

Third Sunday in Advent

Advent
J e s u s i s C o m i n g !

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
December 15, 2013





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.

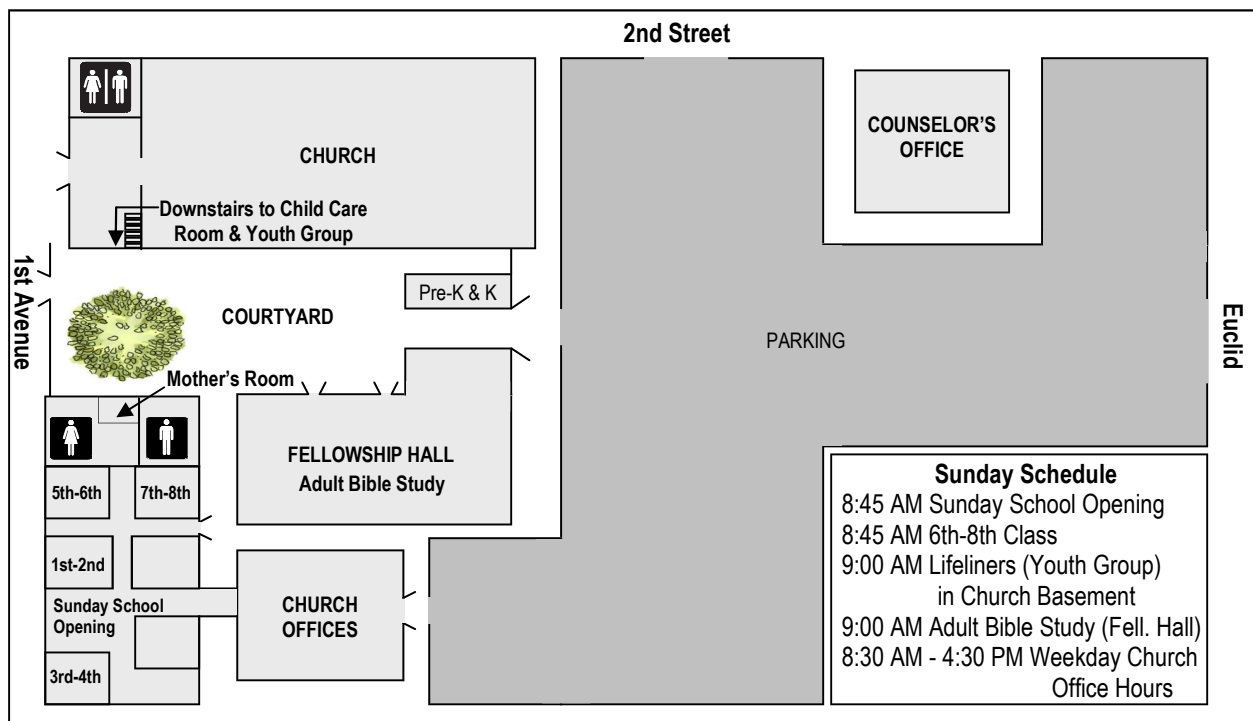
Hymns are found in our hymnal, *Christian Worship*, which is the red book in the pew rack in front of you.

Large print hymn sheets 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. CDs of the entire worship service will be made upon request from the sound technician in the balcony. It only takes a few minutes to copy. 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 "advent" (Latin for "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.

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

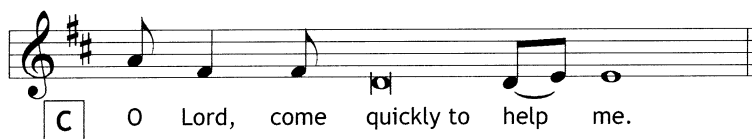
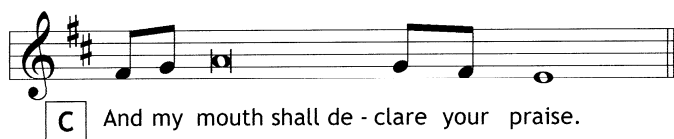
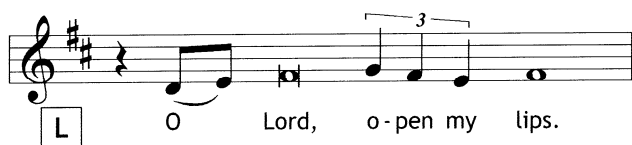
HYMN

Come, O Precious Ransom, Come
Christian Worship #8

STAND

RESPONSIVE SENTENCES

L: Leader C: Congregation



PRESERVICE MUSIC:

7:45 AM—
*My Soul in Stillness
Waits with Oh,
Come, Oh, Come,
Emmanuel*
Setting by Rebecca
Kramer

10:00 AM—
*Savior of the
Nations Come*
By Friedrich
Wilhelm Zachau

Morning Praise:
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Opening Sentences:
by Marty Haugen
and Kermit
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© 2002
Northwestern
Publishing House.

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



You are a great and a won - drous God,
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,
you made the seas and the dry land.
we are the flock that you shep - herd.

to Refrain

*Come, Oh, Come,
Let Us Sing to the
Lord, Prayer
Response, Blessing:
by Marty Haugen. ©
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BE SEATED

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

- L: 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.
- L: We hear his call to see the light.
- C: We light three Advent candles as a sign of our trust and confidence.
- L: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.
- C: Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.

Three Advent candles are lit.

Light the Advent Candle

Light the Advent Candle: By Ruth Elaine Schram. © 2001 by Alfred Publishing Co., Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-710199.

The choir will sing the response the first time. The congregation is invited to join as indicated.

As we light the Ad - vent can - dle with the light of hope burn - ing

bright, faith - ful - ly we wait for His com - ing;

faith - ful - ly it shines through the night. In our hum - ble hearts a

fire burns as well; hear the prayer these flames would tell.

Choir and congregation sing response.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. They that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them has light shined. Be of good courage, all ye that hope in the Lord, and He will strengthen your heart. (Isaiah 9:2, Psalm 31:24)

Choir and congregation sing response.

FIRST LESSON

Job 1:6-22 (NIV)

One day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them. The LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the LORD, "From roaming through the earth and going back and forth in it." Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil." "Does Job fear God for nothing?" Satan replied. "Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. But stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face." The LORD said to Satan,

"Very well, then, everything he has is in your hands, but on the man himself do not lay a finger." Then Satan went out from the presence of the LORD. One day when Job's sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house, a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys were grazing nearby, and the Sabeans attacked and carried them off. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!" While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The fire of God fell from the sky and burned up the sheep and the servants, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

(Scripture reading continues on page 5)

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.

While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three raiding parties and swept down on your camels and carried them off. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!" While he was still speaking, yet another messenger came and said, "Your sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house, when suddenly a mighty wind swept in from the desert

and struck the four corners of the house. It collapsed on them and they are dead, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!" At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship and said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised." In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.

By Michael
Burkhardt

VOICES OF GRACE (10:00 AM)

*Rejoice, rejoice, the Savior comes,
The Savior promised long;
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne
And ev'ry voice a song.*

*He comes the prisoners to release,
In evil bondage held.
The gates of brass before him burst,
The iron fetters yield.*

*He comes the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of God's grace
To bless the humble poor.*

*Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Your welcome shall proclaim,
And heaven's eternal arches ring
With your beloved name.*

SECOND LESSON

Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. Don't grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing

Rejoice, Rejoice, The Savior Comes

James 5:7-11 (NIV)

at the door! Brothers, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Matthew 11:10 cf. NIV

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

STAND

GOSPEL

When John heard in prison what Christ was doing, he sent his disciples to ask him, "Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?" Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me." As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the desert to see? A

Matthew 11:2-11 (NIV)

reed swayed by the wind? If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces. Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written: 'I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' I tell you the truth: Among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

The congregation stands out of respect for the words of Christ our King.

BE SEATED

HYMN

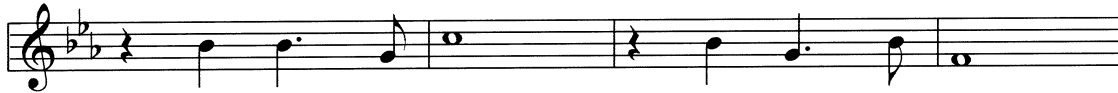
Be Patient, Christians



Be pa-tient, Chris-tians, wait-ing for your Lord to come.
Be pa-tient, Chris-tians, suf-f'ring you a-wait the Lord.
Be pa-tient, Chris-tians, per-se-ver-ing while you wait.
Be pa-tient, Chris-tians, look-ing for your Lord to come.



Be pa-tient, Chris-tians, as when the farm-er waits for rain.____
Be pa-tient, Chris-tians, as suff-ring proph-ets preached the Word.____
Be pa-tient, Chris-tians, as faith-ful Job en-dured, pre-vailed.____
Be pa-tient, Chris-tians, as you a-wait____ your sal-va-tion.



Stand firm and wait; it won't be long!
Stand firm and wait; for your re-ward!
Stand firm and wait; Mer-cy will come!
Stand firm and wait; it will be soon!



Stand firm and wait; it won't be long.
Stand firm and wait; for your re-ward.
Stand firm and wait; Mer-cy will come!
Stand firm and wait; it will be soon!

The words of this Advent hymn stress the importance of Christian patience in waiting for the Savior, as it is emphasized in James chapter 5. The music reflects the mood of longing and hope that the season of Advent brings.

This hymn is based on James 5:7-11 (see today's Second Lesson)

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Tune, Setting: Kathy Parra, b. 1969 © 2010 Kathy Parra. All rights reserved.*

SERMON

Job 1:6-22

May the Name of the Lord Be Praised!

STAND

Song of Zechariah:
Words by Ruth
Duck. Music by
Marty Haugen. ©
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SONG OF ZECHARIAH

Now bless the God of Is - ra - el, Who comes in love and
Re - mem - ber - ing the cov - e - nant, God res - cues us from
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 Our we might serve the 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
And you, my child, shall
peace those from year to year; And God comes to guide our
God go has sworn To free us from a - harm, To
way to fore To To preach, to proph - e - sy, That
sing 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.
3.
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—
The Night Will Soon
Be Ending
Setting by Rebecca
Kramer

10:00 AM—
Breath of Heaven

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.

PRAYERS

L: 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.

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.

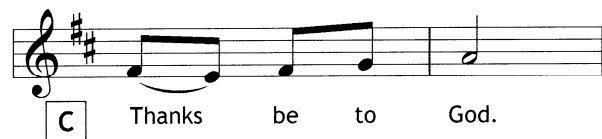
BE SEATED

DISTRIBUTION

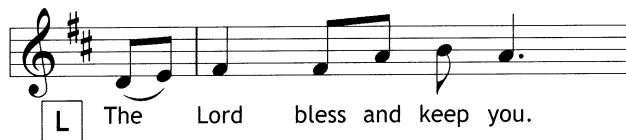
*The Bible teaches that the Lord's Supper is a unique communion of Christ and the individual believer as well as a coming together of people who hold to the same beliefs. Because of these Scriptural truths, we practice **Member Communion** at Grace. Those who are confirmed members of Wisconsin Synod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



BLESSING



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.



**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 15-Dec 22

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

TODAY

Worship Services/Communion..... 7:45 & 10:00a
Coffee Fellowship following both services.....
Children's Christmas Eve Rehearsal in Church 8:45a
Youth Confirmation Class..... 8:45a
Lifeliners (High School Group): *Bible Study* 9:00a
Adult Bible Study (Fellowship Hall):
• *Jesus' Last Days* 9:00a
• *Grow in Grace Class* (Office) Non-Members Only 9:00a
Grace-Vail Bible Study Cottonwood Elementary 9:00a
Grace-Vail Sunday School at Cottonwood Elem...... 9:00a
Grace-Vail Worship at Cottonwood Elementary..... 10:00a
Caroling at Sabino Canyon Rehabilitation Center 1:00p
WELS TCM Bible Study: *Mere Christianity* 7:00p

Monday

Bible Study at Vail Golf Club: *Isaiah Sermon Series* 9:00a
English as a Second Language Christmas Party 6:30p

Tuesday

Precious Lambs at Grace-University (Kindermusik).... 10:00a
Kindermusik Demonstration at Grace-University 4:30p
Handbell Choir Practice 6:30p
Voters' Meeting 7:00p

Wednesday

Midweek Advent Worship..... 10:00a
Advent Supper in Fellowship Hall..... 6:00p
Midweek Advent Worship..... 7:00p

Thursday

Women's Bible Study: *The Narrow Lutheran Middle* 9:00a
Worship Choir 6:30p

Saturday

Children's Christmas Eve Service Rehearsal 9:00a-12:00p
Grace-Vail Canvassing 9:30a-11:30a

Sunday

Worship Services..... 7:45 & 10:00a
Coffee Fellowship following both services.....
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Grace-Vail Worship at Cottonwood Elementary 10:00a

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

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

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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. 9 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 the Miller, Pauley, and Weinstein families. 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 the family of Bill O'Donald in loving memory of him.

Brief Women of Grace Meeting TODAY!

Women of Grace will meet in the front of church following 10:00 AM worship this morning to make spending decisions for our Fall dinner/Craft Fair. Take 10 minutes or so to grab coffee and cookies and then meet in church for the quick meeting. Thank you!

Caroling at Sabino Canyon Rehab TODAY!

This is our final appeal for caroling at Sabino Canyon Rehabilitation Center TODAY! Come a little early so we can start promptly at 1:00 PM. The address is 5830 E Pima St, between Craycroft and Wilmot, across from Dodge Middle School. See you there! —*Russ Weir*

Last Chance for Entertainment Books!

Today is the final day that the Lifeliners will be selling the Entertainment Coupon Books (\$30 each) to raise funds for their activities. If you would like to purchase a book, please see one of the Lifeliners in the Courtyard today or speak to Pastor Kassulke. There are still a number of Bible Verse Calendars available for purchase (\$8 or 2 for \$15).

NEXT SUNDAY

Next week's Scripture Lessons for Devotional Reading this Week

Isaiah 7:1-17
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-25

Sermon Text & Theme

Isaiah 7:1-17
The Lord Himself Will Give You a Sign

Upcoming Voters' Meeting

The next voters' meeting is this Tuesday, December 17 at 7:00 PM at Grace-University. 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. There are two major items to be voted on at the meeting: the proposed Ministry Spending Plan for 2014 and voting for your 2014 Church Council.

Precious Lambs Playgroup

Children (ages birth to age 7), along with their parent or caregiver, are invited to come to Grace-University (830 N First Ave, 85719) on **Tuesday, December 17 at 10:00 AM** for a Kindermusik Demonstration. You do not need to RSVP and can come for any or all of the time. Precious Lambs will meet on most Tuesday mornings for play dates. If you have any questions, please contact Missy Wiechmann (403-1177) or Beth Kassulke (293-2935).

Kindermusik is Coming to Grace This Week!

Kindermusik teacher Emily McClung will be starting lessons at Grace in 2014. These music classes are for children from birth through seven years old. Two free demos of Kindermusik will be held at Grace **this Tuesday, December 17 at 10:00 AM and at 4:30 PM**. The demos will last 20-30 minutes, and anyone who is interested in trying it out is invited to attend. Parents are strongly encouraged to attend with their children. It's fun for all ages! If you would like more information about Kindermusik, pick up a brochure in the Church Office or visit www.Kindermusik.com. Emily will be offering a discount to Grace members who sign up for the Kindermusik lessons.

Final Advent Service and Supper

The final Midweek Advent Service will be held this Wednesday, December 18 at Grace-University at 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM. *The Eager Expectation of God's People* is our theme as we consider the soul's anticipation of the Savior's arrival. These services are designed to help us prepare our hearts for the celebration of our Savior's birth on Christmas.

Prior to the 7 PM service you are welcome to join us for supper at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

Grace-Vail Fall Canvassing

The final canvassing date for the year of the Vail and Rita Ranch neighborhoods is this Saturday, December 21, from 9:30-11:30 AM. Following canvassing, Grace will provide lunch for those in attendance.

Meet at Rancho Del Lago golf course in Vail (14155 E Via Rancho Del Lago, 85641)

HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Midweek Advent Services at Grace-University

Wednesday, December 18
10:00 AM & 7:00 PM
with a supper at 6:00 PM.

Christmas Eve Carol Service

Tuesday, December 24
4:00 PM at Grace-Vail
(Cottonwood Elementary).

Children's Christmas Eve Service

Tuesday, December 24
7:00 PM at Grace-University.

Christmas Day Festival Worship

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

New Year's Eve Worship

Tuesday, December 31
7:00 PM at Grace-University.

“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.



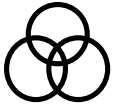
THE STAR (NATAL) CROSS reminds us of the star that marked our Savior’s birth.



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!