

2nd Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2024

Missa Emmanuel setting

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. We have a Cozy Corner, with books and quiet activities, in the back part of the sanctuary. We also have a staffed nursery available during our worship gathering. You will find it downstairs, through the first door to the right at the bottom of the stairs.

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

Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi's prophecy could as easily herald the coming Christ as forerunner of the Lord of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."

+ + + GATHERING + + +

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

WELCOME & KIDS' TALK

PRELUDE

Come Now, O Prince of Peace

arr. Anne Krentz Organ

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
alive in the world,
reviving creation,
arriving soon.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy,
we confess that we have sinned.
We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.
We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

God of might,
we confess that we have sinned.
We have turned away from our neighbors.
We have trusted false promises.

God in our midst,
we confess that we have sinned.
We plead: come to us.

Bring your mercy to birth in us.
A righteous branch springs forth:
it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,
in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.
By the power of the Holy Spirit,
receive the grace and forgiveness of God
through † Christ Jesus,
whose day draws near.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,

from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra-cious king-dom bring.

Is-rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf-fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo-rious throne.

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

The image shows three staves of musical notation for the Kyrie. Each staff is divided into two parts: 'Cantor:' and 'Assembly:'. The music is written on a single treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: 'Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.' for the first staff; 'Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.' for the second staff; and 'Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.' for the third staff. The notes are simple, with some slurs and rests.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; 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: Malachi 3:1-4

God announces a covenant with Israel. A messenger like Malachi (his name means "my messenger") will prepare the way for the coming of the Lord by purifying and refining God's people, as silver and gold are refined.

A reading from Malachi.

¹ See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. ² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³ he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:3-11

The apostle Paul was the pastor of many new churches. He writes in this letter about his joy to be in partnership with the Christians of Philippi. Listen to how tender-hearted Paul, sometimes a stern preacher, is with his friends as he encourages them to grow in love and knowledge.

A reading from Philippians.

³ I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴ constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵ because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷ It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God’s grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸ For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹ And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰ to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹ having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The cantor introduces the Alleluias; all repeat them.

The cantor sings the verse. All repeat the Alleluias.



Verse: Prepare the way of the Lord. All flesh shall see the salvation of God.

GOSPEL: Luke 3:1-6

John the Baptist is a herald of Jesus, whose way is prepared by “repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in

the wilderness. ³ He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴ as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

⁵ Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;

⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

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 #249, *On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry*

NICENE CREED

With the whole Christian Church on earth, let us confess our faith.

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 truly 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 with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

A brief silence.

After each portion of the prayers:

Lord, in your mercy,



Hear our prayer, hear our prayer, Lord, make us whole:



peace to all peo - ple, hope for each soul.



God of grace, in this place, hear now our prayer.

Text and music: Paul Andress, b. 1956
Text and music © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.
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.

MUSICAL OFFERING

Come, My Light

Anne Krentz Organ

Marlena La Paz & Ruth Anderson, sopranos

Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel. Jesus, the Light of the world! Come, my light, and illumine my darkness. Come, my life, and revive me from death. Come, my physician, heal my wounds. Come, Jesus, the light of the world!

Come, flame of divine love, and burn up the thorns of my sins, kindling my heart with the flame of thy love.

Come, my king, sit upon the throne of my heart. Come and reign in my heart. For thou alone art my kind and my lord. Come, Jesus, the light of the world!

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 ... join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Cantor, then all:



Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho - ly Lord, Ho-ly Lord God of hosts.

Cantor:



Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.



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

All:



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

Cantor:



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.

All:




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

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, the beginning and the end...

...in your holy church, both now and forever.

Cantor, then all:



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.

Please be seated.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

COMMUNION

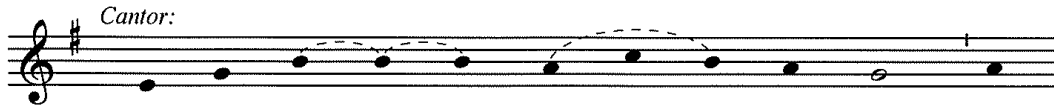
The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

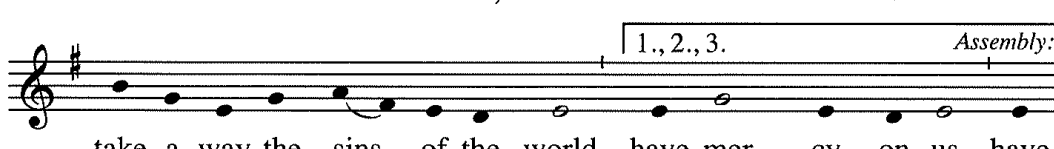
COMMUNION SONG

Cantor:



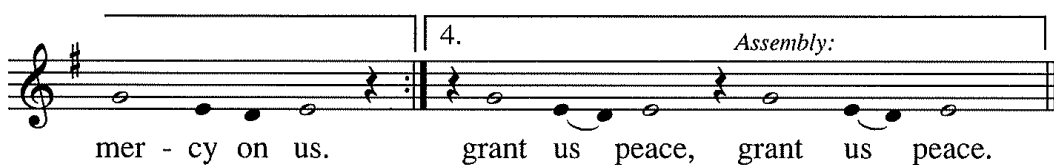
1. Je - sus, wis - dom and might - y Lord:
2. Je - sus, true branch of Jes - se's tree: you
3. Key of Da - vid and Day-spring from on high:
4. De - sire of na - tions, our Em - man - u - el:

Assembly:



take a-way the sins of the world, have mer - cy on us, have

Assembly:



mer - cy on us. grant us peace, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION SONG

ELW #247, *Come Now, O Prince of Peace*

DISTRIBUTION SONG

ELW #253, *He Came Down*

Please stand as you are able.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name. **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

God of endings and beginnings,
God in the darkness and the light,
God, our hope for the journey,
✠ bless and keep you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

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

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Hark, the Glad Sound!

John Leavitt

+ + +

Serving in Today's Worship

Presiding Minister:	Rev. James Aalgaard
Pastoral Intern:	Lynnette Rose
Assisting Minister:	Phil Gregg
Cantor:	Kathy Gavin
Tech:	Marlena La Paz

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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Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus Text: Charles Wesley, 1744 P.D. Music: Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1830; harm. Ralph Baughan Williams, 1906. P.D.

Kyrie, Gospel Acclamation, Holy Holy Holy, Amen, Communion Song from *Missa Emmanuel* by Richard Proulx © 1991, GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.

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