



The Tree of Life



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 3 – December 12th, 2021

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 over 100 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 Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (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.” II Peter 3:1**

Order of Service for
THE SEASON OF ADVENT



OPENING SONG

Christy Nockels – An Advent Hymn

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ADVENT GATHERING

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

C: **Amen.**

M: When God created the world, he made the crown of his creation—the human race—in his own image.

C: **The tree of life with ev'ry good, In Eden's holy orchard stood,
And of its fruit - so pure and sweet, God let the man and woman eat.**

M: Perfect people lived in a perfect world in a perfect relationship with God.

C: **Yet in this garden also grew - Another tree, of which they knew;
Its lovely limbs with fruit adorned, against whose eating God had warned.**

M: Mankind rebelled against God, bringing sin into the world and death to all.

C: **The stillness of, that sacred grove, was broken as the serpent strove
With tempting voice, Eve to beguile - And Adam to by sin defile.**

M: God declared the wages of sin to be death. We too are guilty, and we confess our sinful thoughts, words, and actions.

C: **Oh, day of sadness when the breath, of fear and darkness, doubt and death,
Its awful poison first displayed, Within the world so newly made.**

M: Yet, 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.

C: **What mercy God, showed to our race, A plan of rescue by his grace:
In sending One, from woman's seed, The One to fill our greatest need—**

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.

C: **For on a tree uplifted high, His only Son for sin would die,
Would drink the cup of scorn and dread, to crush the ancient serpent's head!**

M: In view of God's mercy, today we light the pink candle that represent our joy in God's forgiveness.

**C: Now from that tree, of Jesus' shame, Flows life eternal in his name;
For all who trust and will believe, Salvation's living fruit receive.**

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: And of this fruit so pure and sweet, The Lord invites the world to eat,
To find within this cross of wood, The tree of life with ev'ry good.**

HYMN RESPONSE:

CWS #750 (vs 1) Christ, The Word of God Incarnate

*Christ, the Word of God incarnate, Lord and Son of Abraham;
Christ, the radiance of the Father, Perfect God, the great I Am;
Christ, the Light, you shine unvanquished, Light and life you bring to all;
Light our path with your own presence, grant us grace to heed your call.*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES WITH THE CHILDREN:

M: We light three 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.



PRAYER OF THE DAY:

M: Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON – THE OLD TESTAMENT:

Jeremiah 33:14-16

¹⁴ “‘The days are coming,’ declares the LORD, ‘when I will fulfill the good promise I made to the people of Israel and Judah. ¹⁵ “‘In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David’s line; he will do what is just and right in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. This is the name by which it will be called: The LORD Our Righteous Savior.’

HYMN RESPONSE:

CWS #750 (vs 2) Christ, The Word of God Incarnate

*Christ, the shoot that springs triumphant, From the stump of Jesse’s tree;
Christ, true vine, you nurture branches, To bear fruit abundantly.
Graft us into you, O Savior; Prune our hearts so we remain
Fruitful branches in your vineyard, Till eternal life we gain.*

SECOND LESSON – EPISTLE:

Romans 15:8-13

⁸ For I am saying that Christ became a servant of those who are circumcised for the sake of God’s truth, to confirm the promises made to the patriarchs. ⁹ He also did this so that the Gentiles would glorify God for his mercy, as it is written:

For this reason I will praise you among the Gentiles,
and I will sing to your name.

¹⁰ And again it says:

Rejoice, you Gentiles, with his people.

¹¹ And again:

Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples give him praise.

¹² And again Isaiah says:

There will be a Root of Jesse,
and he is the one who will rise up to rule the Gentiles;
on him the Gentiles will place their hope.

¹³ Now may the God of hope fill you with complete joy and peace as you continue to believe, so that you overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

THE VERSE OF THE DAY

Isaiah 11:1

Alleluia. A shoot will spring up from the stump of Jesse, and a Branch from his roots will bear fruit. Alleluia!

HYMN RESPONSE:

CWS #750 (vs 3) Christ, The Word of God Incarnate

***Christ, the Alpha and Omega; Christ, the firstborn from the dead;
Christ, the life and resurrection; Christ, the Church's glorious head:
Praise and thanks and adoration, And unending worship be
To the Father and the Spirit And to you eternally.***

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 1:39-55

Mary Visits Elizabeth

³⁹ In those days Mary got up and hurried to the hill country, to a town of Judah. ⁴⁰ She entered the home of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ Just as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² She called out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³ But why am I so favored that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ In fact, just now, as soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy! ⁴⁵ Blessed is she who believed, because the promises spoken to her from the Lord will be fulfilled!"

Mary's Song

⁴⁶ Then Mary said,

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ because he has looked with favor on the humble state of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed,

⁴⁹ because the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

⁵⁰ His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm.

He has scattered those who were proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵² He has brought down rulers from their thrones.

He has lifted up the lowly.

⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things, but the rich he has sent away empty.

⁵⁴ He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, remembering his mercy,

⁵⁵ as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and his offspring^[a] forever.

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:

CW #47 (1-2): 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 bears one little flow'r
In midst of coldest winter,
At deepest midnight hour.*

*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.*

SERMON

Jeremiah 33:14-16 & Isaiah 11:1

THE BRANCH

THANKSGIVING

THE OFFERING

An opportunity to give online can also be used at
[Paypal.me/GracePortland](https://www.paypal.me/GracePortland) or by utilizing this QR code:



THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Tune: Away In A Manger – Cradle Song – CW #68



**Our Father in heaven, all praise to your name!
Your kingdom among us, your will done the same
By mortals and angels. Come, Lord, reign alone;
Oh, hear us and bless us from heaven's high throne.**

**The bread that we yearn for provide us each day;
As we forgive others, our sins take away;
In times of temptation, to lead us be near;
From evil deliver your children most dear.**

**For yours is the kingdom; o'er all things you reign.
And your is the power; all things you maintain.
To you be the glory, resounding again
From all of creation, forever! Amen.**

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The congregational responses are spoken unless otherwise indicated

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. Through his holy prophets, he promised a King to bring light to those living in darkness and in the shadow of death. 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:

CW #5 (1,6): As Angels Joyed with One Accord

*As angels joyed with one accord
Upon the advent of our Lord,
So laud we all and bless 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

SONG

Behold A Branch Is Growing
Koine

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SONG

He Has Come For Us
Meredith Andrews

Music used with permission CCLI License 11209822

THE BLESSING & THE BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN:

An Advent Hymn
Christy Nockels

The Congregation Sings

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Worship Notes

for kids

Name _____
Date _____



Songs We Sang

The Scripture Text Was: _____

What was the sermon about?

Draw a picture from the lesson.



Words I Don't Know:

