

GOD'S HISTORY





Serving the Portland Area with the Means of Grace and as a family of believers for over 110 years... as a church, school, preschool, mission, and ministry.

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Advent 1 – December 3rd, 2023

Welcome!

GRACE ~ *“I am not ashamed of the gospel...”*



When it comes to the truth of Scripture, there is no room for compromise. The Bible is the book we live by... for life now and for life forever. We accept the Bible as the pure Word of God. We believe that our only Savior is Jesus Christ, the sinless Son of God, who was crucified, died, and was buried but rose again to open the door to heaven for everyone who believes in him.

GRACE ~ *“These are written that you may believe...”*



Grace Lutheran Church has served the Portland area for 110 years by faithfully preaching and teaching the timeless truth of God’s Word. We believe that God uses the timeless message of Word and Sacraments to bring souls into his care. This is a message that we share here and around the world through our affiliation with the WELS.

GRACE ~ *“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations...”*



Grace Lutheran Church exists to win souls by joyfully proclaiming the truth of God’s grace through Christ, to nurture believers in growing in faith and lives of Christian service, and to join together in worship and praise. **“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and forever! Amen.” 2 Pt. 3:18**

Order of Service for
THE SEASON OF ADVENT



INVOCATION

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

Hymn:

CW21 Blue #324 (1-2) *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You*

***O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you a-right?
Your people long to greet you, my Hope, my heart's Delight.
O Jesus, let your word be a lamp to light my way,
To show me how to please you, to guide me ev'ry day.***

***Love caused your incarnation; love brought you down to me.
Your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty.
Oh, love beyond all telling that led you to embrace
In love, all love excelling, our lost and fallen race!***

CONFESSION

M: When God created the world, he made the crown of his creation—the human race—in his image. Perfect people lived in a perfect world in a perfect relationship with God.

C: **But mankind rebelled against God, bringing sin into the world and death to all. God declared the wages of sin to be death. We too are guilty, and we confess our sinful thoughts, words, and actions.**

M: However, God—who is Love—did not want to be separated from his children forever. He promised a Savior who would bear the punishment for sin, defeat the devil, and break the bonds of death. *Genesis 1:26; Romans 6:23*

Hymn:

CW21 Blue #324 (3) *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You*

***Rejoice, then, you sad-hearted, who sit in deepest gloom,
Who mourn o'er joys departed and tremble at your doom.
Despair not; he is near you, He's standing at the door
Who best can help and cheer you and bids you weep no more.***

M: When the time had fully come, God sent his Son. Jesus, our Savior, has paid the ransom for your debt; your sins are forgiven. In view of God's mercy, today we light the hope candle. The Spirit declares through the psalmist, "Put your hope in the Lord, for with the Lord is unfailing love, and with him is full redemption."

C: **We wait for the Lord, and in his word we put our hope.**

Galatians 4:4,5; Psalm 130:5,7

Hymn:

CW21 Blue #324 (4) *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You*

***Sin's debt, that fearful burden, let not your souls distress;
Your guilt the Lord will pardon and cover by his grace.
He comes, for you procuring the peace of sin forgiv'n,
His children thus securing eternal life in heav'n.***

M: In the hope of God we go to the world—to our friends, relatives, acquaintances and neighbors. We regard no one from a worldly point of view. If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.

C: **God has committed to us the ministry of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. Jesus, who had no sin, became sin for us; in him we have become the righteousness of God.**

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Hymn:

CW21 Blue #324 (5) *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You*

***He comes to judge the nations, A terror to his foes,
A light of consolations, and blessed hope to those
Who love the Lord's appearing. O glorious Sun, now come,
Send forth your beams most cheering, and guide us safely home.***

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

M: Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES WITH THE CHILDREN:

- M: We light one Advent candle remembering Jesus, the Son of God and Son of Mary. He came to share our humanity.
- C: **We remember Jesus, whose name means Savior. He came to save his people from their sins.**
- M: We hear his call to give him a place in our hearts.
- C: **We light our Advent candle as a sign of our joy and hope.**
- M: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.
- C: **Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.**



Hymn:

CW21 Blue #325 My Soul in Stillness Waits

*For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits,
truly my hope is in you.*

*O Lord of Light, our only hope of glory,
your radiance shines in all who look to you,
come, light the hearts of all in dark and shadow.*

*For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits,
truly my hope is in you.*

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON:

Isaiah 9:2-7

²The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.³You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder.⁴For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor.⁵Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire.⁶For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.⁷Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

HYMN RESPONSE:

CW21 Blue #360 (1): *Behold, A Branch Is Growing*

*Behold, a Branch is growing
Of loveliest form and grace,
As prophets sang, foreknowing;
It springs from Jesse's race
And now begins to flow'r'
In midst of coldest winter,
At deepest midnight hour.*

SECOND LESSON:

Isaiah 60:1-5

“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.² See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you. ³ Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.⁴ “Lift up your eyes and look about you: All assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the hip. ⁵ Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come.

HYMN RESPONSE:

CW21 Blue #360 (2): *Behold, A Branch Is Growing*

*Isaiah had foretold it
In words of promise sure,
And Mary's arms enfold it,
A virgin meek and pure.
Through God's eternal will
This child to her is given
At midnight calm and still.*

THE VERSE OF THE DAY

Hebrews 5:9 (KJV)

Alleluia. And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him. Alleluia.

THE GOSPEL LESSON

John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him everything was made, and without him not one thing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was^(a) life, and the life was the light of mankind. ⁵ The light is shining in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man, sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as an eyewitness to testify about the light so that everyone would believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but he came to testify about the light.

⁹ The real light that shines on everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, yet his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, to those who believe in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. ¹³ They were born, not of blood, or of the desire of the flesh, or of a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and dwelled among us. We have seen his glory, the glory he has as the only-begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

¹⁵ John testified about him. He cried out, "This was the one I spoke about when I said, 'The one coming after me outranks me because he existed before me.'" ¹⁶ For out of his fullness we have all received grace upon grace. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. The only-begotten Son, who is close to the Father's side, has made him known.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty maker of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY:

CW21 Blue #310: *Arise, O Christian People*

***Arise, O Christian people! Prepare yourselves today.
Prepare to greet the Savior, who takes your sins away.
To us by grace alone the truth and light were given;
The promised Lord from heaven to all the world is shown.***

***Prepare the way before him; Prepare for him the best.
Cast out what would offend him, this great, this heav'nly guest.
Make straight, make plain the way: The lowly valleys raising,
The heights of pride abasing, His path all even lay.***

*The humble heart and lowly God raises up on high;
Beneath his feet in terror the haughty soul shall lie.
The heart sincere and right, that heeds God's invitation
And makes true preparation --It is the Lord's delight.*

*Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus; Turn not from me aside,
And help me to receive you this blessed Adventtide.
From stall and manger low come now to dwell within me;
I'll sing your praises gladly and forth your glory show.*

SERMON

Hebrews 5:9

THANKSGIVING

THE OFFERING

*An opportunity to give online can also be used at
Paypal.me/GracePortland or by utilizing this QR code:*



THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH & THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those
who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.*

THE BENEDICTION

HYMN OF THE DAY:

CW21 Blue #322: Come, Thou Long – Expected Jesus

*Come, Thou long expected Jesus - Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in Thee.*

*Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.*

*Born Thy people to deliver, Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever, Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.*

*By Thine own eternal Spirit, Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit, Raise us to Thy glorious throne.*