

**December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016**  
**Advent Midweek #4**



**Grace Lutheran Church**  
**308 Byrne St.**  
**Smithville, TX 78957**  
**512-237-2108**  
**Evening Prayer 7:00 pm**

**Pastor Timothy Appel**



**Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church!** We give thanks that our gracious Lord Jesus Christ has gathered us together here for his Divine Service. Today again our Lord comes to serve us and lavish us with his gifts of life, forgiveness, and salvation. Rejoicing in those wonderful gifts, we sing with David in Psalm 84: “How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts! A day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.”

**Requests**, please give written requests to be included during our “Prayers of the Church” to an usher or an elder before worship service.

**Hearing**, Ask an usher for one of the wireless hearing assistance units.

**Attendance Registration** cards are located in the Hymnal racks of each pew. We ask all members and our guests to complete one and pass it to the center aisles. An usher will collect them after the offering is taken to the altar. The cards are important as they enable our secretary to track members’ attendance as well as guests interested in joining our church. Thank you for your help.

**PRELUDE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP BELL**

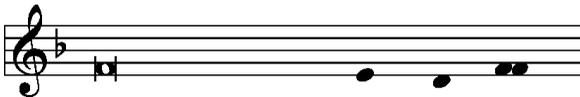
**LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

**WELCOME**

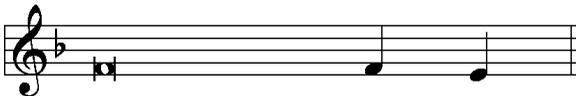
Advent and Christmas Hymn Sing

Service of Light

*Stand*



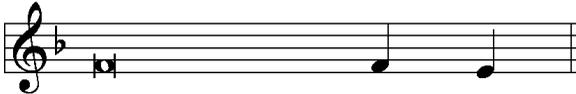
**L** The Spirit and the Church cry out:



**C** Come, Lord Je - sus.



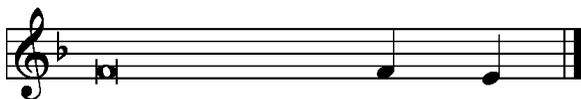
**L** All those who await His ap - pear - ance pray:



**C** Come, Lord Je - sus.



**L** The whole cre - a - tion pleads:



**C** Come, Lord Je - sus.

Phos Hilaron

LSB 244



**L** Joy - ous light of glo - ry:



**C** of the im - mor - tal Fa - ther; heav - en - ly, ho - ly,



bles - ed Je - sus Christ. We have come to the



set - ting of the sun, and we look to the eve - ning light.



We sing to God, the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it:



You are wor - thy of be - ing praised with pure voic - es for -



ev - er. O Son of God, O Giv - er of life:



the u - ni - verse pro - claims Your glo - ry.

# Thanksgiving for Light

LSB 245

The musical score consists of seven staves of music in a single system. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The melody is written on a treble clef. The lyrics are: **L** Blessèd are You, O Lord our God, king of the u - ni - verse, who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ; may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for You are mer - ci - ful, and You love Your whole cre - a - tion and we, Your creatures, glo - ri - fy You, Father, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it.

**C** A - men.

*Sit*

# Psalm 141

LSB 245

The musical score consists of three staves of music in a single system. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is common time (C). The melody is written on a treble clef. The lyrics are: **C** Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense, the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice. **I** O Lord, I call to You; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice

when I cry to You. **C** Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,  
the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

**II** Set a watch be - fore my mouth, O Lord, and guard the door of my lips.

**I** Let not my heart in - cline to an - y e - vil thing;  
let me not be oc - cu - pied in wick - ed - ness with e - vil - do - ers.

**II** But my eyes are turned to You, O God; in You I take ref - uge.

Strip me not of my life. **C** Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and  
to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it; as it was in  
the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,



the lift-ing up of my hands as the eve-ning sac-ri-fice.

**P** Let us pray.

Let the incense of our repentant prayer ascend before You, O Lord, and let Your loving-kindness descend on us that, with purified minds, we may sing Your praises with the Church on earth and the whole heavenly host and may glorify You forever.

**C** Amen.

## Psalm

*Psalm 89:1–5*

<sup>1</sup>I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever;  
with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.

<sup>2</sup>**For I said, “Steadfast love will be built up forever;  
in the heavens you will establish your faithfulness.”**

<sup>3</sup>You have said, “I have made a covenant with my chosen one;  
I have sworn to David my servant:

<sup>4</sup>**“I will establish your offspring forever,  
and build your throne for all generations.”**

<sup>5</sup>Let the heavens praise your wonders, O LORD,  
your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!

**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.**



# Savior of the Nations, Come

LSB 332



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, Vir - gin's Son, make  
 2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the Spir - it  
 3 Here a maid was found with child, Yet re - mained a  
 4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and



here Your home! Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,  
 of our God, Was the Word of God made flesh—  
 vir - gin mild. In her womb this truth was shown:  
 king - ly hall; God of God, yet ful - ly man,



That the Lord chose such a birth.  
 Wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.  
 God was there up - on His throne.  
 His he - ro - ic course be - gan.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>5 God the Father was His source,<br/>             Back to God He ran His course.<br/>             Into hell His road went down,<br/>             Back then to His throne and crown.</p> <p>6 For You are the Father's Son<br/>             Who in flesh the vict'ry won.<br/>             By Your mighty pow'r make whole<br/>             All our ills of flesh and soul</p> | <p>7 From the manger newborn light<br/>             Shines in glory through the night.<br/>             Darkness there no more resides;<br/>             In this light faith now abides.</p> <p>8 Glory to the Father sing,<br/>             Glory to the Son, our king,<br/>             Glory to the Spirit be<br/>             Now and through eternity.</p> |
|--|---|

## First Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

**P** A reading from Isaiah, the ninth chapter.

- <sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness  
 have seen a great light;  
 those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,  
 on them has light shined.
- <sup>3</sup> You have multiplied the nation;  
 you have increased its joy;  
 they rejoice before you  
 as with joy at the harvest,  
 as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

<sup>4</sup>For the yoke of his burden,  
and the staff for his shoulder,  
the rod of his oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.  
<sup>5</sup>For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult  
and every garment rolled in blood  
will be burned as fuel for the fire.  
<sup>6</sup>For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,  
and his name shall be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
<sup>7</sup>Of the increase of his government and of peace  
there will be no end,  
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,  
to establish it and to uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time forth and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

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

## Second Reading

*2 Corinthians 4:1-6*

**P** A reading reading from 2 Corinthians, the fourth chapter.

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. <sup>2</sup>But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. <sup>3</sup>And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled only to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup>In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. <sup>5</sup>For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup>For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

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

## Holy Gospel

*Luke 1:57-80*

**P** A Gospel reading from Luke, the first chapter.  
**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>57</sup>Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. <sup>58</sup>And her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. <sup>59</sup>And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. And they would have called him Zechariah after his father, <sup>60</sup>but his mother answered, "No; he shall be called John." <sup>61</sup>And they said to her, "None of your relatives is called by this name." <sup>62</sup>And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he wanted him to be called. <sup>63</sup>And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And they all wondered. <sup>64</sup>And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. <sup>65</sup>And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea, <sup>66</sup>and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, "What then will this child be?" For the hand of the Lord was with him.

<sup>67</sup>And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying,

<sup>68</sup>"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,  
for he has visited and redeemed his people  
<sup>69</sup>and has raised up a horn of salvation for us  
in the house of his servant David,  
<sup>70</sup>as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,  
<sup>71</sup>that we should be saved from our enemies  
and from the hand of all who hate us;  
<sup>72</sup>to show the mercy promised to our fathers  
and to remember his holy covenant,  
<sup>73</sup>the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us  
<sup>74</sup>that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies,  
might serve him without fear,  
<sup>75</sup>in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.  
<sup>76</sup>And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,  
<sup>77</sup>to give knowledge of salvation to his people  
in the forgiveness of their sins,  
<sup>78</sup>because of the tender mercy of our God,  
whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high  
<sup>79</sup>to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,  
to guide our feet into the way of peace."

<sup>80</sup>And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**            **"Savior of the Nations, Abide"**

*Isaiah 9:7*

**Votum**

**P** The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

**C** **Amen.**

Magnificat

My soul mag-ni-fies the Lord, and my spir-it re-  
 joic-es in God, my Sav-ior. My soul mag-ni-fies the  
 Lord, and my spir-it re-joic-es in God, my Sav-ior.

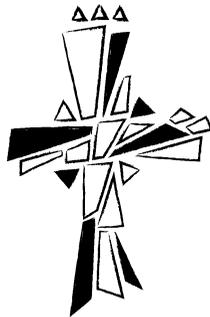
1 For He has re-garded me,  
 2 For the Mighty One has done great things to me,  
 3 He has shown strength with His arm;  
 4 He has filled the hungry with good things,  
 5 Glo-ry be to the Father and to the Son

1 the lowliness of His hand-maiden.  
 2 and holy is His name;  
 3 He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.  
 4 and the rich He has sent empty away.  
 5 and to the Holy Spirit;

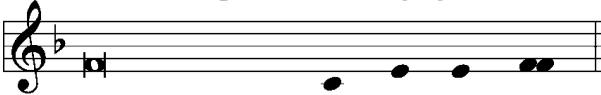
1 For be - hold, from this . . . . . day  
 2 and His mercy is on those who . . . . . fear Him  
 3 He has cast down the mighty from their . . . . . thrones  
 4 He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy  
 5 as it was in the be - - - - - ginning,

1 all generations will . . . . . call me blessèd.  
 2 from generation to . . . . . gen - er - ation. *Refrain*  
 3 and has exalt - - - - - ed the lowly.  
 4 as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed for - ever.  
 5 is now, and will be forever. . . . . A - men. *Refrain*

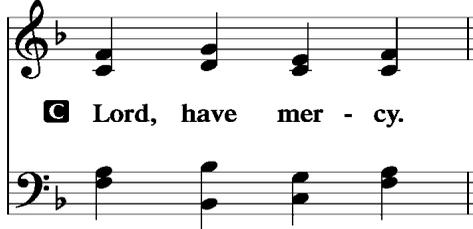
Sit  
**Offering**  
 Stand



*The congregation's response may begin just as the leader's petition ends so that the word "Lord" is sung simultaneously by both leader and congregation.*



**L** In peace let us pray to the Lord:



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**P** For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For Matthew, our synodical president, for Ken, our district President, for all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For Barack, for Greg, for Scott, for all public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

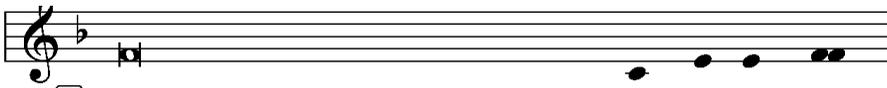
**P** For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:

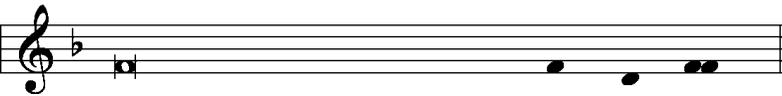
**C** Lord, have mercy.

*The prayers then continue:*

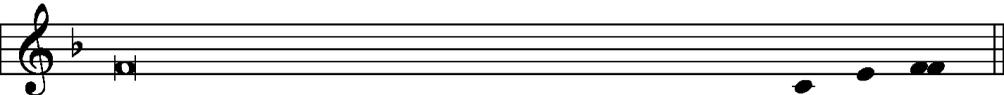


**L** For the faithful who have gone  
before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:

Common: **C** Al - le - lu - ia.  
Lent: **C** Thanks be to God.



**L** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.  
*Silence for individual prayer may follow.*



**L** Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us  
commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord:

**C** To You, O Lord.

### Collect For Peace

- P** O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

## Lord's Prayer

LSB 251

**P** Taught by our Lord and trusting in His promises, we are bold to pray:

**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.

## Benedicamus

LSB 252



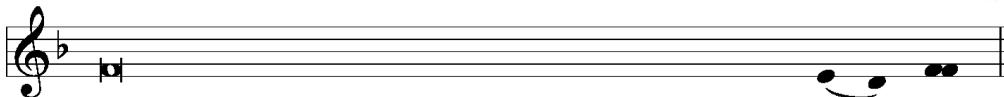
**L** Let us bless the Lord.



**C** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction

LSB 252



**P** The almighty and merciful Lord,  
the Father, the  $\text{†}$  Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and pre - serve you.



**C** A - men.

*Sit*

## Abide with Me

LSB 878





The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.  
What but Thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?  
But kind and good, with heal - ing in Thy wings;  
Earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;



When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,  
Who like Thy - self my guide and stay can be?  
Tears for all woes, a heart for ev - 'ry plea.  
Change and de - cay in all a - round I see;



Help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.  
Through cloud and sun - shine, O a - bide with me.  
Come, Friend of sin - ners, thus a - bide with me.  
O Thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.

- 5 I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless;  
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.  
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still if Thou abide with me!
- 6 Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;  
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.  
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;  
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Love

