday in Advent

November 27, 2011



10:00 AM Worship



*From the fullness of his GRACE we have all received one blessing after another.
John 1:16*

The Order of Worship

God does not restrict us to specific orders of worship. We are free to worship him in many different ways. From ancient times Christians have chosen to use a “liturgy” to guide them in worship. The word “liturgy” means service. Liturgies are orders of worship which provide a solemn setting for songs and expressions of praise, repentance of sins, attentiveness to God’s word, public profession of our faith, prayer, and support for his kingdom.

Dialogue

The Lutheran liturgies contain a series of dialogues between the worship leader and the assembled congregation, and between the congregation and God. The movements of the worship leader are significant, they point the direction of our worship. When the worship leader faces the altar, it signifies that the leader and congregation are speaking to God with prayers or praises. When the leader faces the congregation, he is conversing in dialogue with the congregation. At other times when the leader faces the congregation he is acting as God’s spokesman who brings God’s word to God’s people.

Advent

Today is the 1st Sunday in the Advent Season. The word Advent means “coming.” During the Advent Season we prepare our hearts for celebration of the first coming of Christ as a baby in Bethlehem’s manger. But during Advent we also prepare for the second coming of Christ on Judgment Day, the Last Day. Our readings, hymns and today’s sermon remind us that no one knows the day of Christ second coming so we watch and wait in preparation for that day.

**Blue “service notes” are included in today’s worship folder explaining the parts of the service.
We hope this helps you better understand and appreciate our worship service.**

PRESERVICE MUSIC

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come and O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Melody Bober

DIVINE SERVICE I

Christian Worship Supplement

WELCOME

**The opening hymn introduces the theme of the day. Often it provides
an opportunity to ask God’s blessings on our worship.**

HYMN

Jesus, Your Church with Longing Eyes
Christian Worship #9

STAND

In the Invocation we call on the name of the Triune God and invoke his presence.

INVOCATION

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

CONGREGATION: Amen.

As we begin worship of a God who is holy, we confess that we are sinners, we lay our sins on Jesus, and we pray for his mercy. We need the assurance that for Jesus’ sake God does not condemn us for our sins but forgives them and forgets them.

CONFESSION OF SINS

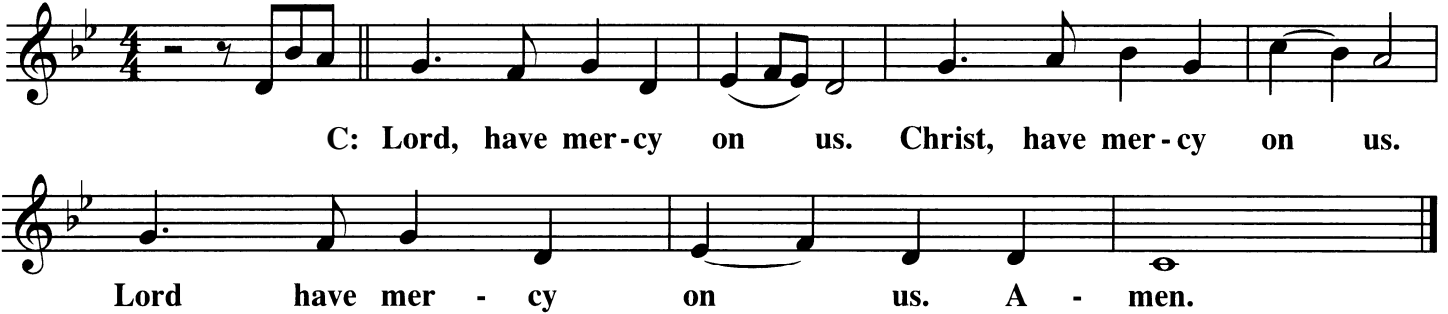
M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

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.

The announcement of forgiveness is as valid and certain to believers as if Christ Jesus spoke it himself.

ABSOLUTION

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.

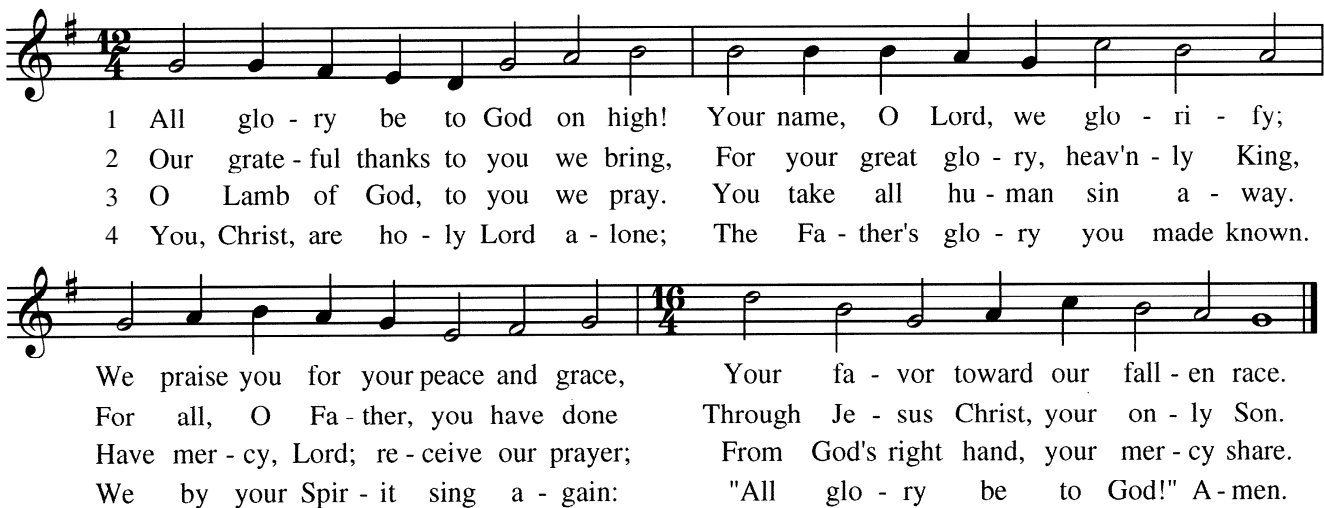
In response to God's mercy and forgiveness Christians praise God by proclaiming the great things he has done to rescue us from sin.

GLORY BE TO GOD

Gloria in Excelsis

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

(Sung to the tune of Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow, Christian Worship #334)



1 All glo - ry be to God on high! Your name, O Lord, we glo - ri - fy;
2 Our grate - ful thanks to you we bring, For your great glo - ry, heav'n - ly King,
3 O Lamb of God, to you we pray. You take all hu - man sin a - way.
4 You, Christ, are ho - ly Lord a - lone; The Fa - ther's glo - ry you made known.

We praise you for your peace and grace, Your fa - vor toward our fall - en race.
For all, O Fa - ther, you have done Through Je - sus Christ, your on - ly Son.
Have mer - cy, Lord; re - ceive our prayer; From God's right hand, your mer - cy share.
We by your Spir - it sing a - gain: "All glo - ry be to God!" A - men.

The worship leader greets the congregation with a blessing. The congregation responds in the same manner.
This ancient dialogue dates back to Christian worship in the second century A.D.

SALUTATION

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

In the Prayer of the Day we ask God for the particular blessings connected with this day's theme.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray. Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BE SEATED

Lighting of Advent Candles

The lighting of candles in anticipation of Christ's coming has a long tradition in the Christian Church. On each of the four Sundays of Advent, a new candle is lit, dispelling the darkness, as the church moves forward to welcoming him who is the true Light of the world. The evergreen wreath represents eternal life—evergreens do not drop their foliage and the circle of the wreath is unending. The blue color of the candles symbolizes hope—the hope we have as we anticipate Christ's coming. The white Christ Candle in the center will be lit on Christmas Day as we celebrate the birth of our Savior. Each year the privilege of lighting the Advent candles is given to the youth confirmation students at Grace.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

M: We light one Advent candle, remembering Jesus, who is coming again. He will come to gather his people from everywhere, both the living and the dead.

C: We remember Jesus, who will come at the end of time. None of us knows what day that will be.

M: We hear his call to watch.

C: We light one Advent candle as a sign of our watchfulness and waiting.

M: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

C: Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.

One Advent candle is lit.

Our regular Sunday services include three readings. These portions of Scripture come from a list of readings called a Lectionary. One example of a Lectionary is found on pages 163-165 in the front part of the red hymnal. If you turn to the top of page 164 you will see listed the three readings and the psalm for today, the First Sunday in Advent. While it is not a requirement that we follow a Lectionary, doing so ensures a variety of readings on various topics throughout the year and appropriate seasonal themes.

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 63:16b, 17; 64:1-8

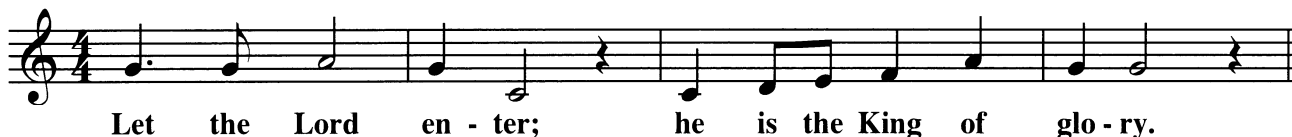
You, O LORD, are our Father, our Redeemer from of old is your name. Why, O LORD, do you make us wander from your ways and harden our hearts so we do not revere you? Return for the sake of your servants, the tribes that are your inheritance. Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you! As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you! For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you. Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you,

who acts on behalf of those who wait for him. You come to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember your ways. But when we continued to sin against them, you were angry. How then can we be saved? All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away. No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us and made us waste away because of our sins. Yet, O LORD, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.

Since Old Testament times the Psalms have been used to sing praise to God.
The thoughts contained in the Psalm reflect the theme of the day.

Psalm 24

Refrain



Psalm Tone



1. The earth is the Lord's and every- /
thing in it,*
the world, and all who / live in it;
2. for he founded it up- / on the seas*
and established it upon the / waters.
3. Who may ascend the hill / of the Lord?*
- Who may stand in his / holy place?
4. He who has clean hands and a / pure
heart,*
he will receive blessing from God
his / Savior.
5. Lift up your heads, O you gates; be
lifted up, you / ancient doors,*
that the King of glory / may come in.
6. Who is this King of / glory?*
- The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord
mighty in / battle.
7. Lift up your heads, O you gates; lift
them up, you / ancient doors,*
that the King of glory / may come in.
8. Who is he, this King of / glory?*
- The Lord Almighty—he is the King
of / glory.
9. 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

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. For in him you have been enriched in every way—in all your speaking and in all your knowledge—because our testimony about Christ was confirmed in you.

Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.

WORSHIP CHOIR

O Come, Emmanuel

By Mark Friedman & Janet Vogt

(The cantor will sing the stanzas, the congregation may join in the refrains following the first stanza)

Refrain

O come, Em - man - u - el, and in - to our hearts be
born. Make read - y his path with joy - ful praise, pre - par - ing the
way of the Lord. O come, O Prince of Peace, for
proph - ets did long fore - tell the one who will reign for - ev - er -
more, O come, Em - man - u - el. 1-4 2 to Verses
Final
el. O come, Em - man - u - el.

1. A herald's voice is heard:
"Make straight his way."
All people will know of
God's glory in ev'ry age.

Refrain

3. Proclaim from mountains high
the Lord has come, the Word
now made flesh in our Savior,
the Holy One.

Refrain

2. The son of David comes
for all to save, to come
and shine forth with the
dawning of endless day.

Refrain

4. Come now with justice, Lord,
and set us free.
Be crowned with the
glory of wonder and majesty.

Refrain

The congregation stands and sings a song of praise out of respect for the words of Christ Jesus, our Savior.

STAND

GOSPEL

Mark 13:32-37

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



“No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. It’s like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with his assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.

Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to everyone: ‘Watch!’”

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



The Apostles’ Creed developed in the early Christian church as a personal confession.
It is so named because it confesses the faith taught by Christ’s Apostles.

APOSTLES’ CREED

C: 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

The hymn sung between the Scripture readings and the Sermon is generally the central hymn of the service, reflecting the theme of the day.

HYMN OF THE DAY

The King Shall Come
Christian Worship #25

Through the Sermon, a portion of the Bible is explained and applied to our lives. We need both the Law and the Gospel since we are both “saints” and “sinners” at one and the same time. The heart of Christian preaching, however, is the Gospel, the good news of God’s forgiveness and salvation through Christ.

SERMON

Mark 13:32-37

The Parable of the Returning Owner

Part 1. What?

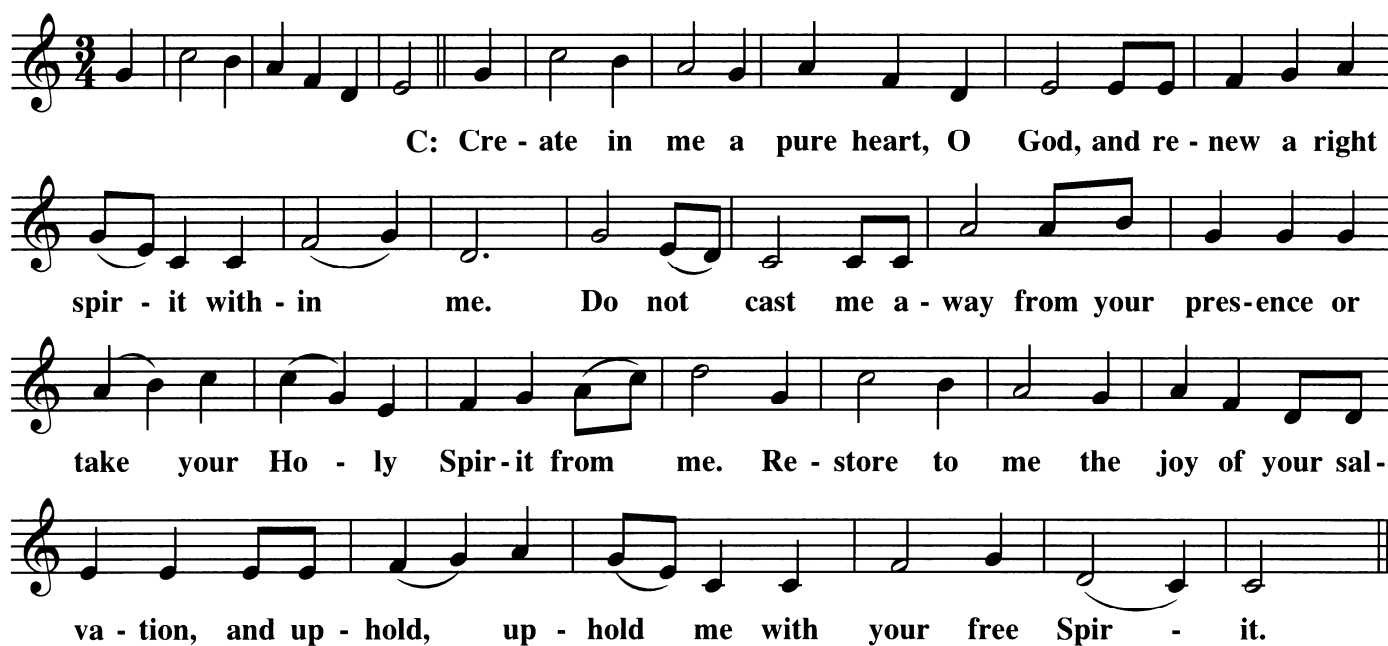
Part 2. So What?

Part 3. Now What?

STAND

We have listened to God’s Word and have heard of his mercy and forgiveness. Now we offer to him our hearts and lives that he might make us eager and strong to do his will in thought and deed.

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.

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

The King Shall Come
Charles Callahan

Christians stand for congregational prayer showing the freedom of God's children to come boldly into his presence.
The Christian theologian Augustine (400 AD) adds, "We pray standing. . .as a sign of the Resurrection."

STAND

This prayer expresses our thanksgiving to God for faithfully keeping his promise to send a Savior. It asks God to help us properly prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth and to be prepared for his second coming.

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.**

Matthew 6 and Luke 11 record how Jesus taught his disciples to pray. We use his example prayer as part of our public worship, trusting that he will hear and answer our prayers.

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

(The soloist will sing the verses, the congregation may join in the refrains)

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It begins with a soloist line, followed by a congregation line labeled 'Refrain'. The lyrics are: 'For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits, tru-ly my hope is in you.' The score includes a 'To verses' section and a 'Last time' section. The 'Verses' section contains four lines of lyrics: '1 O Lord of Light, our on-ly hope of', '2 O Spring of Joy, rain down up-on our', '3 O Root of Life, im-plant your seed with-', and '4 O Key of Know-ledge, guide us in our'. The 'To Refrain' section contains the lyrics: 'you. Come, light the hearts of all in dark and sha-dow. Word. Come, make us whole, be com-fort to our hearts. you, Our hope re-born in dy-ing and in ris-ing. main. O - pen to us the path-way of your peace.'

Refrain

For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits,

tru-ly my hope is in you. you.

To verses *Last time*

Verses

1 O Lord of Light, our on-ly hope of
 2 O Spring of Joy, rain down up-on our
 3 O Root of Life, im-plant your seed with-
 4 O Key of Know-ledge, guide us in our

glo-ry, Your ra-diance shines in all who look to
 spir-its. Our thirs-ty hearts are yearn-ing for your
 in us, And in your ad-vent draw us all to
 pil-grim-age, We ev-er seek, yet un-ful-filled re-

To Refrain

you. Come, light the hearts of all in dark and sha-dow.
 Word. Come, make us whole, be com-fort to our hearts.
 you, Our hope re-born in dy-ing and in ris-ing.
 main. O - pen to us the path-way of your peace.

This Advent hymn, based on the ancient "O" antiphons, calls to mind the Old Testament titles of our Savior and the longing of God's people for the Savior to come.

Text: *O Antiphons*, adapted. © 1982 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
 Tune: MY SOUL IN STILLNESS WAITS (11 10 11 and Refrain) Marty Haugen, b. 1950 © 1982 GIA Publications, Inc.
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We now pray that God's Word will work among us, keeping us in the family of believers as long as we live.

PRAYER FOR THE WORD

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.

The blessing of Aaron has been spoken over God's people for over 3,500 years.
The Lord said, "So I will put my name on [them], and I will bless them" (Numbers 6:27).

THE BLESSING

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. (*spoken*)

BE SEATED

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Closing Hymn may be a parting prayer, a song of praise, or a song which once more reflects the theme of the day.

CLOSING HYMN

Come, O Long-Expected Jesus
Christian Worship #6

Thank you for joining us for Worship. If you would like additional information about Grace, please take a Guest Packet from the entryway. The pastors would also welcome any feedback or questions.

POSTLUDE

Hosanna Now Through Advent
Donald Busarow

THOSE ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Preacher Pastor Sam Clemons
Worship Leader Pastor Nathan Kassulke
Accompanist Teri Guenther
Acolyte Sarah Oberhofer
Worship Choir Director Teri Guenther
Cantor Carl Buchholz
Descants Teri Guenther, Beth Kassulke, Kathy Parra
Clarinet Missy Wiechmann
Sound & Recording Tech Jeremy Snavely



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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.

Baptism

Grant Harvey Thompson, son of Mark and Danielle Thompson, born on November 3, was made a forgiven child of God through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism in 7:45 AM worship this morning.

Read Ahead for Next Sunday:

Isaiah 40:1-11
2 Peter 3:8-14
Mark 1:1-8

Next Sun. Sermon Text & Theme:

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

You Are Invited

You are invited to a coffee fellowship following 10:00 AM worship today hosted by the Hansons & Schmidts. Please join us in the courtyard.

Advent Services and Suppers

Our Advent theme this year is "Who is the Coming Savior?" We will celebrate Midweek Advent Services November 30, 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.

Upcoming Usher Training

Next Sunday, December 4, there will be usher training immediately following the 10:00 AM service. 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.

70½ Years Old? Have An IRA?

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 be with us **next Sunday, December 4th 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!

Today **FRIENDS & FAMILY SUNDAY**

- Worship Services 7:45 & 10:00a
- Children's Sunday School 8:45a
- Youth Confirmation Class 8:45a
- Adult Bible Classes:
 - *Grace-Vail with Pastor Rieke* 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.....
- Vail Canvassing Workshop in Fellowship Hall** 11:11a
- NO** WELS Tucson Campus Ministry

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
- Worship Choir..... 6:30p
- Financial Peace University 6:30p
- NO** Boy & Girl Pioneers
- NO** Men's Bible Study.....

Saturday

- Christmas for Kids** 9:30a-1:00p
- Vail Canvassing Blitz in Rita Ranch** 9:00a
- Zanotti Christmas Party**..... 5:30p

Sunday

- Worship Services/Communion..... 7:45 & 10:00a
- Children's Sunday School 8:45a
- Youth Confirmation Class..... 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 following 10 AM Worship**
- Thrivent Presentation in Fellowship Hall** 11:15p
- WELS Tucson Campus Ministry Bible Study 7:00p



We invite 2-12 year old children to attend Christmas for Kids at Grace this Saturday, December 3 from 9:30-1:00 PM. The children will learn what the Bible tells us about Christmas, sing songs, and do some Christmas crafts. The event is free and lunch is included. Please register early, and invite unchurched friends to join the fun. Registration forms are in the Fellowship Hall and online at the Grace website, www.gracetucsonwels.com.

Christmas for Kids

Zanotti Christmas Party

Members of Grace are invited to the home of Shirley & Tony Zanotti (7847 E. Jack Oak Road) this Saturday, December 3 at 5:30 PM for a Christmas party. Food and drinks will be provided. **Please RSVP TODAY to the Zanottis at 722-7036.**

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.*

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!*



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

In just two short weeks, 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,” I would like to encourage members of Grace to take advantage of our worship services at both locations. Consider joining us 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.

Canvassing Opportunity

Spiders, the dark, heights, public speaking. What do these four things have in common? They all seem to show up on Top 10 lists of what people are afraid of most. If you are afraid of any of these things, the safest place for you to be is at Cottonwood Elementary School this Saturday, December 3 at 9:00 AM for our last Canvassing Blitz of the year. The spiders have been put away from Halloween, it won’t be dark outside, we will stay on the ground, AND (if you don’t want to) you don’t have to talk to strangers. That’s right, we won’t make you talk. We hope you take the opportunity to join us in telling the neighborhood about Grace-Vail.

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.

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

HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Midweek Advent Services

Wednesday, November 30, December 7, 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 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.

Candy for Mission to the Children

Mission to the Children is in need of candy to take to the children in Mexico for the upcoming Christmas parties in early December. Individually wrapped small candies are preferred. If you are able to help, please contact the church office at 623-663.

“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 (**Ι**=IOTA) combined with the first letter of “Christ” in Greek (**Χ**=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.



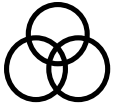
THE STAR (NATAL) CROSS reminds us of the star that marked our Savior’s birth.



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 (**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 **ΙΧΘΥΣ** (ichthus). The acrostic represents this meaning: **I**=Jesus **X**=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!