

The Tree of Life



Grace

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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 5, 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

Sing a Song of Bethlehem
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INVOCATION

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

Hymn:

CW21 #574 (1) The Tree of Life

*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.
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: 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 #574 (2) The Tree of Life

*The stillness of, that sacred grove
Was broken as the serpent strove
With tempting voice, Eve to beguile
And Adam to by sin defile.
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: 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 #574 (3) The Tree of Life

**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—
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 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 #574 (4) The Tree of Life

**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.
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.**

AFFIRMATION OF HOLY BAPTISM – THEODORE RALPH HAFNER

- M:** In obedience to the command of our Lord and trusting in his promise, you brought this child to be baptized on November 22, 2021. Jesus told us: “*Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.*” It is in Baptism that God grants the new life of forgiveness, joy, and peace to little children. By the power of God’s Word, this gracious water of life washes away sin, delivers from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe. **Theodore Ralph Hafner** receive the sign of the cross on the head and heart † to mark you as a redeemed child of Christ.
- M:** **Theodore Ralph Hafner** we remember and affirm your baptism where God made you his child in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.
- M:** The Almighty God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—has forgiven all your sins. By your baptism, you are born again and made a dear child of your Father in heaven. May God strengthen you to live in your baptismal grace all the days of your life. Peace be with you.

EXHORTATION TO PARENTS & CONGREGATION

- M:** Our Lord Jesus Christ, in instituting Baptism, not only commanded that children should be baptized, but that they should be taught to obey everything he has commanded us. I therefore ask you: Do you sincerely intend to continue to bring up **Theodore** in the way of the Lord and to instruct him in the truths of God’s saving Word so that he may grow in faith, serve God with a Christian life, and remain in his baptismal grace unto the end? If so, answer: Yes, and we ask God to help us.

R: Yes, and we ask God to help us.

BAPTISMAL CANDLE

- M:** Jesus said: “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” Light this candle again and again in years to come on anniversaries of this day, and recall what God has done for **Theodore** through the gift of his Son and through Baptism which unites him with Jesus in his death to sin and resurrection to new life.

Please rise for prayer

- M:** Let us pray. Merciful Father in heaven, we thank you for the gift of Baptism by which you wash away sin and give us a new and eternal life. Help us each day to remember that through Baptism you clothe us with Christ that we may stand holy and righteous before you. Look with favor on **Theodore** that he may be kept safe by the gift of your Spirit, grow daily in your grace, and live forever by the power of the risen Christ. Make us willing to carry out our responsibilities to all the

baptized, so that all may finally come to the blessed joys of heaven, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

M: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord † Jesus Christ, strengthen you by his Spirit, that Christ, dwelling in you by faith, may fill you with all spiritual blessings. Go in peace.

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 two 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.**



THE WORD

FIRST LESSON – THE OLD TESTAMENT:

Genesis 1:27; 3:8-15; 4:1-2; 5:3

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

² The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him:
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

³ He will be delighted with the fear of the LORD.
He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,
nor will he render decisions based on what he hears with his ears,
⁴ but with righteousness he will judge the poor,
and he will render fair decisions in favor of the oppressed on the earth.
He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,

and with the breath from his lips he will put the wicked to death.⁵ Righteousness will be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his hips.

⁶ The wolf will dwell with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the young goat, the calf, the young lion, and the fatted calf together, and a little child will lead them. ⁷ The cow and the bear will graze together, and their young ones will lie down together. The lion will eat straw like the cattle. ⁸ The nursing child will play near a cobra's hole, and the weaned child will put his hand into a viper's den.

⁹ They will not hurt or destroy anywhere on my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰ This is what will take place on that day. The peoples will seek the Root of Jesse, who will be standing like a banner for the peoples, and his resting place will be glorious.

HYMN RESPONSE:

CW #23 (vs 1-2) Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel

*Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel - Shall come to you, O Israel!*

*Oh, come, O Root of Jesse, free
Your own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell your people save,
And bring them vict'ry o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel - Shall come to you, O Israel!*

SECOND LESSON – EPISTLE:

Romans 11:16-22

¹⁶ If the part offered as firstfruits is holy, so is the whole batch. And if the root is holy, so are the branches. ¹⁷ But if some of the branches were broken off, and you—a wild olive branch—were grafted in among them and share in the rich sap from the root of the olive tree, ¹⁸ do not boast that you are better than the branches. If you do boast, remember that you are not supporting the root, but the root is supporting you. ¹⁹ Then you will say: “Branches were broken off so that I am grafted in.” ²⁰ That is true—but remember that they were broken off because of unbelief, and you remain in place by faith. Do not be conceited, but stand in awe. ²¹ For if God did not spare the natural branches, he will not spare you. ²² So take note of God's kindness and his severity: severity on those who have fallen, but God's kindness on you—if you remain in his kindness; otherwise, you also will be cut off.

HYMN RESPONSE:

CW #23 (vs 1-2) Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel

*Oh, come, O Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by your drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel - Shall come to you, O Israel!*

*Oh, come, O Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home.
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel - Shall come to you, O Israel!*

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 3:1-12

In those days, John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, ²“Repent, because the kingdom of heaven is near!” ³Yes, this is he of whom this was spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

A voice of one crying out in the wilderness,
“Prepare the way of the Lord. Make his paths straight.”

⁴John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then Jerusalem, all of Judea, and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him. ⁶They were baptized by him in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins. ⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You offspring of vipers, who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸Therefore produce fruit in keeping with repentance! ⁹Do not think of saying to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that God is able to raise up children for Abraham from these stones. ¹⁰Already the ax is ready to strike^[b] the root of the trees. So every tree that does not produce good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹I baptize you with water for repentance. But the one who comes after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing shovel is in his hand, and he will thoroughly clean out his threshing floor. He will gather his wheat into the barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

HYMN OF THE DAY:

CW #16: On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

*On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Come, then, and listen, for he brings
Good news about the King of kings.*

*Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin
And furnished for a guest within,
And let us all our hearts prepare
For Christ to come and enter there.*

*We hail you as our Savior, Lord,
Our refuge and our great reward.
Without your grace we waste away
Like flow'rs that wither and decay.*

*Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,
And lift us up to fall no more.
Oh, make your face on us to shine,
And fill the world with love divine.*

*All praise to you, eternal Son,
Whose advent has our freedom won,
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Spirit evermore.*

SERMON

Isaiah 11:1-10

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.

THANKSGIVING

THE OFFERING

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



THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD'S PRAYER

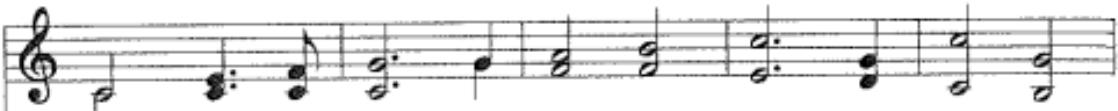
Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the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

THE BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and  give you peace.

CLOSING HYMN:

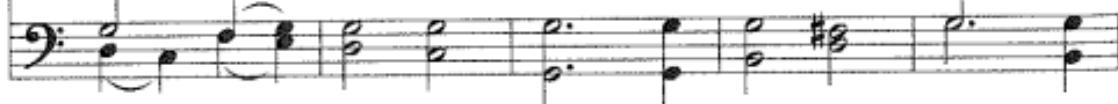
CW21 #306: "Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates"



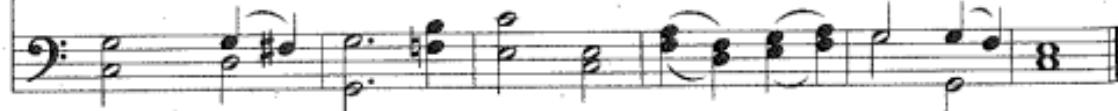
1 Lift up your heads, you might - y gates! Be - hold, the
2 How blest the land, the cit - y blest, where Christ the
3 Fling wide the gates; pre - pare your heart to be a
4 Re - deem - er, come! We o - pen wide our hearts to
5 E - ter - nal praise, un - end - ing fame we of - fer



King of glo - ry waits. The King of kings is
rul - er is con - fessed! O hap - py hearts and
tem - ple set a - part from earth - ly use for
you; here, Lord, a - bide. O en - ter with your
to your sav - ing name. Your Ho - ly Spir - it



draw - ing near; the Sav - ior of the world is here.
hap - py homes to whom this King in tri - umph comes!
heav'n's em - ploy, a-dorned with prayer and love and joy.
grace di - vine and cause your face on us to shine.
guide us on un - til our glo - rious goal is won.



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:

