

December 20th, 2017
Advent Midweek #3



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

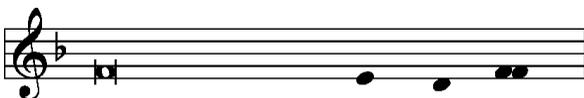
LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

WELCOME

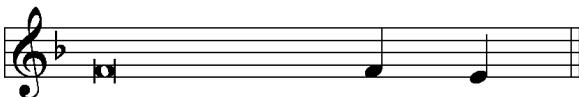
Advent and Christmas Hymn Sing

Service of Light

Stand



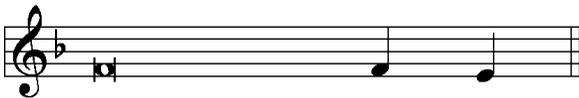
L The Spirit and the Church cry out:



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 126

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

LSB 334

First Reading

Deuteronomy 7:6-9

P A reading from Deuteronomy, the seventh chapter.

⁶“For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. ⁷It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, ⁸but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

⁹Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Titus 3:3-7

P A reading from Titus, the third chapter.

³For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. ⁴But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

P A Gospel reading from Luke, the first chapter.

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

⁶⁷And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying,

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

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

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Sermon "Love Beyond All Telling"

Votum

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

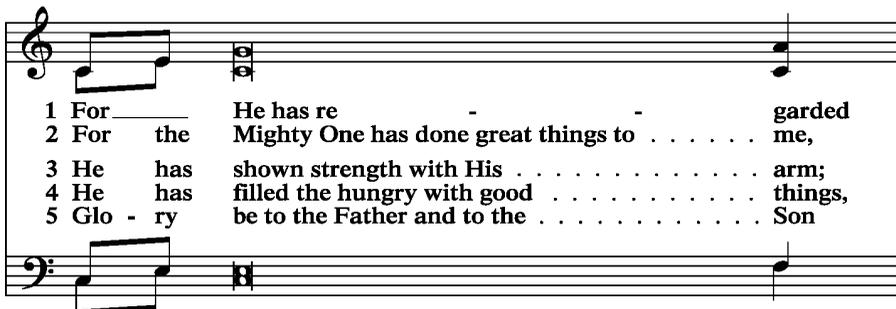
Stand

Magnificat

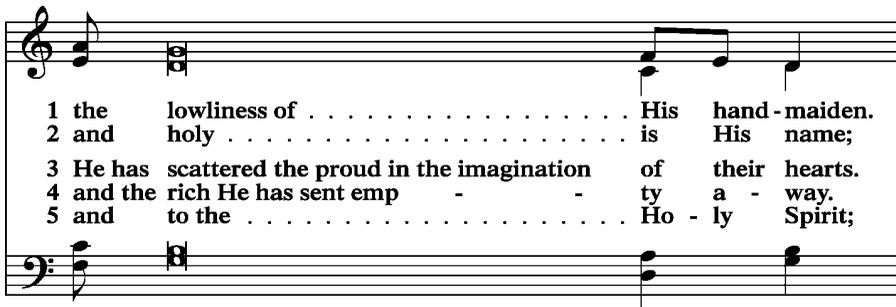
LSB 248



C 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
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 emp - - - - - ty a - way.
5 and to the Ho - ly 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 blessed.
 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

Litany

LSB 249

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.



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



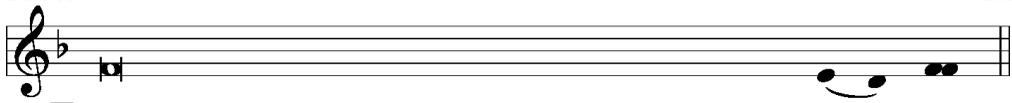
L Let us bless the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

LSB 252



P The almighty and merciful Lord,
the Father, the ✝ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and pre - serve you.



C A - men.

Sit

Now Rest beneath Night's Shadow

LSB 880

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE

