

**December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021**  
**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.

**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:

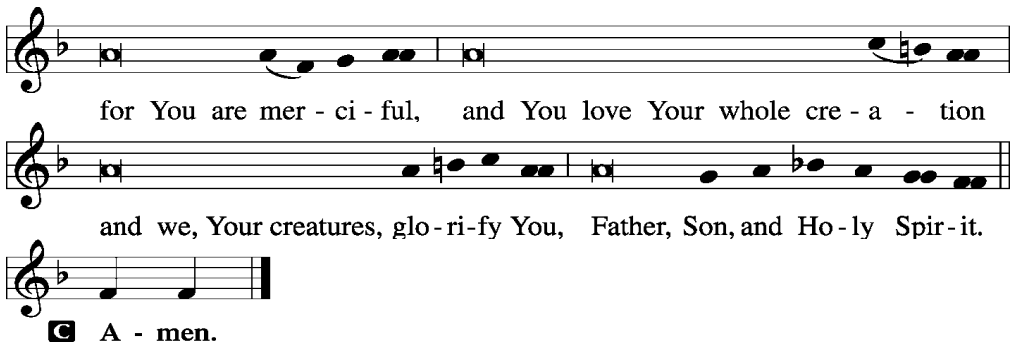
**C** Come, Lord Je - sus.

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

**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.

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.  
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 80:1-7

<sup>1</sup>Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,  
you who lead Joseph like a flock!

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

<sup>2</sup>**Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh,  
stir up your might  
and come to save us!**

<sup>3</sup>Restore us, O God;  
let your face shine, that we may be saved!

<sup>4</sup>**O LORD God of hosts,  
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?**

<sup>5</sup>You have fed them with the bread of tears  
and given them tears to drink in full measure.

<sup>6</sup>**You make us an object of contention for our neighbors,  
and our enemies laugh among themselves.**

<sup>7</sup>Restore us, O God of hosts;  
let your face shine, that we may be saved!

**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.**

## Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace

LSB 937

1 Lord, bid Your ser - vant go in peace,  
2 This is the Sav - ior of the world,  
3 With saints of old, with saints to come,  
Your word is now ful - filled. These eyes have seen sal -  
The Gen - tiles' prom - ised light, God's glo - ry dwell - ing  
To You we lift our voice; To Fa - ther, Son, and  
va - tion's dawn, This child so long fore - told.  
in our midst, The joy of Is - ra - el.  
Spir - it blest Be hon - or, love, and praise.

## Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 52:7-10

**P** A reading from Isaiah, the fifty-second chapter.

<sup>7</sup>How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of him who brings good news,  
who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness,  
who publishes salvation,  
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

<sup>8</sup>The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice;  
together they sing for joy;  
for eye to eye they see  
the return of the LORD to Zion.

<sup>9</sup>Break forth together into singing,  
you waste places of Jerusalem,  
for the LORD has comforted his people;  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

<sup>10</sup>The LORD has bared his holy arm  
before the eyes of all the nations,  
and all the ends of the earth shall see  
the salvation of our God.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Gospel Reading

Luke 2:22-35

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

<sup>22</sup> When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord

<sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be

called holy to the Lord”) <sup>24</sup>and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” <sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. <sup>26</sup>And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. <sup>27</sup>And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, <sup>28</sup>he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

<sup>29</sup>“Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,  
according to your word;

<sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation

<sup>31</sup>that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

<sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and for glory to your people Israel.”

<sup>33</sup>And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. <sup>34</sup>And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed <sup>35</sup>(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

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

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

**Sermon**      **“Lord, Now Lettest Thou Thy Servant Depart in Peace”**      **Luke 2:22-35**

**Votum**

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

**C** **Amen.**

*Stand*



# Magnificat

LSB 248

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 mercy.

- 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 Joseph, for Greg, for Joanna, 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.**

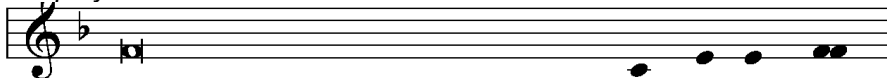
**P** For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

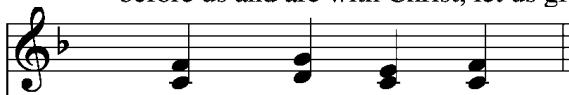
**P** For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

*The prayers then continue:*

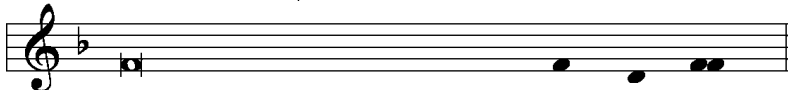


**L** For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:



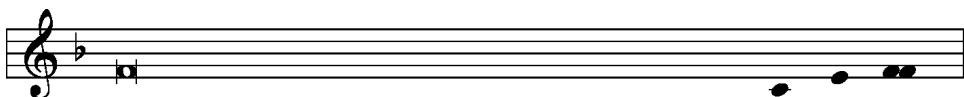
Common: **C** Al - le - lu - ia.

Lent: **C** Thanks be to God.

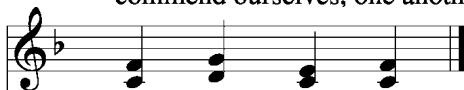


**L** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.

*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

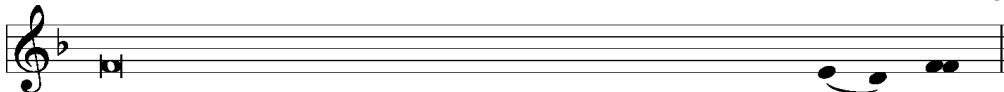


- L** Let us bless the Lord.
- 

- 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.

Sir

# Lord, Support Us All Day Long

LSB 884



1 Lord, sup - port us all day long, Guide and strength - en.  
2 Be our light in dark - ness, Lord, Our de - fend - er;  
3 With Your pres - ence, Lord, draw near Those who la - bor  
4 Gra - cious Lord, we give You thanks, Praise and bless You,



Eve - ning comes, the world is hushed, Shad - ows length - en,  
In Your pres - ence per - ils all Must sur - ren - der.  
Through the night - time on be - half Of their neigh - bor.  
As the giv - er of all good We con - fess You.



Work is done, life's fe - vered pace Now has end - ed;  
Drive all dark sa - tan - ic snares From each dwell - ing;  
Grant them cour - age for each fear, Faith - ful car - ing:  
This past day we now com - mit To Your keep - ing



Christ, to You, our fi - nal rest Is com - mend - ed.  
Then, at peace, our hearts Your praise Will be tell - ing.  
Your com - pas - sion and Your love Tru - ly shar - ing.  
And en - trust to You the hours Of our sleep - ing.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
**DISMISSAL**  
**POSTLUDE**







Love

