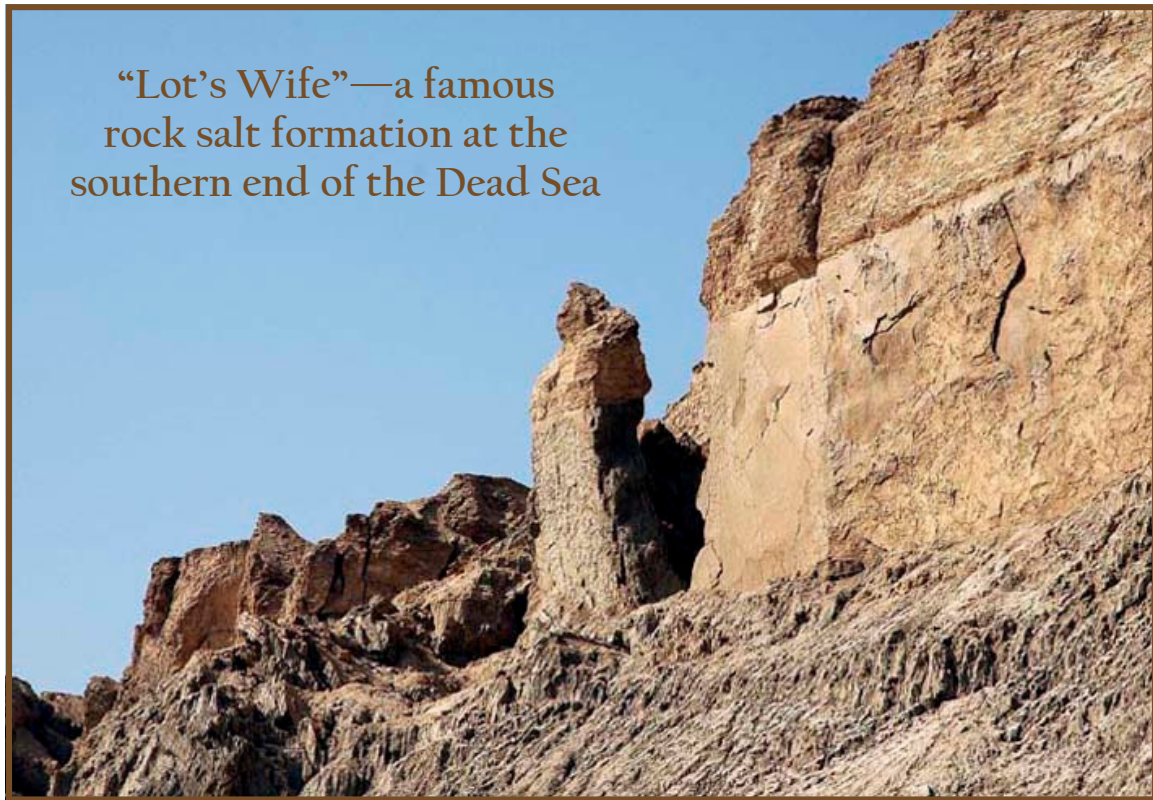


First Sunday in Advent



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
December 2, 2012





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.

We are very pleased that you have joined us for worship today at Grace-University! We pray that this time will be a blessing for you as God comes to you with his Word and promises and as you offer him your thanks and praise.

Worship Notes

The **order of service** we follow is printed out in this worship folder. You'll notice that the service is a dialogue between God and us, his people. The pastor speaks to God along with the congregation and also speaks the Word of God to the people.

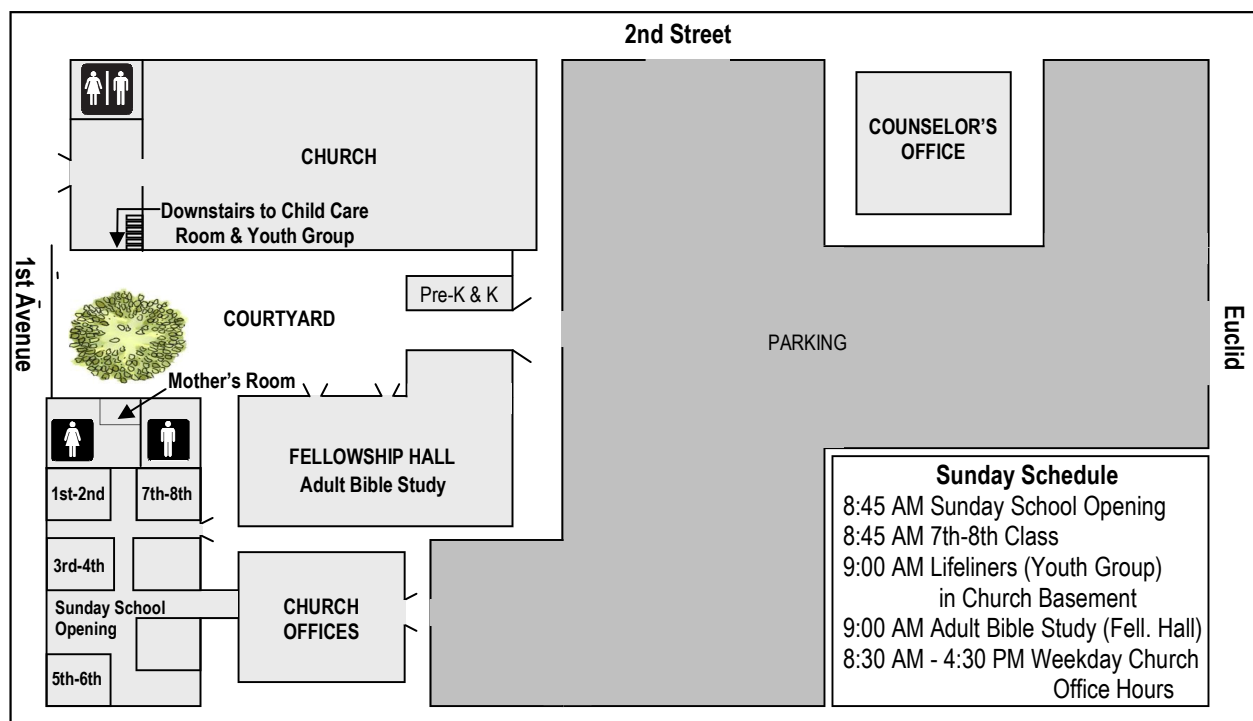
Hymns are found in our hymnal, *Christian Worship*, which is the red book in the pew rack in front of you.

Large print worship folders are available in the entryway. You may also ask an usher or greeter to get one for you.

We believe that many blessings come from having families worship together and we love to have **children in worship!** If you need to calm a restless child, you may:

- stand for a few moments in the entryway, sometimes that's all that's needed
- go down the stairs to the left in the entryway—they will lead down to the Child Care Room where you will still be able to hear the service
- visit the private Mother's Room across the courtyard in the women's restroom—you will be able to hear the service there also

Printed copies of the sermon are available in the entryway along with CDs of the entire worship service for those who would like to review or take to a friend or family member. You may also find sermons and services in print, audio and video on our website: www.GraceTucsonWELS.com



Lighting of Advent Candles

The lighting of candles in anticipation of Christ's coming (Latin, *advenio*) 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.

MORNING PRAISE FOR ADVENT

This order of service is based on the historic order for morning praise known as *Matins*. This contemporary setting is from *Christian Worship: New Service Settings*.

WELCOME

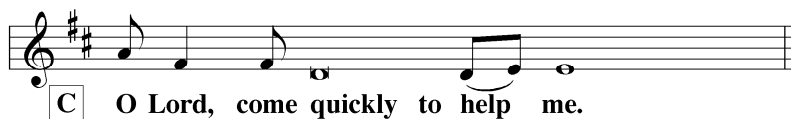
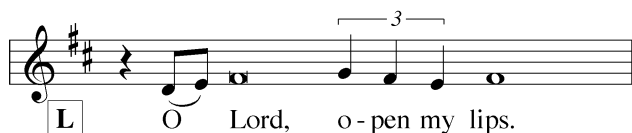
HYMN

Come, O Precious Ransom, Come
Christian Worship #8

STAND

RESPONSIVE SENTENCES

L: Leader C: Congregation



PRESERVICE MUSIC:

7:45 AM—
*Jesus Came, the
Heavens Adoring*
Arr. by Valerie
Floeter

10:00 AM—
Llangloffan
Setting by Rebecca
R. Kramer

COME, OH, COME, LET US SING TO THE LORD

Congregation sings the refrain and verses.

Refrain

Come, oh, come, let us sing to the Lord,
let us shout with joy to our sav - ing Rock;
come, en - ter in with our songs of praise,
come, en - ter in with thanks - giv - ing.

Verses

1. You are a great and a won - drous God,
2. Come, let us wor - ship and, bow - ing low,
cup - ping in your hands all the depths of earth.
kneel be - fore the One who has made us all.
You made the hills and the moun - tains high,
You are the God whom we call our own,
to Refrain
you made the seas and the dry land.
we are the flock that you shep - herd.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

L: 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.

L: We hear his call to watch.

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

L: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

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

One Advent candle is lit.

BE SEATED

FIRST LESSON

With the coming of dawn, the angels urged Lot, saying, “Hurry! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, or you will be swept away when the city is punished.” When he hesitated, the men grasped his hand and the hands of his wife and of his two daughters and led them safely out of the city, for the LORD was merciful to them. As soon as they had brought them out, one of them said, “Flee for your lives! Don’t look back, and don’t stop anywhere in the plain! Flee to the mountains or you will be swept away!” By the time Lot reached Zoar, the sun had risen over the land. Then the LORD rained down burning sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah—from the LORD out of

Genesis 19:15-17, 23-29

the heavens. Thus he overthrew those cities and the entire plain, including all those living in the cities—and also the vegetation in the land. But Lot’s wife looked back, and she became a pillar of salt. Early the next morning Abraham got up and returned to the place where he had stood before the LORD. He looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah, toward all the land of the plain, and he saw dense smoke rising from the land, like smoke from a furnace. So when God destroyed the cities of the plain, he remembered Abraham, and he brought Lot out of the catastrophe that overthrew the cities where Lot had lived. (NIV)

The First Lesson is frequently a reading from the Old Testament. It shares a common theme with the Second Lesson (often from one of the epistles) and the Gospel.

PSALM 63

Please join in singing the refrain. Repeat the refrain after the vocalists sing each verse.

Refrain



1. O God, you are my God; for you I long; for you my soul is thirsting. My body pines for you like a dry, weary land without water. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary to see your strength and your glory. **Refrain**
2. For your love is better than life, my lips will speak your praise. So I will bless you all my life, in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul shall be filled as with a banquet, my mouth shall praise you with joy. **Refrain**
3. On my bed I remember you. On you I muse through the night, for you have been my help; in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. My soul clings to you; your right hand holds me fast. **Refrain**

SECOND LESSON

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

come to you. May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones. (NIV)

VERSE OF THE DAY

Revelation 22:20

L: Alleluia. He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

Luke 21:25-36

"There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. Men will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." He told them this parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees. When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. Even so, when you see these things happening, you

know that the kingdom of God is near. I tell you the truth, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you unexpectedly like a trap. For it will come upon all those who live on the face of the whole earth. Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man." (NIV)

HYMN

Jesus, Your Church with Longing Eyes
Christian Worship #9

SERMON

Genesis 19:15-17, 23-29
Don't Look Back, Look Forward!

STAND

SONG OF ZECHARIAH



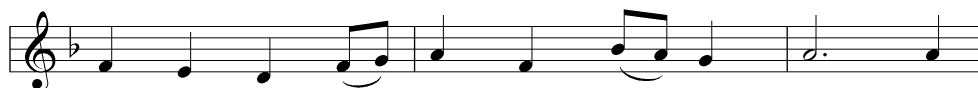
1. Now bless the God of Is - ra - el, Who comes in love and
 2. Re - mem-ber-ing the cov - e - nant, God res - cues us from
 3. In ten - der mer-cy God will send The Day-spring from on



pow'r, Who rais - es from the roy - al house De -
 fear, That we might serve in ho - li - ness And
 high, Our ris - ing sun, the light of life For



liv - 'rance in this hour. Through ho - ly proph - ets
 peace from year to year; And you, my child, shall
 those who sit and sigh. God comes to guide our



God has sworn To free us from a - larm, To
 go be - fore To preach, to proph - e - sy, That
 way to peace That death shall reign no more, Sing



1., 2.
 save us from the heav - y hand Of all who wish us harm.
 all may know the ten - der love, The grace of God most high.



prais-es to the Ho-ly One! O wor-ship and a-dore!

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 row and pass it along. Thank You!

STAND



*If you prefer, use
 your smart phone to
 give online by
 scanning this
 QR code.*

7:45 AM—
*There is a Higher
 Throne
 CW #727*

10:00 AM—
*Lo, He Comes with
 Clouds Descending
 Arr. by Valerie A.
 Floeter*

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Kyrie

L In the morn - ing, O Lord, I call to you;
be mer - ci - ful to me and hear my prayer.

C Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have
mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

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."

PRAYERS

- L:** 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.
- L:** Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and reaffirmed 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. 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. Fill us instead with the joy and peace of the forgiveness of sins through Jesus Christ your Son. Direct our eyes both to the manger and to the skies, where we will see Jesus coming again in glory.
- C:** Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

Special prayers may be included here.

- L:** O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to this new day. Defend us with your mighty power, and grant that this day we neither fall into sin nor run into any kind of danger; and in all we do, direct us to what is right in your sight, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.
- C:** 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.

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

L: 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.

DISTRIBUTION

*The Bible teaches that the Lord's Supper is a unique communion of Christ and the individual believer as well as a coming together of people who hold to the same beliefs. Because of these Scriptural truths, we practice **Member Communion** at Grace. Those who are confirmed members of Wisconsin Synod congregations (WELS) are invited to receive the Lord's Supper with us.*

If you are not a WELS member but have an interest in receiving Holy Communion, please speak with one of our pastors after church today or at another time. We are aware that there are a number of other teachings about Holy Communion, and we want it to be a blessing for you, so we would look forward to sharing with you what God says about this Sacrament.

STAND



L Let us praise the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.

BLESSING



L The Lord bless and keep you.



C A - men.

We provide **gluten-free communion wafers** for those with wheat allergy, gluten-sensitivity or celiac disease.

These wafers are stored and handled separately to avoid cross-contamination.

They are "bread" as Scripture requires and are consecrated along with the rest of the bread. For those requiring gluten-free wafers, please take one from the container on the stand located at the front rail as you approach for communion. Simply hold it so that the pastor can see it at the time of distribution.

Grape juice is available for those who for health or medical reason require it instead of wine. Please speak with a pastor about providing grape juice for you on future Sundays.



L The Lord's face ev - er shine up - on you.



C A - men.



L The Lord grant you peace for all your days.



C A - men.

BE SEATED

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN

Renew Me, O Eternal Light
Christian Worship #471

POSTLUDE:

7:45 AM—
O God, Our Help in
Ages Past
Arr. by Victor La-
benske

10:00 AM—
Come, Thou Long-
Expected Jesus
Setting by J. Wayne
Kerr

Morning Praise:
Words and Music by
Marty Haugen ©
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cense.net #A-
710199.

THOSE ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Preacher	Pastor Ron Koehler
Worship Leader	Pastor Nathan Kassulke
Communion Assistants	Pastor Sam Clemons, Pastor Mark Hallemeyer
Accompanists	Kathy Parra (7:45 AM)
	Elaine Goldie (10:00 AM)
Accolytes	Bryce Taylor (7:45 AM)
	Jon Miller (10:00 AM)
Vocalists	Jay & Missy Wiechmann (7:45 AM)
	Johneth Myrmo & Carl Buchholz (10:00 AM)
Distribution Music	Lisa Goldie (10:00 AM)
Sound & Recording Tech	Chris Stuhr (10:00 AM)



**Grace is one congregation
at TWO places!**

**Enjoy worship, Bible study
and activities at both
Grace-University and Grace-Vail.**



This Week at Grace • Dec 2-Dec 9

*Unless otherwise noted, calendar events take place at Grace-University. Grace-Vail events are shown in red.

TODAY

Worship Services/Communion7:45 & 10:00a
Coffee Fellowship following both services.....
Children's Sunday School.....8:45a
Youth Confirmation Class.....8:45a
Lifeliners (High School Group): *Bible Study*.....9:00a
Adult Bible Study:
• *The Life of Christ: Jesus' Miracles* (Fellowship Hall).....9:00a
Grace-Vail Bible Study at Cottonwood Elementary9:00a
Grace-Vail Sunday School at Cottonwood Elem.9:00a
Grace-Vail Worship at Cottonwood Elementary 10:00a
WELS TCM Bible Study: *Eegee's & an Epistle* 7:00p

Monday

Bible Study at Vail Golf Club: *Book of Acts*9:30a
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..... 5:00p
Advent Supper in Fellowship Hall..... 6:00p
Midweek Advent Worship..... 7:00p

Thursday

Women's Bible Study: *Philippians* 9:00a
Worship Choir6:30p
Financial Peace University in Vail7:00p
Grow in Grace Class (Conference Room in Office)7:30p

Friday

In-Betweeners' Christmas Party5:00p
Grace Iron Men at Clicks Billiards7:00p

Saturday

Christmas for Kids at Grace-University 9:30a-1:00p
Christian Fellowship Christmas Party at Jo Davis' 12:00p

Sunday

Worship Services 7:45 & 10:00a
Coffee Fellowship following both services
Children's Sunday School 8:45a
Youth Confirmation Class 8:45a
Lifeliners (High School Group): *Bible Study*..... 9:00a
Adult Bible Study:
• *The Life of Christ: Jesus' Miracles* (Fellowship Hall)..... 9:00a
Grace-Vail Bible Study at Cottonwood Elementary 9:00a
Grace-Vail Sunday School at Cottonwood Elem. 9:00a
Grace-Vail Worship at Cottonwood Elementary 10:00a
WELS TCM Bible Study: *The Trinity*7:00p

Check out the NEW GRACE WEBSITE at **www.GraceTucsonWELS.com**!

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Fax 623-1514

**Grace Website
GraceTucsonWELS.com**

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**Samuel M. Clemons
revsmc@gracetucsonwels.com**

At Grace-Vail

**Colin M. Rieke
revcmr@gracetucsonwels.com**

Bible-Based Counselor

**Cinda Drescher
cinda@gracetucsonwels.com
Phone 882-3773**

Music Coordinator

**Beth Kassulke
music@gracetucsonwels.com
Phone 293-2935**

For Our Guests

If you are visiting Grace today, we are happy that you joined us for Worship. Please help yourself to a Guest Packet as you leave this morning. You'll find them in the church entryway.

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.

You Are Invited

You are invited to a coffee fellowship this morning in the courtyard following both services. Fellowship after 10:00 AM worship is hosted by Eric & Erika Hanson. We hope you'll take advantage of this opportunity to greet your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Altar Flowers

The flowers beautifying our worship this morning have been given by Pat Messer in loving memory of her mother, Lois Allen, and in thanksgiving to God for his many blessings.



During this time of year, the sun shines through the stained glass windows and directs its light on the church pews. Feel free to move during the service if the sun is bothering you. For more information about what the symbols and pictures in the windows represent, please take a pamphlet from the main entryway.

NEXT SUNDAY

Next week's Scripture Lessons for Devotional Reading this Week

Malachi 3:1-4
I Corinthians 4:1-5
Luke 3:1-6

Sermon Text & Theme

Malachi 3:1-4
The Lord Will Come

Koiné CDs

CDs by the WELS musical group Koiné are being sold as a fundraiser for Redeemer Lutheran School. There are six CD choices, including their brand new Christmas CD, each available for \$15. If you would like to order a CD or to get more information, please see Lucas Guenther or the other Redeemer students that will be in the Courtyard after worship or speak to Pastor Kassulke. Today is the last day we will be taking orders.



Advent Services and Suppers

Midweek Advent Services will be held on December 5, 12 and 19 at Grace-University at 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM. *Advent Through the Fathers' Eyes* is our theme as we consider the Savior's coming into the world through the eyes of God the Father and Jesus' earthly father, Joseph. These services are designed to help us prepare our hearts for the celebration of our Savior's birth on Christmas.

You are invited to join your brothers and sisters in Christ for supper at 6:00 PM in the fellowship hall prior to each of these services. We need volunteers to host the meals on December 12 and 19 (individuals, families, groups, or any combination). There are information sheets in the Fellowship Hall which explain how to host one of these meals. Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall or call the church office if you would like to serve in this way.

HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Midweek Advent Services

Wednesday, December 5, 12, 19
at 10:00 AM & 7:00 PM
with a supper at 6:00 PM.

Christmas Day Festival Worship

Tuesday, December 25 at 10:00 AM at
both Grace-University and Grace-Vail.

Christmas Eve Children's Service

Monday, December 24 at 7:00 PM at
Grace-University. No service at Grace-Vail.

New Year's Eve Worship

Monday, December 31 at 7:00 PM at
Grace-University. No service at Grace-Vail.

In-Betweeners' White Elephant Party

The In-Betweeners will have a White Elephant Christmas party this Friday, December 7 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.*



Grace Iron Men

The newly formed men's group for men of Grace who are 21 and older met for the first time in November for Gridiron Monday to watch Monday night football together. Our second event will take place this Friday, December 7 at Click's Billiards, 3325 N. First Avenue. No need to RSVP, just show up and shoot some pool—we'll be looking for you from 7 PM on! Bring some cash for pool and food and drinks if you want them. Grace Iron Men will be meeting about once per month on various days of the week for fellowship events and Bible studies. You can help us decide what we we'll do in the coming months!

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 8 at noon. Dorothy Kaiser is co-hostess. Following the meal Christmas carols will be sung. **Please RSVP by December 6 to Jo (624-9156) or Dorothy (622-3159) if you plan to attend.** *The Christian Fellowship Group provides people 55 and older with an opportunity to enjoy the company of others on a very informal basis.*

Christmas for Kids

Christmas for Kids is this Saturday, December 8 from 9:30 AM-1:00 PM at Grace-University. Registration forms can be found online at www.GraceTucsonWELS.com/c4k and on the table in the Fellowship Hall.

Zanotti Christmas Party

Members of Grace are invited to the home of Shirley & Tony Zanotti (7847 E. Jack Oak Road) on Friday, December 14 at 5:30 PM for a Christmas party. Food and drinks will be provided. **Please RSVP by December 11 to the Zanottis (722-7036).**

Christmas Cantata

Sunday, December 16 at 7:00 PM the Grace Worship Choir will present "Shout the Good News!" This work shares the Christmas message in Scripture and song. Join us in the Grace Fellowship Hall for a lasagna dinner at 5:00 PM before the concert. Dinner is served until about 6:30 PM. The concert will begin at 7:00 in the Church. You are invited to contribute to a freewill offering. The offering will be used to offset the cost of the dinner and of this and future musical performances. There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall and on the Grace-Vail welcome table for anyone who would like to help with various aspects of the dinner.

Worship CD Copies

Worship CDs will no longer be made automatically, but by request. If you would like a copy of this morning's worship service, please ask the sound technician for one following the 10:00 AM service. It only takes a few minutes to copy and you're welcome to wait for it. Printed copies of the sermon can still be found under the glass display case in the entryway. You can also find videos of our services, sermons copies, and worship folders online at www.GraceTucsonWels.com.

New Cards in the Fellowship Hall

There are new cards and Christmas card boxes available for purchase on the south wall of the Fellowship Hall. Feel free to stop by and check them out! If you have any questions please contact Lisa Lenius at 308-4266.

Thank You's

Bob Rentschler would like to thank everyone for their prayers and cards during his recent back surgery and recovery.

Pete & Terry Kosanke and family would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, and visits during Pete's 63 days in the hospital and care facility. Pete is again hospitalized and he requests your continued prayers.

Tuition Tax Credit

Students from Grace at Redeemer Lutheran School and Arizona Lutheran Academy have received over \$24,000 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 \$503 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.** New this year, if you have further tax liability, you may be able to donate an additional \$500 per person to the "Plus" scholarship program and receive a dollar-for-dollar tax credit. Donations to HELP may be recommended for one of the students from Grace.

Grace currently supports 11 of our active members who are students enrolled at Redeemer and 6 at ALA.

“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.



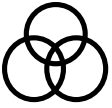
THE STAR (NATAL) CROSS reminds us of the star that marked our Savior’s birth.



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 (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!