

# Third Sunday of Advent

*Liturgical Setting: Schubert*

December 14, 2025  
10:30 am

Grace Lutheran Church  
Wenatchee, WA



## Welcome to Grace!

*The stained-glass windows in our church display a beautiful collection of glass pieces, each one unique and important. The same is true for all of God's children. As people of Grace Lutheran Church, our diversity makes us stronger and more resilient.*

*We strive to welcome all. We want to be a church where all are safe, all are welcome. Believers, non-believers, doubters, seekers, and questioners: You are welcome here. Old and young. Able or disabled. People of all sexual orientations and gender identities: You are welcome here. Rich and poor. Black, brown, and white: You are welcome here. Jeans and a t-shirt or a suit and tie. Addiction and mental health concerns: You are welcome here.*

*You are welcomed and valued here, because we are all pieces of stained glass, broken and beautiful in our own way.*

*As a church, we resolve to open our hearts, our minds, and our doors. We seek to reconcile ourselves to one another and to God, the master artist.*

**Holy Communion:** We celebrate the grace of God with Holy Communion each Sunday. All are welcome!

**If you are worshipping with children:** Children are welcome and encouraged to join us in worship! We have a few options, especially for our young worshipers. Children's bulletins are available from the ushers. Quiet toys are located just outside the back door of the sanctuary for young children and caregivers. Most Sundays we have nursery staff available to help watch the children in that space. You are also welcome to use the quiet area under the balcony, beside the stained-glass window.

**Our Mission Statement:** "To proclaim and celebrate the gospel of Jesus Christ through word and sacraments so that a community of believers is created, trained, nurtured, and sent into mission."

Grace Lutheran is a Reconciling in Christ Congregation



## INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God's reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.

## + + + GATHERING + + +

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

## WELCOME AND KIDS' TALK

### PRELUDE

*My Lord, What a Morning*

Spiritual, arr. Richard Billingham

*Please stand as you are able.*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,  
whose home is heaven and earth,  
whose salvation is sure. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God  
and of one another.

*Silence for reflection.*

Long-expected God,  
**we confess that we look to ourselves  
for the peace and security only you can provide.  
We reach for swords and spears,  
reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.  
We become impatient while waiting  
and weary of keeping awake.  
Free us from self-reliance,  
and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.  
Increase our trust in God's timing,  
and awaken us to your advent among us,  
that we may abound in the hope you have promised.  
Amen.**

God judges us not as we deserve,  
but according to God's own righteousness.  
✠ You are freed and forgiven,  
saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.  
**Amen.**

## GATHERING SONG

ELW #242, *Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn*



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for  
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -  
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when  
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing, Sing out your joy, for  
man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is  
all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so  
dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.  
qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;  
qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.  
crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -  
mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -  
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in  
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and  
kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to  
won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and  
sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.  
shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.  
weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.  
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen

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## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

## KYRIE

*Harmonies may be found in ELW #152, the cranberry hymnal.*

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## +++ WORD +++

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

## FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1-10

*The prophet describes the return from the Babylonian captivity as a joyous procession to Zion. God's coming reign will bring a renewal of creation in which health and wholeness will be restored. There is no need for fear, for God is coming to save.*

A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>1</sup> The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus <sup>2</sup> it shall blossom abundantly  
and rejoice with joy and shouting.  
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
They shall see the glory of the Lord,  
the majesty of our God.

<sup>3</sup> Strengthen the weak hands  
and make firm the feeble knees.

<sup>4</sup> Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
"Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you."

<sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;

<sup>6</sup> then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness  
and streams in the desert;

<sup>7</sup> the burning sand shall become a pool  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp;  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

<sup>8</sup> A highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Holy Way;  
the unclean shall not travel on it,  
but it shall be for God's people;  
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

<sup>9</sup> No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.

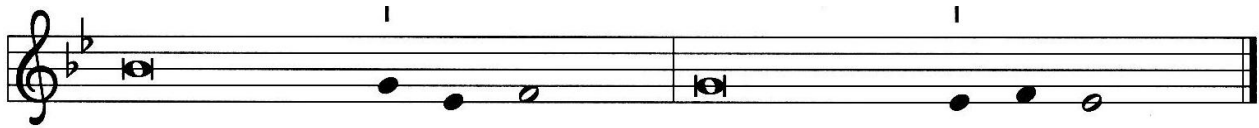
<sup>10</sup> And the ransomed of the Lord shall return  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain joy and gladness,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



**PSALM 146:5-10** *All sing.*



<sup>5</sup> Happy are they who have the God of Jacob <sup>|</sup> for their help,  
whose hope is in the <sup>|</sup> Lord their God;

<sup>6</sup> who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that <sup>|</sup> is in them;  
who keeps promis- <sup>|</sup> es forever;

<sup>7</sup> who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to <sup>|</sup> those who hunger.  
The Lord sets the <sup>|</sup> captive free.

<sup>8</sup> The Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord lifts up those who <sup>|</sup> are bowed down;  
the Lord <sup>|</sup> loves the righteous.

<sup>9</sup> The Lord cares <sup>|</sup> for the stranger;  
the Lord sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way <sup>|</sup> of the wicked.

<sup>10</sup> The Lord shall <sup>|</sup> reign forever,  
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. <sup>|</sup> Hallelujah!

**SECOND READING: James 5:7-10**

*In anticipation of the Lord's coming, Christians are called upon to cultivate patience rather than discontent.*

A reading from James.

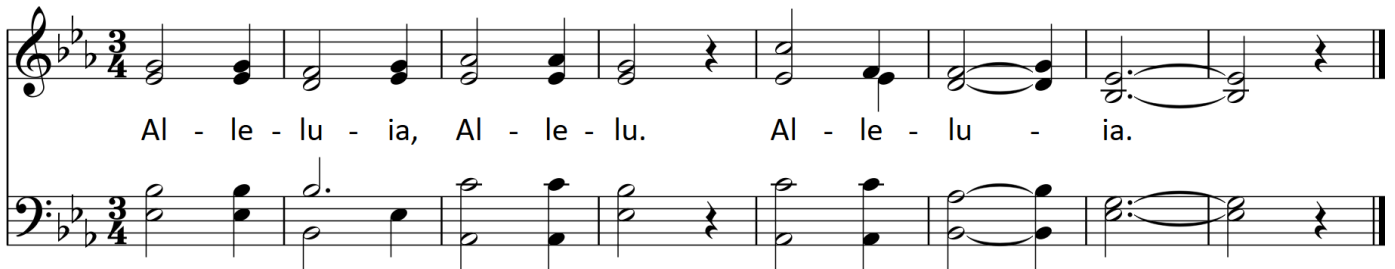
<sup>7</sup> Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup> You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. <sup>9</sup> Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! <sup>10</sup> As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



## GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11

*John the Baptist expects the Messiah to bring God's judgment upon the earth (Matt. 3:11-12). From a prison cell, he wonders whether Jesus is the one who will do this. Jesus' response indicates that God's reign is indeed being fulfilled already through healing and restoration.*

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>2</sup> When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup> and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup> the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup> And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

<sup>7</sup> As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup> What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup> What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup> This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you.'

<sup>11</sup> "Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

## SERMON

*Please stand as you are able.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW #246, *Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!*  
*Harmonies may be found in ELW – the cranberry hymnal.*



1 Hark! a thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is near," we  
2 Wak - ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond - age  
3 See the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, come with par - don  
4 So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the world is  
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther



hear it say. "Cast a - way the works of dark - ness,  
let us rise; Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling,  
down from heav'n. Let us haste, with tears of sor - row,  
wrapped in fear, he will shield us with his mer - cy  
and the Son with the ev - er - last - ing Spir - it



all you chil - dren of the day!"  
shines up - on the morn - ing skies.  
one and all, to be for - giv'n;  
and with words of love draw near.  
while un - end - ing a - ges run!

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

Let us confess our Christian faith:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

***After each portion of the prayers:***

God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.  
**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

**+ + + MEAL + + +**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

*Please be seated.*

## **OFFERING**



## MUSICAL OFFERING

*Climb to the Top of the Highest Mountain*  
Voices of Grace; Judy Olson, piano; Karen Zanol, flute

Carolyn Jennings

Climb to the top of the highest mountain, joyous tidings proclaim to the world,  
lift up your voice, shout the good news: behold, your Lord comes to you.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd, He will carry the lambs in his arms,  
He will ever keep them safe from harm. Behold, your Lord comes to you.

He who made the stars in the heaven, He who fashioned the earth and the sea,  
from time eternal He was God, the Alpha and Omega, He. Behold, your Lord!

He will come in power and glory, He will rule with mercy and truth,  
hope of the nations, Light of the world, Light of all.

He will love the little children, He will hold them in his arms.  
Love him and trust him as a child, behold, your Lord comes to you.  
Love him as a child.

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

O Mighty One,

**you have done great things for us, and holy is your name. Bless all we offer you—our selves, our time, and our possessions—that through us your grace and favor may be made known to all the world; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## PREFACE

It is indeed right ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

*Harmonies may be found in ELW #190, the cranberry hymnal.*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

... continued on p. 10 ...

heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

You are indeed holy... ... we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is ris'n. Christ will come a - gain.

Remembering therefore... ...now and forever.

A - men, a - men, a - men. A - men, a - men.

### LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Here is life. God is with us.

Come, receive what God has promised.

Please be seated.

## COMMUNION

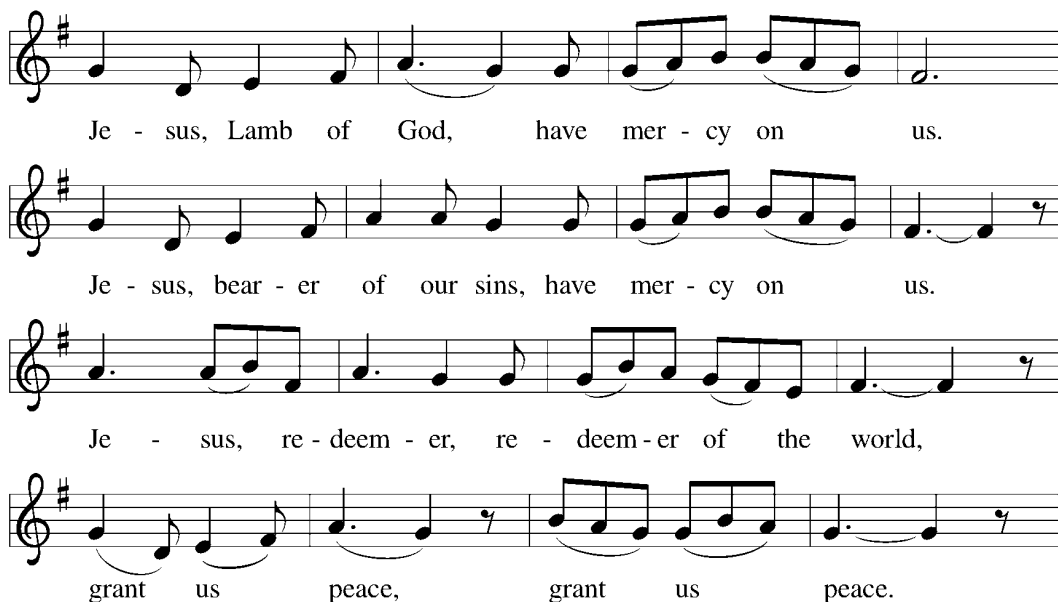
The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

## DISTRIBUTION SONG

*Harmonies may be found in ELW #199, the cranberry hymnal.*



Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.

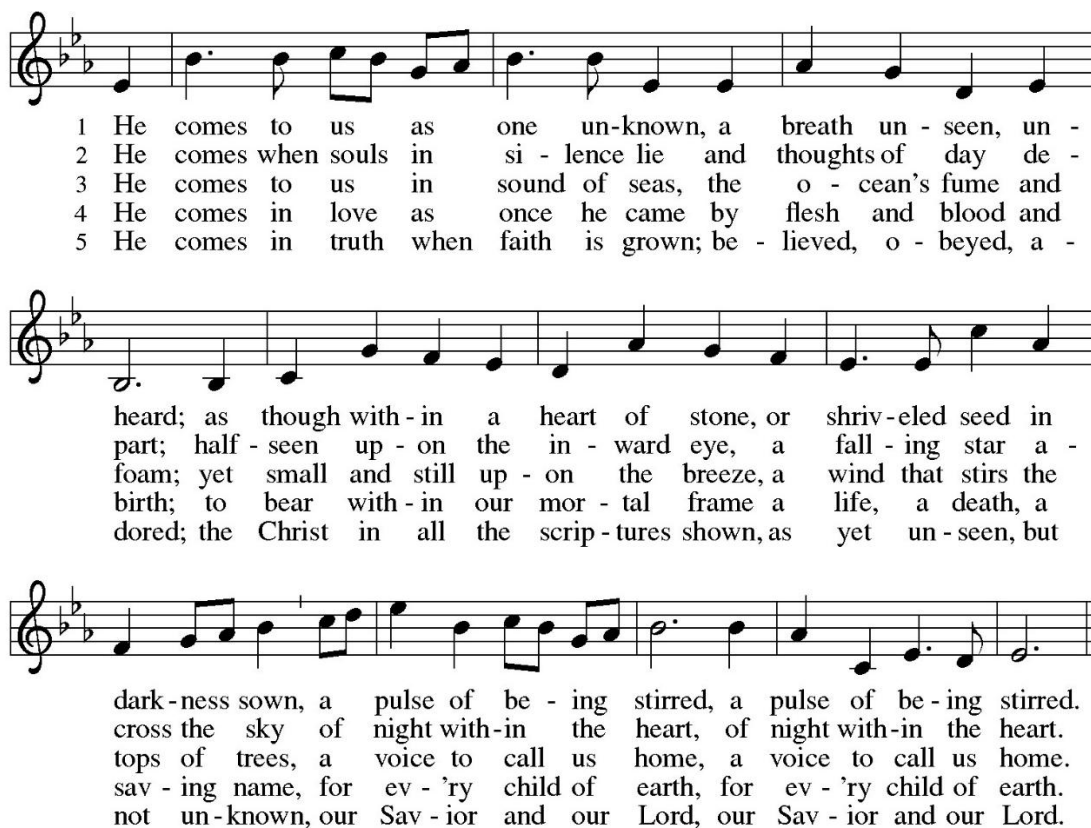
Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world,

grant us peace, grant us peace.

## DISTRIBUTION SONG

*ELW #737, He Comes to Us as One Unknown*



1 He comes to us as one un-known, a breath un - seen, un -  
2 He comes when souls in si - lence lie and thoughts of day de -  
3 He comes to us in sound of seas, the o - cean's fume and  
4 He comes in love as once he came by flesh and blood and  
5 He comes in truth when faith is grown; be - lieved, o - beyed, a -

heard; as though with - in a heart of stone, or shriv - eled seed in  
part; half - seen up - on the in - ward eye, a fall - ing star a -  
foam; yet small and still up - on the breeze, a wind that stirs the  
birth; to bear with - in our mor - tal frame a life, a death, a  
dored; the Christ in all the scrip - tures shown, as yet un - seen, but

dark - ness sown, a pulse of be - ing stirred, a pulse of be - ing stirred.  
cross the sky of night with - in the heart, of night with - in the heart.  
tops of trees, a voice to call us home, a voice to call us home.  
sav - ing name, for ev - 'ry child of earth, for ev - 'ry child of earth.  
not un - known, our Sav - ior and our Lord, our Sav - ior and our Lord.

## DISTRIBUTION SONG

ELW #253, *He Came Down*

1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;  
2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;  
3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;  
4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;

he came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have light; hal-le-lu-jah for-ev-er - more.  
he came down that we may have peace;  
he came down that we may have joy;

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It features a melody in the Soprano part and a bass line in the Bass part. The lyrics are arranged in four lines, each corresponding to a part of the choir. The score includes triplets and other musical notations.

Text: Cameroon traditional

Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional; arr. John L. Bell, b. 1949

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*Please stand as you are able.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**+++ SENDING +++**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

*Please be seated.*

## MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please stand as you are able.*

## BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

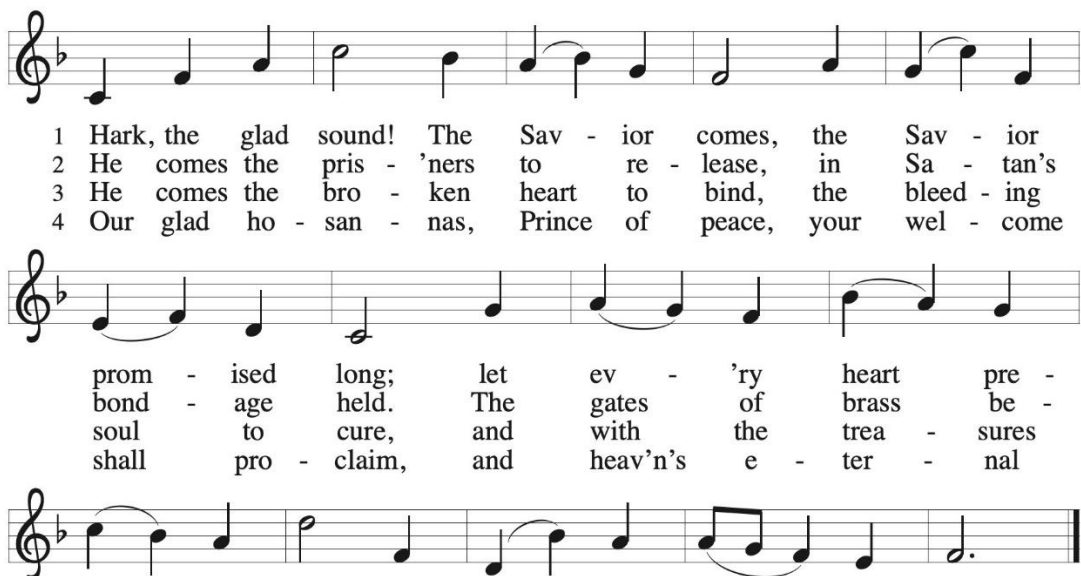
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

Amen.

## SENDING SONG

ELW #239, *Hark, the Glad Sound!*

*Harmonies may be found in ELW – the cranberry hymnal.*



1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior  
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's  
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing  
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come

prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -  
bond - age held. The gates of brass be -  
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures  
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal

pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.  
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.  
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–1751

Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake.

Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE

*Hark, the Glad Sound!*

arr. Craig Phillips

### **Serving in Today's Worship**

Presiding Minister:	Rev. James Aalgaard
Pastoral Intern:	Laura Olsen
Lector:	Joyce Owens
Tech:	Phil Gregg
Greeters:	Ann and Bob Bartlett

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**A note regarding livestreaming at Grace:** With your participation in our worship services, we assume you have granted us permission to include you in our videos. If you have a concern about being included, please let the staff know, and we will help find a solution that meets your needs.

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*Kyrie, Alleluia, Sanctus, Acclamations, Amen and Agnus Dei* Text: Trad. Liturgical text. P.D. Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1827; adapt. Richard Proulx, 1985, adapt. © 1985, 1989 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.

*Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!* Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-1878. P.D. Music: William H. Monk, 1823-1889. P.D.

*He Comes to Us as One Unknown* Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926 © 1984 Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved. Music: C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848-1918. P.D.

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF**

Rev. James Aalgaard  
Deacon Ruth Anderson  
Pastoral Intern  
Jen Pearson-Gale  
Ann Martinson-Bartlett

Pastor  
Director of Music Ministries  
Laura Olsen  
Office Administrator  
Office Assistant

[pastor@glcwen.org](mailto:pastor@glcwen.org)  
[deacon@glcwen.org](mailto:deacon@glcwen.org)  
[intern@glcwen.org](mailto:intern@glcwen.org)  
[office@glcwen.org](mailto:office@glcwen.org)

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Grace Lutheran Church  
1408 Washington Street, Wenatchee WA 98801  
509-663-2189  
[www.glcwen.org](http://www.glcwen.org)

