

Fourth Sunday in Advent December 18, 2016

Order of Worship 8:30 A.M.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

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!

Gathering Hymn

'O Come, O Come Emmanuel' vs 1-4

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Greeting

P From the one who was, 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 In your son, Emmanuel, you have shown us your light and saved us from the power of sin. Bless us as we light the fourth candle on this wreath. Increase our longing for your presence, that at the celebration of your Son's birth his Spirit might dwell anew in our midst, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever. Amen

The fourth candle is lit.

Hymn

'Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah' vs 4

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Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray:

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.

With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

First Reading

Isaiah 7:10-16

¹⁰The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. ¹²But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. ¹³Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Romans 1:1-7

¹Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

⁷To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand as you are able.

Gospel Acclamation

'Alleluia'

p. 142

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the
1st Chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

P The Gospel of the Lord

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Be seated.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

'Savior of the Nations, Come'

263

Stand as you are able.

Apostles' Creed

p. 105

Prayers of Intercession

Petitions end:

A let us pray,

C Have mercy, O God.

P Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, those spoken aloud and those known only to you, and grant us peace through Jesus Christ, our coming Savior.

C Amen

Peace

*The people greet one another saying: "Peace be with you."
(Some people may choose not to shake hands now during cold and flu season.)*

Be seated. The offering is gathered.

Offering

Stand as you are able.

Offertory *'Soon and Very Soon' vs 1*

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Offering Prayer

A Savior of the nations, 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

p. 144

Lord's Prayer

p. 145

Be seated.

Distribution of Holy Communion

Come to the communion rail by the center aisle and return by the side aisle. You may kneel or stand. Wine is in the common cup and tray of individual cups. If you prefer grape juice, ask the server. 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. 146
'Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence'	490
'O Come, O Come, Emmanuel' vs 5-8	257

Stand as you are able.

Table Blessing

Prayer after Communion

- A God for whom we wait,
C **you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world, announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Benediction

Closing Hymn '*People, Look East*' **248**

Dismissal

- A Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Worship Assistants: December 18

Greeters: Mason – Art Peterson / Roger Schmidt
East Side – Mandie Klauer

Assisting Minister: Mark Balkman

Lector: Cheryl Muggenthaler

Communion: Gene Krull

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

Organist: Diane Bailey

Hospitality: Martha Jensen

Attendance 12/11 8:30 a.m. 43
 10:30 a.m. 18

H.S. Grilled Cheese Lunch 12/8: 144

Welcome to Grace

Whether you are a member or visiting for the first time, may God's grace surround you today. Fill out one of the cards in the pew racks and place it in the offering plate to share your contact information and any needs. There is also a guest book to sign in the gathering area. If you are looking for a church home, you are welcome here.

Grace Lutheran Church Mission Statement

*By grace, through faith, we follow God's Word, share the gospel of Jesus Christ and bring hope to others through **worship, education and outreach.***

In Prayer this Week

For members on the Care List especially Gladys Prah and Henry Schoenborn.

For those in Hospice Care especially Earl Breitenfeldt.

For Healing for Tom Jensen; Mardie Paalman, Cookie Regal's sister; Winston Augustus Smith, Cheryl Muggenthaler's nephew; Mary Langdon, Cheryl Muggenthaler's sister-in-law.

For those with cancer especially Melissa Heins, Gene and Karen Krull's daughter; Mark Catlin; Robyn Messenger, Deb Baumbach's sister; and Roger Schmidt.

In Thanksgiving for God's faithfulness in times of transition.

“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

"His Name is Jesus" will be shared by Grace's children in worship at 10:30 a.m. today. Holy communion will be celebrated. Thank you Lois Hilger for leading and directing.

During cold and flu season, many people prefer to not shake hands. If you wish, you may share God's Peace using a healthful alternative, such as patting a shoulder, bumping fists or elbows, or placing your hand over your heart.

The Recliner in the Gathering Area is available. If you or someone you know can put it to good use, feel free to take it!

Advent Mid-Week Worship. Trinity Lutheran Church is holding Advent Services on Wednesday evenings at Grace, 7 p.m. All are welcome.

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.

Hospitality Volunteers are needed. Please sign up on the table in the gathering area if you are willing to provide treats between services.

Christmas Worship

Christmas Eve Candelight Service

with Holy Communion
Saturday, December 24
6:30 p.m.

Christmas Day

Service of Lessons & Carols
with Holy Communion
Sunday, December 25
8:30 & 10:30 a.m.



Christmas Worship Schedule

Grace Lutheran Church
900 N. Mason, Appleton, WI 54914
920-733-9135
Grace54914@gmail.com &
www.gracelutheranappleton.org

Pastor Vicki Fink
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GRACE FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, Dec. 18.....8:30 a.m. Worship
9:30 a.m. Christian Education
10:30 a.m. Worship "His Name is Jesus"
12:30 p.m. Appleton Pentecostal Assembly (APA)

Monday, Dec. 19.....2:00–4:30 p.m. Office Hours
7:30 p.m. AA Meeting

Tuesday, Dec. 20.....2:00–4:30 p.m. Office Hours
6:30 p.m. Trinity Council Meeting

Wed., Dec. 21.....9:00 a.m. Trinity Bible Study
11:30 a.m. Advent Worship & Lunch at FVLH
2:00 – 4:30 p.m. Office Hours
6:45 p.m. AA Meeting
7:00 p.m. Advent Worship
7:00 p.m. APA Bible Study
Office Closed

Thursday, Dec. 22.....2:00–4:30 p.m. Office Hours
6:30 p.m. Trinity Singers & 7:00 p.m. Trinity Ringers

Friday, Dec. 23.....9:00 a.m. Bible Study

Saturday, Dec. 24.....9:00 a.m. Hmong Service
4:00 p.m. Trinity Christmas Eve Worship
6:30 p.m. Grace Christmas Eve Worship

Sunday, Dec. 25.....8:30 a.m. Worship
10:30 a.m. Worship
12:30 p.m. Appleton Pentecostal Assembly (APA)