

**Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 24, 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

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

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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 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 would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

First Reading

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

¹Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." ³Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" ⁸Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. ¹⁶Your house

and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God

Second Reading

Romans 16:25-27

²⁵Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

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. Luke, the 1st chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

Holy Gospel

Luke 1:26-38

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now,

you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

P The Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Be seated.
Sermon

Hymn of the Day

'Savior of the Nations, Come'

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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 'Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming' vs 4 **272**

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

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. 154

'O Come, O Come, Emmanuel' vs 5-8 **257**

'Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus' **254**

Stand as you are able.

Table Blessing

Post Communion Prayer

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

Blessing

P May Christ, the Sun of righteousness, shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen

Sending Hymn 'All Earth Is Hopeful' **266**

Dismissal

A Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Prayer Huddle

Worship Assistants: December 24

Greeters:

Assisting Minister: Mark Balkman

Lector: Deb Baumbach

Communion 8:30: Marty Grow

Communion 10:30: Deb Werth

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

Organist: Diane Bailey

Attendance 12/17: 8:30 am-67 & 10:30 am-53

H.S. Grilled Cheese Lunch: 158

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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

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

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 is scheduled for Sunday January 7th at 9:15 a.m. Please plan to attend.

GRACE FOR THE WEEK

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

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

Wednesday, Dec. 27.....6:45 p.m. AA Meeting

Friday, Dec. 29.....9:00 a.m. Bible Study

Saturday, Dec. 30.....9:00 a.m. Hmong Service

Sunday, Dec. 31.....8:30 a.m. Worship
10:30 a.m. Worship
No Christian Education

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.

Christmas/Epiphany Open House



*You are invited
to the home of
Pastor Dan and Becky Luett
January 7, 2018
from*

2:00 to 4:00 pm

*Come and enjoy some holiday treats
and
enjoy our Christmas Wonderland.*

We live at 113 Woodside Court, Neenah, WI.