## December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 First Sunday in Advent



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
MISSOURI ~ SYNOD
308 Byrne Street
Smithville, TX 78957
512-237-2108
Divine Service 10 AM

**Pastor David Woelmer** 



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."

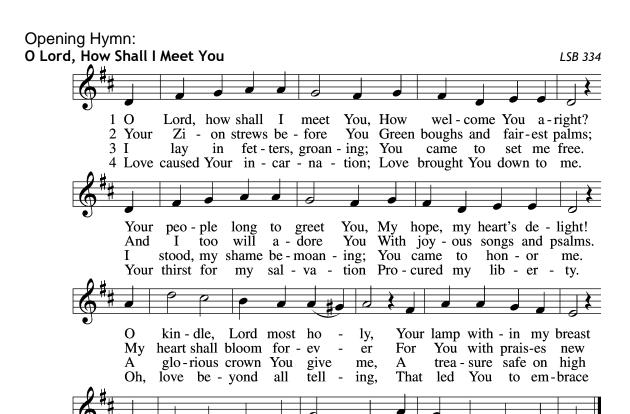
In our readings today: Although we pray that God "would rend the heavens and come down" (Is. 64:1), that He would take vengeance against our enemies, we ourselves "have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment" (Is. 64:6). We have continued in our sins for "a long time, and shall we be saved?" (Is. 64:5). Yet, the Lord does not punish us in anger. He comes in voluntary meekness and humility to save us by His grace. Just as He once came into Jerusalem to sacrifice Himself for us upon the cross (Mark 11:4–8), He still comes to His Church with the fruits of His Passion. By His ministry of the Gospel, we are "enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge," and so He will "sustain you to the end" (1 Cor. 1:5, 8). Although "heaven and earth will pass away," His words "will not pass away" (Mark 13:31). As He sends disciples to call us to Himself in the fellowship of His Church, so will He "send out the angels" to gather us and all of His elect "from the ends of the earth" to Himself in heaven forever (Mark 13:27).

Holy Communion is a sacred gift from Christ to His Church. In this meal, He gives His true body and blood under bread and wine into our mouths in order to forgive our sins and strengthen our union with Him and with one another (Matthew 26:26-28; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17). Christians receive this Sacrament trusting Jesus' own words, repenting of all their sin, and confessing the faith taught in Holy Scripture together in unity (Matthew 5:23-24; Acts 2:42; 1 Corinthians 11:17-26). For this reason, and because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm (1 Corinthians 11:27-34), we ask that those who have not yet been instructed and those who are not members of a congregation in fellowship with the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to speak with the pastor before receiving Holy Communion.

## A Prayer Before Worship

O Lord, our creator, redeemer, and comforter, as we come together to worship You in spirit and in truth, we humbly pray that You would open our hearts to the preaching of Your Word so that we may repent of our sins, believe in Jesus Christ as our only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear us for His sake. Amen

PRELUDE
CALL TO WORSHIP BELL
LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES



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5 Sin's debt, that fearful burden,
Cannot His love erase;
Your guilt the Lord will pardon
And cover by His grace.
He comes, for you procuring
The peace of sin forgiv'n,
His children thus securing
Eternal life in heav'n.

in

And from Your name shall nev

fail

love

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or

6 He comes to judge the nations,
A terror to His foes,
A light of consolations
And blessèd hope to those
Who love the Lord's appearing.
O glorious Sun, now come,
Send forth Your beams so cheering,
And guide us safely home.

With-hold the hon - or

earth - lv

ling, Our lost and fall - en

that may please You best.

rich - es

due.

fly.

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#### Stand

**Invocation** (God has given us our beginning in Baptism, so the Divine Service begins in His Name.) The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

- P In the name of the Father and of the 

  → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

To

Ιn

do

That will not

love, all



The Baptism of: McLayne Rae Reinhardt

Parents: Matthew and Peyton Reinhardt

Sponsors: Cade and Katherine Staton
Jake and Jennifer Mogonye

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## Service for the Rite of Holy Baptism is found on page 268 of the hymnal for you to follow along.



**Confession:** (We cannot come into the presence of our holy God on our own. We recognize our sinfulness and plead for mercy on account of Christ.)

- P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- **©** who made heaven and earth.
- P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
- **and** You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- P O almighty God, merciful Father,
- I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

Absolution: (God speaks His words of forgiveness to us through His servant, the pastor.)

- P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the 

  → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

### Service of the Word

**Introit:** (Forgiven by God, He invites us into his presence as we speak words from the Psalms.)

Psalm 25:1-3; antiphon: Zechariah 9:9b, alt.

Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation.

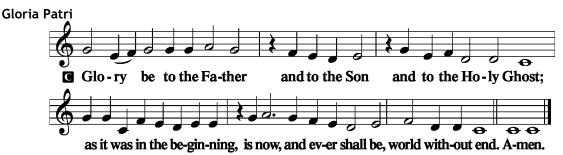
To you, O LORD,

I lift up my soul.

O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me.

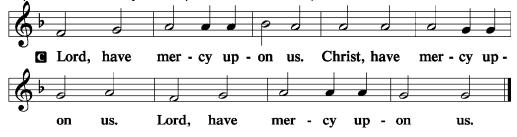
Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame; they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation.



**Kyrie:** (Shortened form of the Greek "Kyrie eleison," meaning "Lord, have mercy." In the presence of Jesus, we plead for His mercy and help in our time of need.)

LSB 186



The Gloria in Excelsis is omitted during Advent and Lent.

Salutation: (The pastor and congregation greet each other in the Lord's presence.)



**Collect:** (Many of these prayers have been used in the church for over 1,500 years. They "collect" the Gospel theme for the day.)

P Let us pray

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Sit

## Scripture Readings: (Jesus speaks to us in His Word as our crucified and risen Savior.) Old Testament Reading Isaiah 64:1-9

<sup>1</sup>Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence—

<sup>2</sup> as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—

to make your name known to your adversaries, and that the nations might tremble at your presence!

<sup>3</sup>When you did awesome things that we did not look for, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

<sup>4</sup>From of old no one has heard

or perceived by the ear,

no eye has seen a God besides you,

who acts for those who wait for him.

<sup>5</sup>You meet him who joyfully works righteousness,

those who remember you in your ways.

Behold, you were angry, and we sinned;

in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved?

<sup>6</sup>We have all become like one who is unclean,

and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment.

We all fade like a leaf,

and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

<sup>7</sup>There is no one who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to take hold of you:

for you have hidden your face from us,

and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities.

<sup>8</sup>But now, O LORD, you are our Father;

we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. <sup>9</sup>Be not so terribly angry, O LORD, and remember not iniquity forever. Behold, please look, we are all your people.

PThis is the Word of the Lord.

#### Thanks be to God.

**Gradual:** (The Gradual is a portion of a psalm or other Scripture passage that responds to the Old Testament reading and transitions us toward the words of Jesus in the Gospel.)

Zech. 9:9; Ps. 118:26, alt.

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.

Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.

Behold, your king is coming to you;

righteous and having salvation.

Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

From the house of the Lord we bless you.

### **Epistle**

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup>I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup>that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge— <sup>6</sup>even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—<sup>7</sup>so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>8</sup>who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

Thanks be to God.

Stand



Holy Gospel Mark 11:1-10



<sup>1</sup>When they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples <sup>2</sup>and said to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. <sup>3</sup>If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.'" <sup>4</sup>And they went away and found a colt tied at a door outside in the street, and they untied it. <sup>5</sup>And some of those standing there said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" <sup>6</sup>And they told them what Jesus had said, and they let them go. <sup>7</sup>And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. <sup>8</sup>And many spread

their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. 
<sup>9</sup>And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! <sup>10</sup>Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!"

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



**Creed:** (God works faith in us by His Word that we hear in Scripture. We confess that faith using one of three creeds that the church has used throughout the years and across the world.)

#### Nicene Creed

CI believe in one God.

the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,

the only-begotten Son of God,

begotten of His Father before all worlds,

God of God, Light of Light,

very God of very God,

begotten, not made,

being of one substance with the Father,

by whom all things were made;

who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary

and was made man:

and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered and was buried.

And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures

and ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of the Father.

And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord and giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.

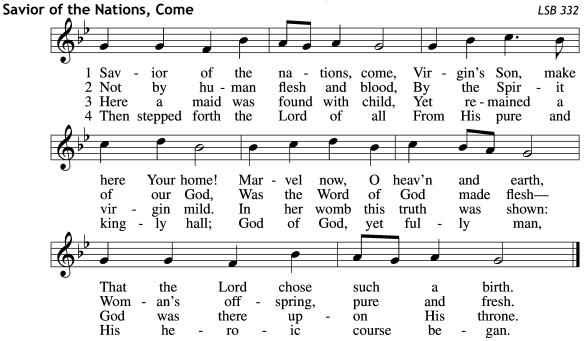
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,

I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,

and I look for the resurrection of the dead

and the life + of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn of the Day: (This hymn especially relates to the Gospel theme for the day. Each hymn provides a way for us to hear God's Word set to music.)



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

## Sermon "His Is No Earthly Kingdom; It Comes From Heaven Above"

(Based on one of the Scripture readings, the pastor proclaims God's Word of Law and Gospel for our lives today.)

#### Votum

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

Stand

Offertory: (The congregation responds to God's forgiveness with a sacrifice of praise.) LSB 192





## Rite of Confirmation Laura McKenzie Campion

John 14:27

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."

# Service for the Rite of Confirmation is found on page 272 of the hymnal for you to follow along.

**Prayer of the Church:** (The congregation joins together to pray for ourselves, for the Church, and for people throughout the world.)

**P** Lord, in Your mercy,

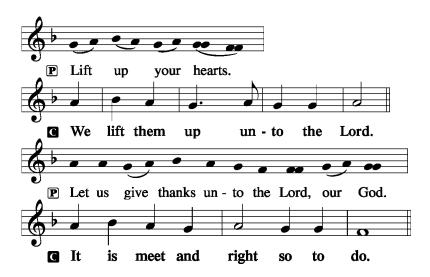
**C** hear our prayer.

## Service of the Sacrament

**Preface:** (The Service of the Sacrament begins with praise and thanksgiving for what God has done and is about to do for us in the Lord's Supper.)

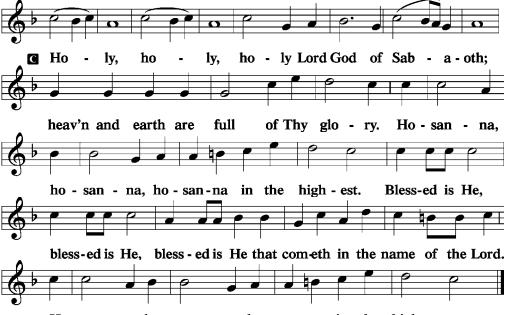
LSB 194





It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus: (Latin for "holy." The division between heaven and earth is gone, and we cry out to God with the heavenly host, "Holy, Holy, Holy!" to welcome our Savior Jesus (Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9).) LSB 195



**Lord's Prayer:** (We pray the words that Jesus gave us to pray, trusting that our Father will hear and answer us.)

- P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- 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.

**Words of Our Lord:** (We hear Jesus' words that in the Sacrament He gives us His very body and blood in, with, and under the bread and the wine.)

LSB 197

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ⅓ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

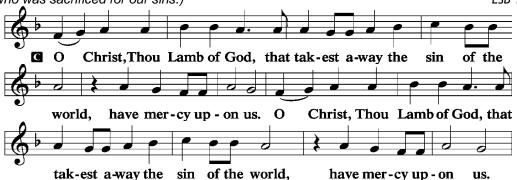
**Pax Domini:** (Latin for "The peace of the Lord." The pastor holds the body and blood of Jesus before the congregation and speaks the Lord's peace as the very Gospel.)

LSB 197



**Agnus Dei:** (Latin for "Lamb of God." As John the Baptist cried (John 1:29), so we sing to Christ, our Lamb who was sacrificed for our sins.)

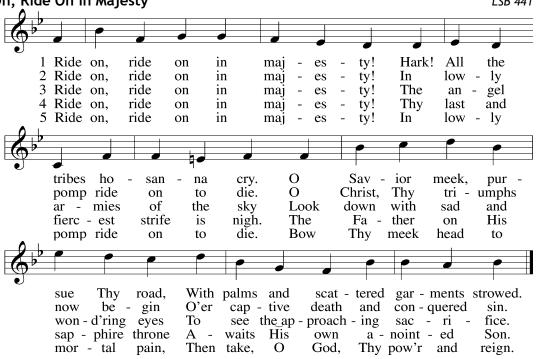
LSB 198

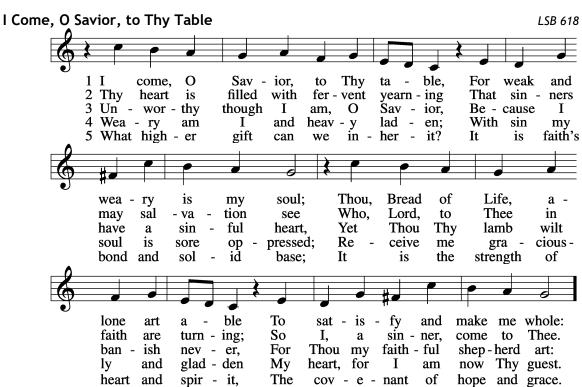




Sit









Lord, may Thy bod - y and Thy blood Be for my soul the high-est good!

#### Stand

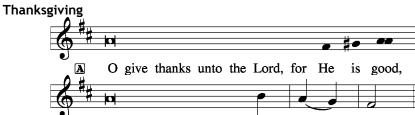
In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:

- The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart 

  → in peace.
- G Amen.

**Post-Communion Canticle:** (Having received Christ in our mouths and into our lives in the Sacrament, we give thanks and go forth in peace.)





and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

**Post-Communion Collect:** (We thank God for all He has done in the Sacrament and ask that it would show forth in our lives.)

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

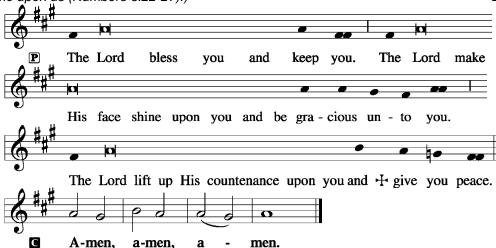


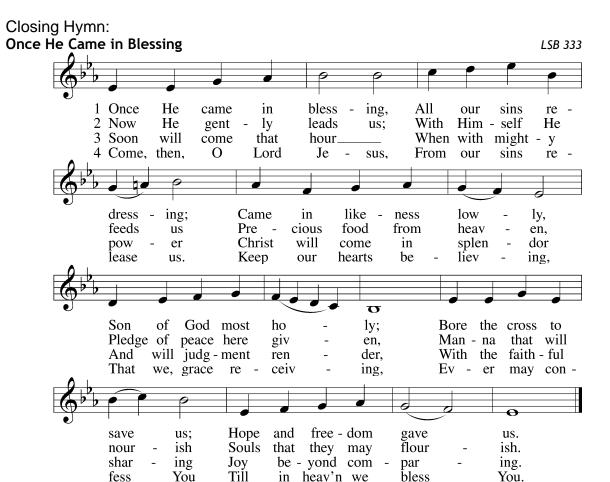
#### **Benedicamus**



**Benediction:** (Just as the Divine Service began, so it ends. We go forth with our Lord's blessing and His name upon us (Numbers 6:22-27).)

LSB 202





### Silent Prayer After Worship

Almighty and merciful God, we have again worshiped in Your presence and received both forgiveness for our many sins and the assurance of Your love in Jesus Christ. We thank You for this undeserved grace and ask You to keep us in faith until we inherit eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

ANNOUNCEMENTS DISMISSAL POSTLUDE

Altar flowers today were given to the Glory of God in celebration of Annie Mae Rohde's birthday!

ALTAR FLOWERS

#### December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023

## The Mission of Grace Lutheran Church is to joyfully and enthusiastically Model and share the gospel with the lost.

Grace Lutheran Church

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308 Byrne, Smithville, TX.78957

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401 Wilkes Street, Smithville, TX 78957

Office Phone: 512-237-2108 Office Phone: 512-360-2800 Fax Number: 512 237-2832 Fax Number: 512-237-5990

Web Site: www.glcs.org

Serving the Lord During Today's Worship Service

Elders: Charlie Johannessen Organist(s): June Parker

Colby Zimmerhanzel Esther Wolff

Altar Marilyn Burns Kim Appel Ruth Eaton

Guild: Mary Lou Oliver

#### AT GRACE THIS WEEK

Sun. Dec. 3	Mon Dec. 4	Tue. Dec. 5	Wed. Dec. 6
8:45am-Sunday School & Bible Class 10am- Worship/Communion	6pm-Elders Mtg		10am-GLLC Chapel 5:30 Youth Confirmation 6pm-Soup Supper 7pm-Advent Worship
Thurs. Dec. 7	Fri. Dec.8	Sat. Dec.9	Sun. Dec. 10
6pm-LWML/LLL Christmas Party		9am-Christmas Program Practice	8:45am-Sunday School & Bible Class 10am- Worship/Communion Special Voters Mtg after Service

#### Attendance

Sunday Worship (11/26) 110

#### **Visit with Pastor**

If you need to contact Pastor Woelmer, you can do so via e-mail (rev.davidwoelmer@gmail.com) or phone (214-218-8354). Pastor Woelmer is normally in the office Monday through Thursday. He is available in the afternoons, but often uses that time to make nursing home, hospital or home visits.

#### **Online Resources**

Each week, our congregation live streams the 10:00 AM Sunday morning on our Facebook page (<a href="www.facebook.com/gracelutheranchurchsmithville/">www.facebook.com/gracelutheranchurchsmithville/</a>). If you are unable to be in worship on a particular week, this is a great way that you can still hear the Word of God. It's also a great way to introduce someone to our congregation and the good news about Jesus. You can also go back and listen to sermons from previous weeks. Bulletins and newsletters are also available online at our website, <a href="www.glcs.org">www.glcs.org</a>.

#### **Adult Bible Study**

Adult Bible study at 8:45 AM continues each week, led by the pastor. Join us to spend time together in God's Word.

#### **KFUO Bible Study Resources**

CHRIST FOR YOU this week on KFUO.org: Advent music begins this week, and the 12 Days of Christmas runs December 24 - January 6. Study 1 Corinthians 10-11 on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8:00 a.m. CT), study Micah 3-7 on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m. CT), and Melanchthon's Greeting to the Apology of the Augsburg Confession on Concord Matters (12/9 at 10:00 a.m. CT). Find your favorite programs on demand at <a href="https://kfuo.org">kfuo.org</a> or the KFUO Radio app!

#### **Christmas Program**

This year's Christmas program will take place during the Sunday School hour (8:45-9:45 AM) on December 17th. Please come! The Sunday School children will lead in singing a few hymns and reading portions of the Christmas story. If you'd like to participate, help out, or would like to learn more, please contact Pastor Woelmer (214-218-8354) or Cheryl Moore.

#### Christmas caroling to shut-ins.

On December 17th, the youth group will go Christmas caroling at Towers Nursing Home at 4 PM and will visit and sing to other shut-ins in their homes. Snacks will be provided in the afternoon. More details to follow.

#### **LWML Christmas Card Sale**

Are you in need of Christmas cards? Check out the selection provided by the LWML in the Narthex. The cost of cards is indicated on each box. Payment can be placed in the container on the table; checks should be made out to Grace Lutheran LWML.

December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Second Sunday in Advent

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11 Epistle Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14 Gospel Reading: Mark 1:1-8



### "Faith at Christmas" Program

FLHS students will present a Christmas concert, "Faith at Christmas," on <u>Tuesday, December 12th at 7:00 pm at FLHS</u>. Program will include a collection of choir pieces, handbell pieces, hymns, scripture readings and more. Refreshments will be served following the program. Please join us!!!

\*This event will also be live streamed on Facebook, for those who would prefer to view the sounds of Christmas from home.

### **Shadow Days**

Shadow days are a great opportunity for prospective students to follow us for a day and experience what FLHS is all about. Parents, call us at (979) 242-2889 today to set up a shadow day for your child.

#### **Athletics**

The basketball season is in full swing. The Falcons debuted our first ever cheerleading squad on Thursday, November 16th as we played Austin Classical in the McDade Tournament. The Falcon squad was victorious, and won our first ever basketball game in school history. We also introduced "Marty the Falcon" as our official mascot.

Our next game will be Monday, December 4th at McDade High School at 7pm. Come join the cheerleaders and cheer on the falcons to victory!

### **Raffle Items**

The Spring Raffle is just around the corner. The Board of Directors is currently looking for valuable items or monetary donations to be used in the raffle. Please contact Nikki Kueck if you have something to donate! Thank you!

## **End of Year Giving**

In Proverbs 2:6, God's Word promises: "The LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth comes knowledge and understanding." Faith Lutheran High School exists to instill Christ's wisdom in His Word to prepare faithful leaders for tomorrow. Thank you for being a part of this mission through your prayers and financial support. Please prayerfully consider how you can give to further Lutheran education in our area. Matching funds are currently available to us from some gracious private donors, so please help us take full advantage of this opportunity. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Mrs. Nikki Kueck at (979) 242-2889.