

Third Sunday of Advent
December 15, 2019
9:30 A.M.



WELCOME TO GRACE

Prelude

Word of Welcome

stand as you are able

Confession and Forgiveness

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the parent who rouses us from slumber, the shepherd who gathers us on the holy mountain, the deliverer who sets us free.

C Amen

P Let us come before the living God in confession.

silence for reflection

P As we wait and watch for the promised day of salvation,

C we open our hearts to you, O God. Search us and know us. Reveal all that we keep inside. To you, O God, we confess our sins, known and unknown. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us in your ways of justice and peace. Make us reflections of the radiant love of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Amen

P Beloved children of the Most High, you are gathered before the righteous judge who has mercy on all. Splash exuberantly in the waters of baptism, where sin is washed away in the river of life. Dwell peacefully in the loving arms of the one who nurtures all creation. Go forth boldly in the assurance that your sins are

forgiven in the name of the one who is coming and is already here, † Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C Amen

Gathering Hymn 'Prepare the Royal Highway' **264**

Greeting

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

please be seated

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

A Blessed are you, God of might and majesty, for you promise to make the desert rejoice and blossom, to watch over the strangers, and to set the prisoners free. As we light the third candle, satisfy our hunger with your good gifts, open our eyes to the great things you have done for us, and fill us with patience until the coming of the Lord Jesus.

O ransomed people of the Lord, come,

C and enter into Zion with singing. Amen

The third candle is lit.

Hymn

'Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah' vs 3 **240**

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

First Reading

Isaiah 35:1-10

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

³Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. ⁹No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God

Second Reading

James 5:7-10

⁷Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the

early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

stand as you are able

Gospel Acclamation 'Alleluia' p. 151

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 11th chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Holy Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." ⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way

before you.’ ¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

please be seated

Children’s Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day ‘All Earth Is Hopeful’ **266**

stand as you are able

Apostles’ Creed p. 105

Prayers of Intercession

Petitions end:

A Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P You hear the cries of our hearts, O Lord. Fill us with hopeful expectation, that in each day and hour we may love and serve our neighbors, in Jesus’ name.

C Amen

Peace *The people greet one another saying: “Peace be with you”.*

please be seated

Offering

stand as you are able

Offertory ‘Soon and Very Soon’ vs 1 **439**

Offering Prayer

A Giver of every good thing,

C we set before you the gifts that you have already given to sustain our lives and to share with others. Help us to be good

**stewards of the earth and all that is in it,
and let our lives be a testimony to the
abundant feast you prepare for all who
hunger. Amen**

Great Thanksgiving

p.152-153 & p. 132

Lord's Prayer

p. 134

please be seated

Distribution of Holy Communion

*Communion, this morning, will be by intinction.
The ushers will direct you to the front, first the pulpit side
and then lectern side. Come up using the center aisle
and return by the side aisle. Wine will be in the larger
portion and grape juice in the smaller portion of the
challis. Gluten free wafers available by request. Children
are invited for a blessing. All are welcome who believe
Christ is present in this meal for the forgiveness of sins.*

Hymns at the Distribution

'Lamb of God'

p. 154

'Awake! Awake, and Greet'

242

'Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence'

490

stand as you are able

Table Blessing

Post Communion Prayer

A God of abundance,

**C we give you thanks that in this holy meal
you have invited us to feast with you and
one another. May the taste of your love
remain with us, and may our words and
our work in your name invite others into
your bountiful grace. Send us from your
table to proclaim your presence, even as
we await the glorious coming of Christ our
Savior. Amen**

Blessing

P Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

C **Amen**

Sending Hymn 'People, Look East'

248

Dismissal

A Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Prayer Huddle

Other Music:

Prelude: The Friendly Beasts, arranged by Lorie Line

Offertory: Kling, Glockchen arranged by Chip Davis

Postlude: Bells Over Bethlehem arranged by Lorie Line

Make
a *Joyful* noise unto the *Lord*
Psalm 98:4

Worship Assistants: December 15

Greeters: Mason – Mary & Ray Hubers
East – Sharon & Bob Meier

Assisting Minister: Mandie Klauer

Lector: Brian Klauer

Communion: Deb Werth

Ushers: Marty Grow, Laury Grow, Kathy Lanska,
Brian Klauer

Accompanist: Becky Luett

Attendance 12/8/19: 9:30 – 77

Grilled Cheese Lunch: 12/05/19: 87

Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Dan Luett

920-594-2015 pastordanluett@gmail.com

Church Secretary: Carey Mackesy

Welcome to Grace

Whether you are a member or visiting for the first time, may God's grace surround you today.

There is a guest book to sign in the gathering area.

*If you are looking for a church home,
you are welcome here.*

Please Note:

As Trinity transitions to their new location for their offices, access to the building is changing. The Grace office is usually available Tuesday, Wed and Thurs. from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm but it is always best to call ahead 733-9135 if you need access and don't have a key.

In Prayer this Week

For members on the Care List especially Marian Breitenfeldt.

For Healing Tom Jensen; Mardie Paalman, Cookie Regal's sister; Winston Augustus Smith, Cheryl Muggenthaler's nephew; Mary Langdon, Cheryl Muggenthaler's sister-in-law; Rev. Jennie Johnson Wrege; Valerie Sieg; Marvin Wrege; Margaret Congdon; Mike VerKuilen; Lloyd Learman; Charlotte Endorf; Marian Breitenfeldt; Bev; Jim Marks; Darlene, Linda Grebe's mom; Judy Cross; Tom Muggenthaler; Gene Krull; Ole Olson; Gerry Kerwell; Joyce; Ken and Edna; Paula; Ben Holz.

For those with cancer especially Ellie; Mark Catlin; Kenny Verdegan; Louie Dumke; Sam Strong.

Our deepest sympathy to the family of Pastor James Seim on his passing.

"Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer." Romans 12:12



If you have a Prayer Chain request, please contact Mary Hubers (422-1090) or Susan Pringnitz (733-7591). Call the church office with requests for prayer to be put in the bulletin and/or to ask for a prayer to be relayed to the Prayer Chain.

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Announcements

Thank you for **signing the card** each week on the table in the Narthex that are mailed out to the homebound members.

Check out the **Grace Web Site**

www.gracelutheranappleton.org for updated information about our congregation. We also have a feature – Daily Devotions. Every day a new devotion is on our website. Check them out!

Snow shoveling is upon us once again (yuk). There is a sign up sheet on the table in the narthex. Can you help? It really helps for everyone to know it is taken care of. Thank you in advance for all the help.

IMPORTANT: - Contributions for 2019 – Contributions you want recorded for 2019 must be received by December 29. Checks MUST have a December date to be counted for 2019.

Envelopes – New envelopes will be available the middle of December for 2020. If you attend Grace and are not a member you may still receive envelopes so your donations can be recorded and you will receive a statement at the end of the year. The other option is to put your donation in one of the pew envelopes with your name on it and it will also be recorded. If you make your donations through auto pay at your bank just put your new envelope number where they ask for account number starting January 1, 2020. Statements for 2019 will be out by the end of January 2020. Please see Cheryl Muggenthaler if you have questions or request envelopes for 2020.

Christmas Display

You can sign up **TODAY** on the sheet on the desk to give a gift for the Christmas display. A gift of \$12.00 or any amount you choose is appreciated. Checks are payable to Grace Lutheran Church and can be placed in your regular offering envelope and marked "Christmas Display". Thank you for your gift. Donors will be listed.

Fox Valley Lutheran Homes is having Advent services on Wednesday, Dec 18 at 11:30 am. There is a luncheon following the service you are welcome to attend.

Once again it is the **season of snow**. In case of extreme weather, Grace will announce any closures thru the radio on WHBY 1150 AM and thru the TV on station WBAY (ABC).

Grace will be having **worship** services on **Christmas Eve** 12/24/19 at 6:30 pm and **Christmas Day** 12/25/19 at 9:30 am. Come and celebrate with us.

The **Semi Annual Congregational Meeting** will be January 5th after the 9:30 am worship service at approximately 10:30 am. At this meeting, the 2020 budget will be presented for approval.

On Sunday **Dec 22, the Sunday School** will be having a short Christmas program at the end of the 9:30 am worship service. The program will begin around 10:15 am.

GRACE FOR THE WEEK

- Sunday, Dec 15** 9:30 a.m. Worship
10:30 a.m. Sunday School
6:00 p.m. Potter's House Worship
- Monday, Dec 16**7:30 pm AA Meeting
- Tuesday, Dec 17**8:30 am Quilters
- Wednesday, Dec 18** 9:00 am Bible Study
11:30 am Worship @ FVLH w/lunch
6:30 pm Council
7:30 p.m. AA Meeting
- Thursday, Dec 19**10:30 am Grilled Cheese
- Friday, Dec 20** 9:00 a.m. Bible Study
- Saturday, Dec 21**9:00 a.m. Hmong Service
- Sunday, Dec 22** 9:30 a.m. Worship
10:30 am Sunday School
6:00 p.m. Potter's House Worship

WORSHIP
THE LORD
IN THE
BEAUTY
OF HOLINESS