

Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2017

8:30 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, who comes to wake us from sleep, who leads us into the light of grace.

C Amen

P Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P God of all time,

C We confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us. We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of justice and peace. In your mercy forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your light and to seek the things that will endure until Christ comes again in glory. Amen

P Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. In † Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven and all things are made new. Rejoice in this good news!

C Amen

Gathering Hymn

'Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn'

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Greeting

P From the one who was and who is and who is to come Grace and peace be with you all.

C And also with you.

Be seated.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

A Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.

C Your prophets spoke of a day when the desert would blossom and waters would break forth in the wilderness. Bless us as we light the third candle on this wreath. Strengthen our hearts as we prepare for the coming of the Lord. May he give water to all who thirst, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever. Amen

The second 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 your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; 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 61:1-4, 8-11

¹The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the
oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
³to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.
⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

⁸For I the LORD love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with
them.

⁹Their descendants shall be known among the
nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the LORD has
blessed.

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of
salvation,

he has covered me with the robe of
righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to
spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and
praise to spring up before all the nations.

L The Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God**

Second Reading I Thessalonians 5:16-24

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give
thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God
in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the
Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹but
test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain
from every form of evil.

²³May the God of peace himself sanctify you
entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be
kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord
Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and
he will do this.

L The Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand as you are able.
Gospel Acclamation 'Alleluia!' p.151

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1st
chapter.
C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Holy Gospel

John 1:6-8, 19-28

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²²Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³He said,

"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said.

²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" ²⁶John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Be seated.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

'Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!'

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Stand as you are able.

Apostles' Creed

p. 105

Prayers of Intercession

Petitions end:

A Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P We raise our prayers to you, O God, in the name of the one who is, who was, and who is to come, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

Peace

The people greet one another saying: "Peace be with you".

Be seated.

Offering

Stand as you are able.

Offertory 'Fling Wide the Door' vs 3

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Offering Prayer

A Savior of the nation, come.

C Make your home here in us. Feed us with your love, that our faith shine ever new and our lives reveal your light. Amen

Great Thanksgiving

pp. 152-153

Lord's Prayer

p. 154

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 chalice. Gluten free

Worship Assistants: December 17

Greeters: Mason – Roger Schmidt
East – Mandie Klauer

Assisting Minister: Laury Grow

Lector: Laury Grow

Communion 8:30: Gene Krull

Communion 10:30: Luann Seidl

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

Organist: Diane Bailey

Attendance 12/10: 8:30 am-60 & 10:30 am-30

H.S. Grilled Cheese Lunch: 148

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In Prayer this Week

For members on the Care List especially Donny Kassube and Marie Mueller.

For Healing for Norma Bryant; 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; Sharon Meier; Margaret Congdon; Jerry Wilharms.

For those with cancer especially Ellie; Melissa Heins, Gene and Karen Krull's daughter; Mark Catlin; Roger Schmidt; Marian Breitenfeldt; Enid Andrews.

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



If you have a Prayer Chain request, please contact Mary Hubers (731-1428) 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.

Announcements

Advent is here. Join us for the Midweek Advent services at 6:30 pm on Wednesdays in December. These services will be about 30 minutes so you can plan your Wednesday activities. We are inviting Trinity to join us for these service.

Dec. 20 – The Angel Speaks to Mary’s Doubt

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.

Thank you for your enthusiastic response and generosity to the **Angel of Hope Christmas Tree.**

Christmas Worship Services

Sunday, Dec. 24 –

- 8:30 A.M. - Fourth Sunday in Advent
- 10:30 A.M. - Christmas Eve with the reading of Jesus Birth
- 6:30 P.M. - Christmas Eve with Meditation and Candlelight

Monday Dec. 25 - 9:00 A.M. - Christmas Day

Advent Bags for Homebound

Today is the day to have your donations for our more fragile members of Grace, and the care team will assemble gift bags for each of them. Please put items for the Advent Bags in the plastic bin in the narthex. About 20 bags will be taken to members. Suggested items include socks, stamps, Christmas

&/or hard candy, small Kleenex, homemade cookies and hand/body lotion. For a complete list see the December newsletter. Thank you on behalf of the many who will receive these thoughtful gift bags.

It is time for snow There is a sign up sheet on the desk in the narthex. We are asking for volunteers to keep the sidewalks clean of snow on a weekly basis. The parking lot is taken care of however please consider helping with the other areas. Thank you!

Linwood Place Apartments has openings: large 2 BR with 1½ bath, large 2 BR, and 1 BR. Our waiting list is empty! Call now to see an apartment or to secure a spot for the future. This is the time to act!!! Call Becky at 920-734-7725 or 920-594-2016, or call Brian at 920-840-3578.

Semi Annual Congregational Meeting was postponed last week and is now scheduled for Sunday January 7th at 9:15 a.m. Please plan to attend.

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.*

GRACE FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, Dec. 17..... 8:30 a.m. Worship
9:25 a.m. Sunday School
9:40 a.m. Adult Forum
10:30 a.m. Worship

Monday, Dec. 18.....7:30 p.m. AA Meeting

Tuesday, Dec. 19..... 6:00 p.m. Confirmation
6:30 p.m. FV Chorus

Wednesday, Dec. 20.....9:00 a.m. Bible Study
6:30 p.m. Advent Worship
6:45 p.m. AA Meeting

Thursday, Dec. 21.....10 a.m. Grilled Cheese Lunch
6:30 p.m. Trinity Singers Practice

Friday, Dec. 22.....9:00 a.m. Bible Study

Saturday, Dec. 23.....9:00 a.m. Hmong Service

Sunday, Dec. 24.....8:30 a.m. Worship
10:30 a.m. Worship
6:30 p.m. Worship

Monday, Dec. 25.....9:00 a.m. Christmas Worship