GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

415 10th Street ~ DeWitt, Iowa 52742 -Church: 563-659-9153 ~ www.gracedewitt.org

+ The Order of Service +

First Sunday in Advent

November 29, 2026 - 10:30 a.m.

WELCOME GUESTS! We are delighted to have you join us for worship this morning. Please come and worship with us again.

We are following the Divine Service, Setting 3, beginning on page 184 in the Lutheran Service Book.

The Preservice Video

Choir Anthem "We are Waiting"

The Words of Welcome by Pastor Merle Warnsholz

The Opening Song ***"My Deliverer"***

My Deliverer is coming, my Deliverer is standing by.
My Deliverer is coming, my Deliverer is standing by.
My Deliverer is coming, my Deliverer is standing by.
My Deliverer is coming, my Deliverer is standing by.

He will never break his promise,
He has written it upon the sky,
My Deliverer is coming, my Deliverer is standing by.
My Deliverer is coming, my Deliverer is standing by.

I will never doubt His promise,
Though I doubt my heart, I doubt my eyes.
My Deliverer is coming, my Deliverer is standing by.
My Deliverer is coming, my Deliverer is standing by.

He will never break His promise,
Though the stars should break faith with the sky.
My Deliverer is coming, my Deliverer is standing by.
My Deliverer is coming, my Deliverer is standing by.

My Deliverer is coming, my Deliverer is standing by.
My Deliverer is coming, my Deliverer is standing by.

"My Deliverer" – © 1998 Word Music, LLC | Liturgy Legacy Music | White Plastic Bag Music

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✢ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Lighting of The Advent Wreath *(the wreath is lit by the acolyte)*

P The Mighty One, God the LORD, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

C **Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.**

P Our God comes; He does not keep silence; before Him is a devouring fire, around Him a mighty tempest.

C **The night is far gone; the day is at hand.**

P So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.

C **O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD.**

Confession and Absolution

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **Who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C **And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus

Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✢ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Service of the Word

Introit

Ps. 25:1–3; antiphon: Zech. 9:9b, alt

P Behold, your king is coming to you;

C Righteous and having salvation.

P To you, O LORD,

C I lift up my soul.

P O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame;

C Let not my enemies exult over me.

P Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame;

C They shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P Behold, your king is coming to you;

C Righteous and having salvation.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

P Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 64:1-9

Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down,

that the mountains might quake at your presence—

as when fire kindles brushwood

and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
and that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome things that we did not look for,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From of old no one has heard
or perceived by the ear,
no eye has seen a God besides you,
who acts for those who wait for him.
You meet him who joyfully works righteousness,
those who remember you in your ways.
Behold, you were angry, and we sinned;
in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved?
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls upon your name,
who rouses himself to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities.
But now, O Lord, you are our Father;

we are the clay, and you are our potter;

we are all the work of your hand.

Be not so terribly angry, O Lord,

and remember not iniquity forever.

Behold, please look, we are all your people.

A This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

A Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.
C Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.
A Behold, your king is coming to you;
C Righteous and having salvation.
A Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
C From the house of the Lord we bless you.

Epistle *1 Corinthians 1:3-9*

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge—even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by

whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

A This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Holy Gospel *Mark 13:24-37*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the thirteenth chapter.
C **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] "In those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on

guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the cock crows, or in the morning— lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

Nicene Creed

C **I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism

for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ✢ of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

Song of the Day **"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"**

O come, o come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to Thee, O Israel!

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine Advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to Thee, O Israel!

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
And order all things, far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And cause us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to Thee, O Israel!

Sermon

Offering & Song during Offering **"There is a Redeemer"**

There is a Redeemer
Jesus, God's own Son;
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
Holy One.

Chorus: Thank You, O my Father,
For giving us Your Son,
And leaving Your Spirit till
The work on earth is done.

Jesus, my Redeemer,
name above all names;
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
Hope for sinners slain. Chorus

When I stand in glory,
I will see His face;
There I'll serve my King forever
In that holy place. Chorus

"There is a Redeemer" – © 1982 Birdwing Music\BMG Songs, Inc.

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Each petition concludes

P Lord, in your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with thy spirit.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

C **It is meet and right so to do.**

Lord's Prayer

C **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 Words of Our Lord – *Spoken by the Pastor*

Pax Domini

℗ The peace of the Lord be with you always.

℃ Amen.

Distribution & Distribution Songs

"Before the Throne of God Above"

Before the throne of God above
I have a strong and perfect plea,
A great High Priest whose name is love,
Who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on His hands,
My name is written on His heart;
I know that while in heav'n He stands,
No tongue can bid me thence depart,
No tongue can be me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair,
And tells me of guilt within,
Upward I look and see Him there,
Who made an end to all my sin.
Because the sinless Saviour died
My sinful soul is counted free,
For God the just is satisfied
To look on Him and pardon me,
To Look on Him and pardon me.

Behold Him there, the risen Lamb,
My perfect spotless righteousness,
The great unchangeable "I Am",
The King of glory and of grace.
One with Himself I cannot die,
My soul is purchased with His blood;
My life is hid with Christ on high,
With Christ, my Saviour and my God,
With Christ, my Saviour and my God.

I bow before the cross of Christ,
And marvel at this love divine,
God's perfect Son was sacrificed
To make me righteous in God's eyes.
This river's depths I cannot know,
But I can glory in its flood;
The Lord Most High has bowed down low,
And poured on me His glorious love,
And poured on me His glorious love.

"Behold the Lamb"

Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away
Slain for us and we remember
The promise made that all who come in faith
Find forgiveness at the cross
So we share in this Bread of Life
And we drink of His sacrifice
As a sign of our bonds of peace
Around the table of the King

The body of our Saviour Jesus Christ
Torn for you eat and remember
The wounds that heal the death that brings us life
Paid the price to make us one
So we share in this Bread of Life
And we drink of His sacrifice
As a sign of our bonds of love
Around the table of the King

The blood that cleanses every stain of sin
Shed for you drink and remember
He drained death's cup that all may enter in
To receive the life of God
So we share in this Bread of Life
And we drink of His sacrifice

As a sign of our bonds of grace
Around the table of the King

And so with thankfulness and faith we rise
To respond and to remember
Our call to follow in the steps of Christ
As His body here on earth
As we share in His suffering
We proclaim Christ will come again
And we'll join in the feast of heaven
Around the table of the King

Stand

Thanksgiving

P O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

C **And His mercy endureth forever.**

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Salutation and Benedicamus

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with thy spirit.**

P Bless we the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✢ give you peace.

C **Amen.**

Closing Song **“Is He Worthy”**

Do you feel the world is broken, We do
Do you feel the shadows deepen, We do
But do you know that all the dark
Won't stop the light from getting through, We do
Do you wish that you could see it all made new, We do

Is all creation groaning, It is
Is a new creation coming, It is
Is the glory of the Lord
To be the light within our midst, It is
Is it good that we remind ourselves of this, It is

Is anyone worthy, Is anyone whole
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll
The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave
He is David's Root
And the Lamb who died to ransom the slave
Is He worthy, Is He worthy
Of all blessing and honor and glory
Is He worthy of this, He is

Does the Father truly love us, He does
Does the Spirit move among us, He does
And does Jesus our Messiah
Hold forever those He loves, He does
Does our God intend to dwell again with us, He does

Is anyone worthy, Is anyone whole
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll
The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave
He is David's Root
And the Lamb who died to ransom the slave
From ev'ry people and tribe every nation and tongue
He has made us a kingdom and priests
To God to reign with the Son

Is He worthy, Is He worthy
Of all blessing and honor and glory
Is He worthy, Is He worthy
Is He worthy of this, He is

Is He worthy
Is He worthy
He is, He is, He is

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Acknowledgments

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