

**December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
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.

**PRELUDE**

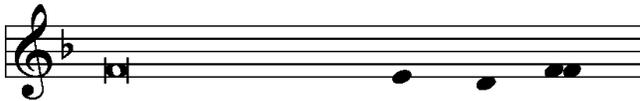
**CALL TO WORSHIP BELL**

**LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

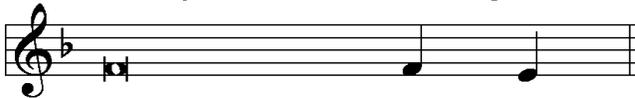
**WELCOME**

## Advent and Christmas Hymn Sing

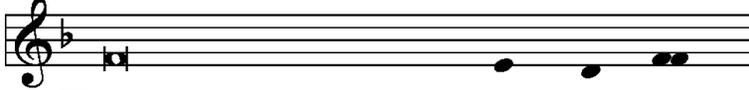
### Service of Light



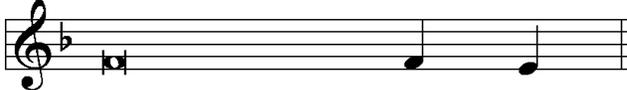
**L** The Spirit and the Church cry out:



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



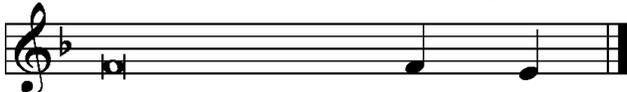
**L** All those who await His ap - pear - ance pray:



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



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



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

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

**C** 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.

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.  
 But my eyes are turned to You, O God; in You I take ref - uge.  
 Strip me not of my life. 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*

<sup>1</sup>Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

<sup>2</sup>**I will praise the LORD as long as I live;**

**I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

<sup>3</sup>Put not your trust in princes,

in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.

<sup>4</sup>**When his breath departs he returns to the earth;**

**on that very day his plans perish.**

<sup>5</sup>Blessèd is he whose help is the God of Jacob,

whose hope is in the LORD his God,

<sup>6</sup>**who made heaven and earth,**

**the sea, and all that is in them,**

**who keeps faith forever;**

<sup>7</sup>who executes justice for the oppressed,

who gives food to the hungry.

**The LORD sets the prisoners free;**

<sup>8</sup>**the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.**

**The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;**

**the LORD loves the righteous.**

<sup>9</sup>The LORD watches over the sojourners;

he upholds the widow and the fatherless,

but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

<sup>10</sup>**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.**



1 A - rise, O Chris - tian peo - ple! Pre - pare your - selves to -  
 2 Pre - pare the way be - fore Him; Pre - pare for Him the  
 3 The hum - ble heart and low - ly God rais - es up on  
 4 Pre - pare my heart, Lord Je - sus; Turn not from me a -



day; Pre - pare to greet the Sav - ior, Who takes your  
 best. Cast out what would of - fend Him, This great, this  
 high; Be - neath His feet in ter - ror The haugh - ty  
 side, And help me to re - ceive You This bless - ed



sins a - way. To us by grace a - lone The  
 heav'n - ly guest. Make straight, make plain the way: The  
 soul shall lie. The heart sin - cere and right, That  
 Ad - vent - tide. From stall and man - ger low Come



truth and light were giv - en; The prom - ised Lord from  
 low - ly val - leys rais - ing, The heights of pride a -  
 heeds God's in - vi - ta - tion And makes true prep - a -  
 now to dwell with - in me; I'll sing Your prais - es



heav - en To all the world is shown.  
 bas - ing, His path all e - ven lay.  
 ra - tion— It is the Lord's de - light.  
 glad - ly And forth Your glo - ry show.

First Reading

Malachi 3:1-7

**P** A reading from Malachi, the third chapter.

<sup>1</sup>Behold, I send my messenger and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. <sup>4</sup>Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

<sup>5</sup>Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

<sup>6</sup>For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. <sup>7</sup>From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts.

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Second Reading

Luke 1:57-80

**P** A reading from Luke, the first chapter.

<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** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

Sermon "Times of Silence and Times of Song"

Luke 1:57-80

Votum

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

**C** Amen.

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*

**Litany**

LSB 249

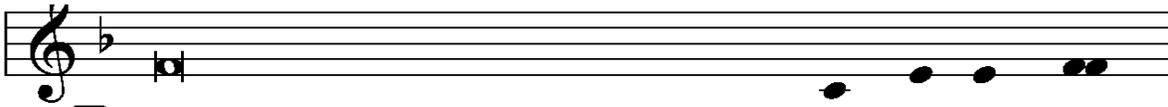
*The congregation's response may begin just as the leader's petition ends so that the word "Lord" is sung simultaneously by both leader and congregation.*

**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.

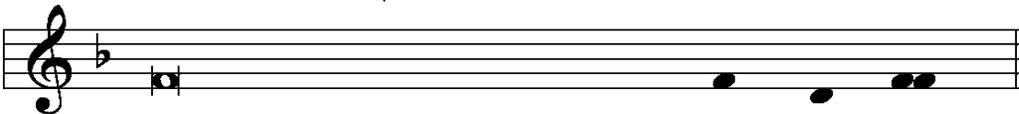
*The prayers then continue:*



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

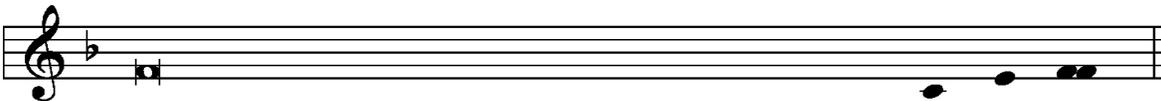


Common: **C** Al - le - lu - ia.  
Lent: **C** Thanks be to God.



**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



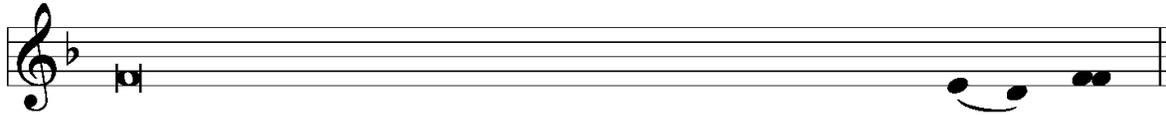
**L** Let us bless the Lord.



**C** Thanks be to God.

Benediction

LSB 252



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



**C** A - men.

All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night

LSB 883



1 All praise to Thee, my God, this night For all the  
2 For - give me, Lord, for Thy dear Son, The ill that  
3 Teach me to live that I may dread The grave as  
4 Oh, may my soul in Thee re - pose, And may sweet



bles - sings of the light. Keep me, O keep me,  
I this day have done, That with the world, my -  
lit - tle as my bed. Teach me to die that  
sleep mine eye - lids close, Sleep that shall me more



King of kings, Be - neath Thine own al - might - y wings.  
self, and Thee, I, ere I sleep, at peace may be.  
so I may Rise glo - rious at the awe - full day.  
vig - 'rous make To serve my God when I a - wake!

5 When in the night I sleepless lie,  
My soul with heav'nly thoughts supply;  
Let no ill dreams disturb my rest,  
No pow'rs of darkness me molest.

△ 6 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE

Joy

