

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.

Church Campus: 7610 NE Fremont Street, Pastor – Pastor Thad Bitter (503 .290.6316– call /text)
School Campus: 2252 SE 92nd Street, Principal - Justin Eternick (920.988.1999 – call /text)
Preschool: 2252 SE 92nd Street, ECE Director Tammy Godish (503.312.4230 – call /text)

Advent 2 – December 10th, 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



HYMN:

CWRED #4 Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates

*Lift up your heads, you mighty gates! Behold, the King of glory waits.
The King of kings is drawing near; The Savior of the world is here.
Life and salvation he will bring; Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.
To God the Father raise Your joyful songs of praise.*

*The King is born in poverty, His chariot is humility,
His kingly crown is holiness, His scepter, pity in distress.
The end of all our woe he brings; Therefore the earth is glad and sings.
To Christ the Savior raise Your grateful hymns of praise.*

*How blest the land, the city blest, Where Christ the ruler is confessed!
O peaceful hearts and happy homes To whom this King in triumph comes!
The cloudless sun of joy is he Who comes to set his people free.
To God the Spirit raise Your happy shouts of praise.*

*Fling wide the portals of your heart; Make it a temple set apart
From earthly use for heaven's employ, Adorned with prayer and love and joy.
So shall your Sov'reign enter in And new and nobler life begin.
To God alone be praise For word and deed and grace!*

*Redeemer, come! I open wide My heart to you; here, Lord, abide!
Oh, enter with your saving grace; Show me your kind and friendly face.
Your Holy Spirit guide us on Until our glorious goal is won.
Eternal praise and fame We offer to your name.*

INVOCATION

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

C: Amen.

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 and plead for His mercy and grace.**

ABSOLUTION

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*

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 Bethlehem candle. The Spirit declares through the prophet, “*But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel*”

C: **We wait for the Lord, and in his word and promise we are prepared to meet him.** *Galatians 4:4,5; Micah 5:2*

HYMN:

CW21BLUE #333 (1,4) O Little Town of Bethlehem

*O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years, are met in thee tonight.*

*O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
Oh, come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES WITH THE CHILDREN:

M: We light two Advent candles now,
C: **the Beth'lem Candle kindles bright.**
M: Dispelling darkness, Jesus comes,
C: **and warms us with his holy light.**

M: We think of little Bethlehem,
C: **a mere two thousand years ago,**
M: the busy streets, the crowded inn,
C: **and what the people didn't know:**

M: That in a stable God was born
C: **and laid upon a bed of hay.**
M: The virgin wrapped him, kept him warm:
C: **divinity came with us to stay!**



Hymn:

CW21 Blue #325 (1-2) *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.*

*O Spring of Joy, rain down upon our spirits,
our thirsty hearts are yearning for your Word,
come, make us whole, be comfort to our hearts.*

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

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON – THE OLD TESTAMENT:

Isaiah 40:1-9

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

² Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call out to her.

Her warfare really is over.

Her guilt is fully paid for.

Yes, she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

³ A voice is calling out:

In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD.

In the wasteland make a level highway for our God.

⁴ Every valley will be raised up,

and every mountain and hill will be made low.

The rugged ground will become level,

and the rough places will become a plain.

⁵ Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed,

and all flesh together will see it.

Yes, the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

⁶ A voice was saying, "Cry out!"

And I said, "What shall I cry out?"

All flesh is grass,

and all its beauty is like a wildflower in the countryside.

⁷ Grass withers, flowers fade,

when the breath of the LORD blows on them.

Yes, the people are grass.

⁸ Grass withers, flowers fade,

but the Word of our God endures forever.

⁹ Get up on a high mountain,

O Zion, you herald of good news.

Lift up your voice with strength,

O Jerusalem, you herald of good news.

Lift it up! Do not be afraid!

Say to the cities of Judah,

"Here is your God!"

THE CHOIR

"Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel!"

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ² This is how it is written in the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare the way for you.

³ A voice of one calling out in the wilderness,

“Prepare the way of the Lord.

Make his paths straight.”

⁴ John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

⁵ The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him. They were baptized by him in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins. ⁶ John was clothed in camel’s hair, and he wore a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ He preached, “One more powerful than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals! ⁸ I baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

HYMN:

CW21 Blue #302 (1, 3-4) Prepare the Royal Highway

Prepare the royal highway; The King of kings is near!

Let ev'ry hill and valley a level road appear!

Then greet the King of glory, foretold in sacred story:

Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's Word!

Then fling the gates wide open to greet your promised King!

Your King, yet ev'ry nation its tribute too should bring.

All lands, bow down before him! All nations, now adore him!

Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's Word!

His is no earthly kingdom; It comes from heav'n above.

His rule is peace and freedom and justice, truth, and love.

So let your praise be sounding for kindness so abounding:

Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's Word!

SERMON

Isaiah 55: 3-4, 8-12

3 Give ear and come to me; listen, that you may live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David. 4 See, I have made him a witness to the peoples, a ruler and commander of the peoples.

8 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,"

declares the Lord. 9 "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. 10 As the rain and the

snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the

eater, 11 so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty,

but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. 12 You

will go out in joy and be led forth in peace.

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 SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

M: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He protects and preserves his Church in every age and gives us confidence to lift up our heads and watch for Jesus with joy. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory forever and ever. Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts. The whole earth is full of your glory!

HYMN:

CW21 Blue #320 (1,6): As Angels Joyed with One Accord

*As angels joyed with one accord
Upon the advent of our Lord,
So let us gladly praise the name
Of him who from the Father came.*

*He comes to us in bread and wine
To give himself --and gifts divine.
Oh, praise him for this sacrament,
Redeeming love's great testament!*

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me. Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

THE DISTRIBUTION

Thank you for honoring our practice of "close" communion. The Bible teaches that participating in the Lord's Supper is an expression of complete unity of faith (1 Cor. 10:17). We lovingly ask, therefore, that before joining in this, the highest act of fellowship, a unity of faith based on the Bible be established through membership in this congregation or in a sister congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS). We are most eager for you to join us in the unity of faith and confession we enjoy. If you would like to discuss "close" communion, learn more about becoming a member at Grace, or any other spiritual matter with the pastor, please indicate this on the Friendship Register by checking "would like pastor to call/visit" or contact our pastor at 503-290-6316.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

*Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding
Chicago Metro Presbytery*

Music used with permission CCLI License 11209822

Christy Nockels – An Advent Hymn

Music used with permission CCLI License 11209822

THE COMMUNION BLESSING

THE BENEDICTION

The blessing of Aaron has been spoken over god's people for over 3500 years. The Lord said, "So they will put my name on them, and I will bless them". – Numbers 6:24-26

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

*God loves me dearly, grants me salvation,
God loves me dearly, loves even me.
Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly, loves even me.*

*I was in slav'ry, sin, death, and darkness;
God's love was working, to make me free.
Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly, loves even me.*

*He sent forth Jesus, my dear Redeemer,
he sent forth Jesus and set me free.
Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly, loves even me.*

*Jesus, my Savior, himself did offer;
Jesus, my Savior, paid all I owed.
Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly, loves even me.*

*Now I will praise you, O Love eternal;
I will praise you all my life long.
Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly, loves even me.*

Advent



coloring page

