

December 18th, 2019
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

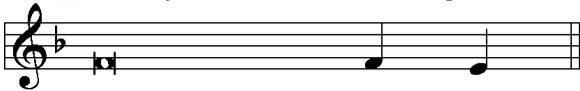
Advent and Christmas Hymn Sing

Service of Light

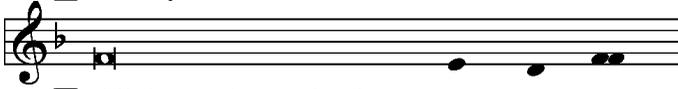
Stand



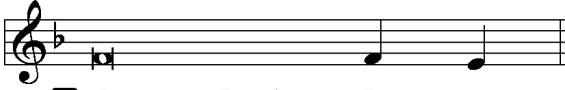
L The Spirit and the Church cry out:



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.

L Joy - ous light of glo - ry:

G of the im - mor - tal Fa - ther; heav - en - ly, ho - ly,
 bless - 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

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.
 A - men.

Sit

Psalm 141

LSB 245

Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,
 the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.
 O Lord, I call to You; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice
 when I cry to You. Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,
 the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.
 Set a watch be - fore my mouth, O Lord, and guard the door of my lips.
 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 146

- ¹Praise the LORD!
Praise the LORD, O my soul!
- ²**I will praise the LORD as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**
- ³Put not your trust in princes,
in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.
- ⁴**When his breath departs he returns to the earth;
on that very day his plans perish.**
- ⁵Blessèd is he whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the LORD his God,

⁶who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them,
who keeps faith forever;
⁷who executes justice for the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry.
The LORD sets the prisoners free;
⁸**the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.**
The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
the LORD loves the righteous.
⁹The LORD watches over the sojourners;
he upholds the widow and the fatherless,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.
¹⁰**The LORD will reign forever,**
your God, O Zion, to all generations.
Praise the LORD!
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.

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

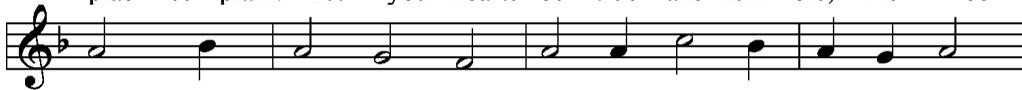
LSB 347



1 "Com - fort, com - fort ye My peo - ple, Speak ye peace," thus
2 Yea, her sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out each
3 Hark, the her - ald's voice is cry - ing In the des - ert
4 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed; Make the rough - er



saith our God; "Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, Mourn - ing
dark mis - deed; All that well de - served His an - ger He no
far and near, Call - ing sin - ners to re - pen - tance, Since the
plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, As be -



'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem
more will see or heed. She hath suf - fered man - y a day,
King - dom now is here. O that warn - ing cry o - bey!
fits His ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord



Of the peace that waits for them; Tell her that her
Now her griefs have passed a - way; God will change her
Now pre - pare for God a way; Let the val - leys
Now o'er earth is shed a - broad, And all flesh shall



sins I cov - er And her war - fare now is o - ver.”
pin - ing sad - ness In - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.
rise to meet Him And the hills bow down to greet Him.
see the to - ken That His Word is nev - er bro - ken.

First Reading

Isaiah 40:1-11

P A reading from Isaiah, the fortieth chapter.

¹Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her

that her warfare is ended,
that her iniquity is pardoned,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

³A voice cries:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

⁶A voice says, “Cry!”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”

All flesh is grass,
and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.

⁷The grass withers, the flower fades
when the breath of the LORD blows on it;
surely the people are grass.

⁸The grass withers, the flower fades,
but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good news;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good news;
lift it up, fear not;

say to the cities of Judah,
“Behold your God!”

¹⁰Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
behold, his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

¹¹He will tend his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms;
he will carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead those that are with young.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

G Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Luke 1:57-80

P A 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.

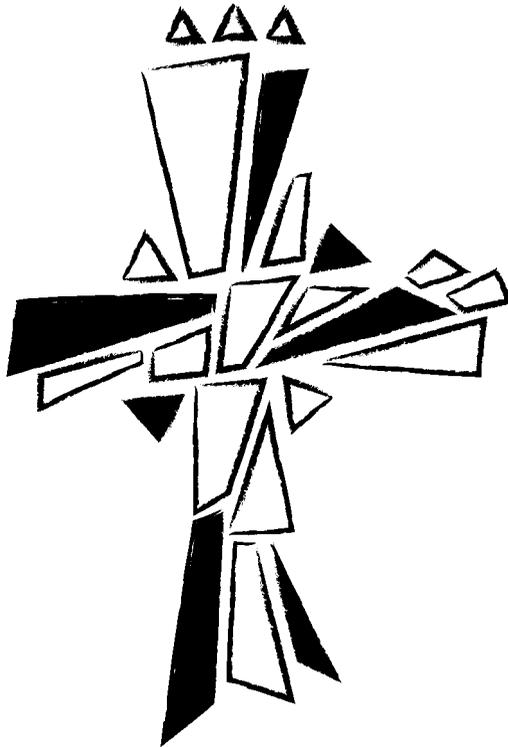
G Thanks be to God.

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

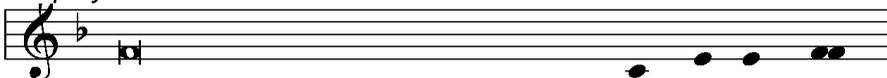
L In peace let us pray to the Lord:

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.**
- 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 Michael, 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 Donald, 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.**

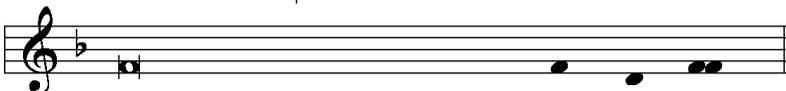
The prayers then continue:



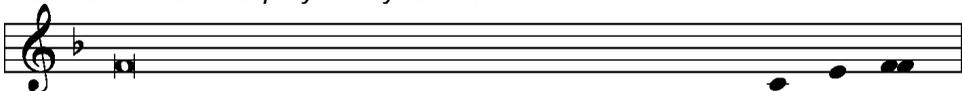
- L** For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:



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

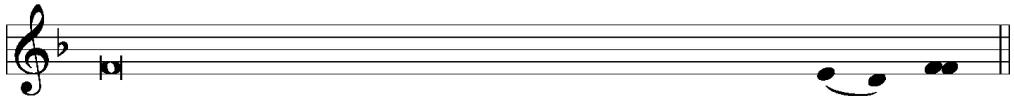
LSB 252



- L** Let us bless the Lord.
- 
- C** Thanks be to God.

Benediction

LSB 252



- P** The almighty and merciful Lord,
the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and pre - serve you.
- 
- C** A - men.

Sit

Now Rest beneath Night's Shadow

LSB 880



1 Now rest be - neath night's shad - ow The wood - land,
2 The ra - diant sun has van - ished, Its gold - en
3 Now all the heav'n - ly splen - dor Breaks forth in
4 Lord Je - sus, since You love me, Now spread Your



field, and mead - ow; The world in slum - ber lies.
rays are ban - ished From dark - 'ning skies of night;
star - light ten - der From myr - iad worlds un - known;
wings a - bove me And shield me from a - larm.



But you, my heart, a - wak - ing And prayer and mu - sic
But Christ, the Sun of glad - ness, Dis - pel - ling all our
And we, this mar - vel see - ing, For - get our self - ish
Though Sa - tan would de - vour me, Let an - gel guards sing



mak - ing, Let praise to your Cre - a - tor rise.
sad - ness, Shines down on us in warm - est light.
be - ing For joy of beau - ty not our own.
o'er me: This child of God shall meet no harm.

- 5 My loved ones, rest securely,
For God this night will surely
From peril guard your heads.
Sweet slumbers may He send you
And bid His hosts attend you
And through the night watch o'er your beds.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
DISMISSAL
POSTLUDE

