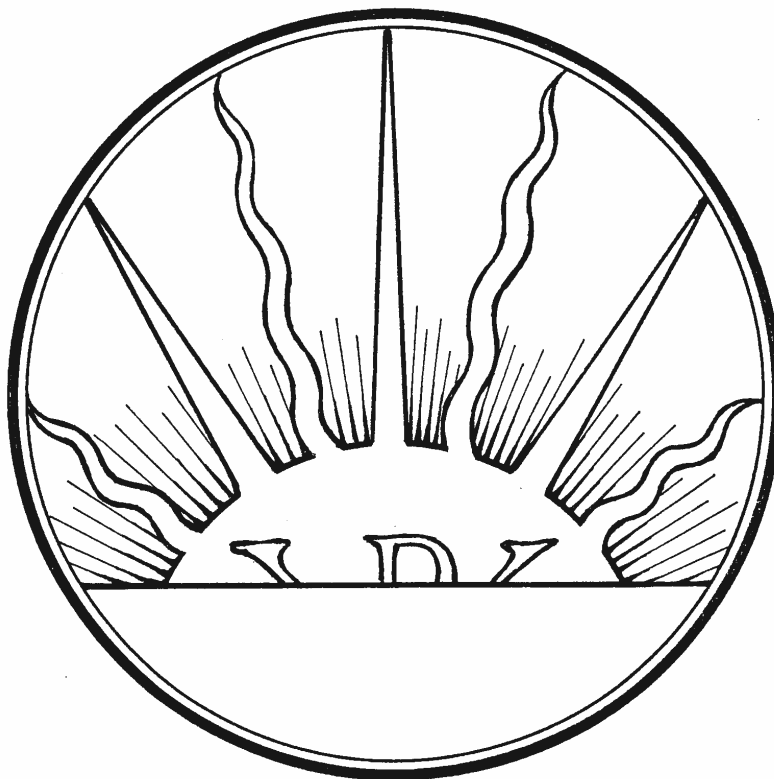


**December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023**  
**Advent Midweek #1**  
**The Three Advents of Our Lord**  
Christ's Advent in the Flesh: Once He Came in Blessing



**Grace Lutheran Church**  
**308 Byrne St.**  
**Smithville, TX 78957**  
**512-237-2108**  
**Evening Prayer 7:00 pm**

**Pastor David Woelmer**

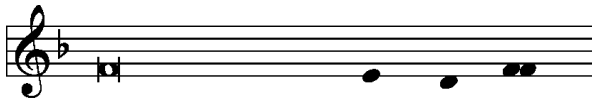


**Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church!** We give thanks that our gracious Lord Jesus Christ has gathered us together here for his Divine Service. Today again our Lord comes to serve us and lavish us with his gifts of life, forgiveness, and salvation. Rejoicing in those wonderful gifts, we sing with David in Psalm 84: "How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts! A day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere."

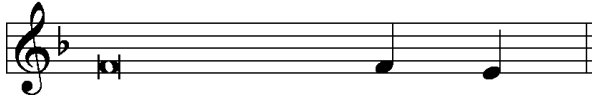
**PRELUDE**  
**CALL TO WORSHIP BELL**  
**LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**  
**WELCOME**

## Advent and Christmas Hymn Sing Service of Light

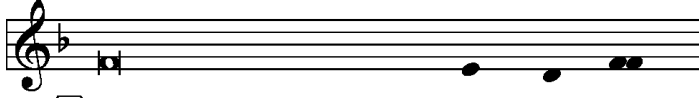
*Stand*



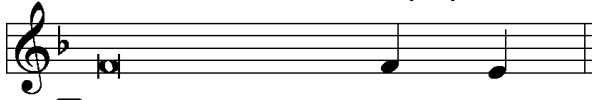
**L** The Spirit and the Church cry out:



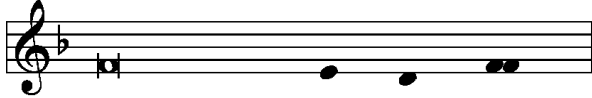
**C** Come, Lord Je - sus.



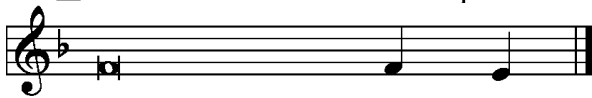
**L** All those who await His ap - pear - ance pray:



**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,



bles - sed Je - sus Christ. We have come to the



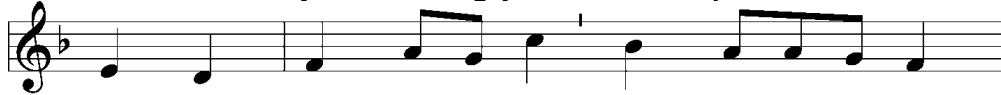
set - ting of the sun, and we look to the eve - ning light.



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:

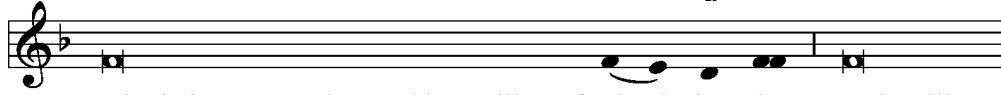


the u - ni - verse pro - claims Your glo - ry.

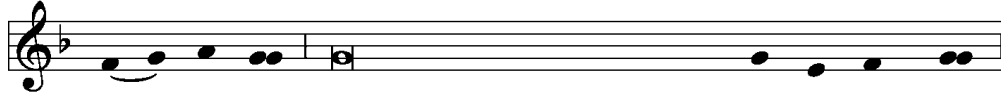
## Thanksgiving for Light



**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. 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.

**G**Amen.

## Psalm

*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.

## Once He Came in Blessing

LSB 333



1 Once He came in bless - ing, All our sins re -  
2 Now He gent - ly leads us; With Him - self He  
3 Soon will come that hour When with might - y  
4 Come, then, O Lord Je - sus, From our sins re -



dress - ing; Came in like - ness low - ly,  
feeds us Pre - cious food from heav - en,  
pow - er Christ will come in splen - dor  
lease us. Keep our hearts be - liev - ing,



Son of God most ho - ly; Bore the cross to  
Pledge of peace here giv - en, Man - na that will  
And will judg - ment ren - der, With the faith - ful  
That we, grace re - ceiv - ing, Ev - er may con -



save us; Hope and free - dom gave us.  
nour - ish Souls that they may flour - ish.  
shar - ing Joy be - yond com - par - ing.  
fess You Till in heav'n we bless You.

## First Reading

Isaiah 60:1-7

- <sup>1</sup>Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.  
<sup>2</sup>For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the LORD will arise upon you,  
and his glory will be seen upon you.  
<sup>3</sup>And nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your rising.  
<sup>4</sup>Lift up your eyes all around, and see;

they all gather together, they come to you;  
your sons shall come from afar,  
and your daughters shall be carried on the hip.  
5Then you shall see and be radiant;  
your heart shall thrill and exult,  
because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you,  
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.  
6A multitude of camels shall cover you,  
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;  
all those from Sheba shall come.  
They shall bring gold and frankincense,  
and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.  
7All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered to you;  
the rams of Nebaioth shall minister to you;  
they shall come up with acceptance on my altar,  
and I will beautify my beautiful house.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Second Reading

*John 8:12-20*

12Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." 13So the Pharisees said to him, "You are bearing witness about yourself; your testimony is not true." 14Jesus answered, "Even if I do bear witness about myself, my testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going. 15You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one. 16Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is true, for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me. 17In your Law it is written that the testimony of two men is true. 18I am the one who bears witness about myself, and the Father who sent me bears witness about me." 19They said to him therefore, "Where is your Father?" Jesus answered, "You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also." 20These words he spoke in the treasury, as he taught in the temple; but no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

**P** In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

**C** But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.

## Sermon "Christ's Advent In The Flesh Brings Restoration"

### Votum

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

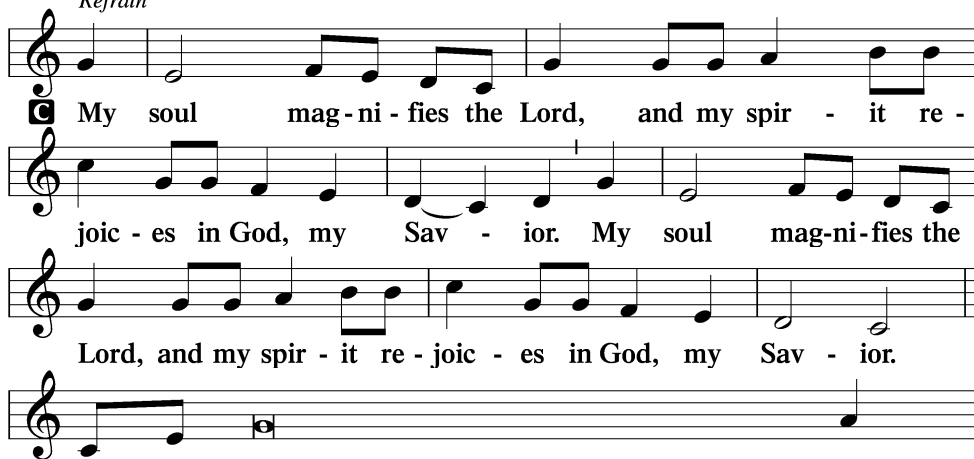
**C** Amen.

*Stand*

# Magnificat

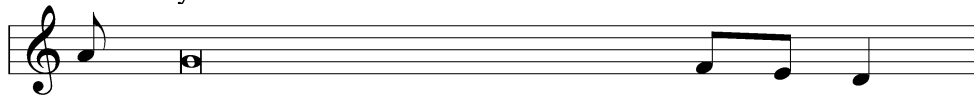
Luke 1:46-55

*Refrain*




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.

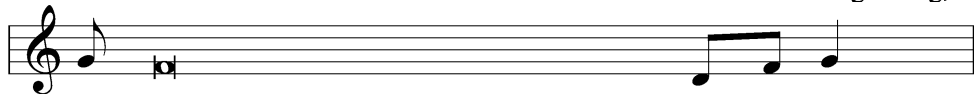
- 1 For \_\_\_\_\_ He has re - garded
- 2 For the Mighty One has done great things to . . . . . me,
- 3 He has shown strength with His . . . . . arm;
- 4 He has filled the hungry with good . . . . . things,
- 5 Glo - ry be to the Father and to the . . . . . Son



- 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,

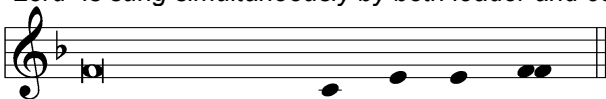


- 1 all generations will . . . . . call me blessed.
- 2 from generation to . . . . . gen - er - ation. *Refrain*
- 3 and has exalt - - - - - ed the lowly.
- 4 as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed for - ever.
- 5 is now, and will be forever. . . . . A - - - - - men. *Refrain*



## Litany

*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.*



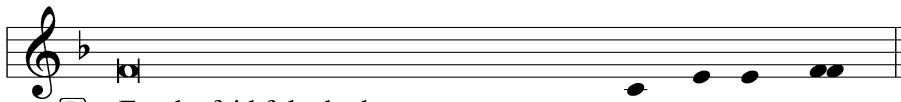
**L** In peace let us pray to the Lord:



**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.**

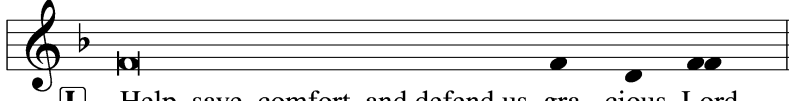
*The prayers then continue:*



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

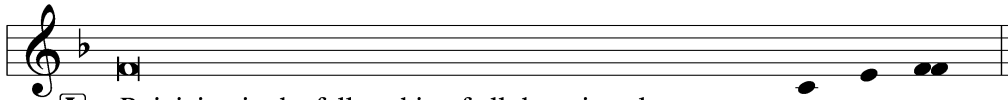


**C** Al - le - lu - ia.



**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** A - men.

### Lord's Prayer

LSB 251

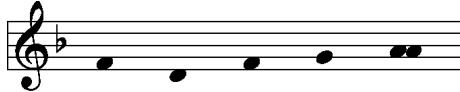
**P** Taught by our Lord and trusting in His promises, we are bold to pray:

**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



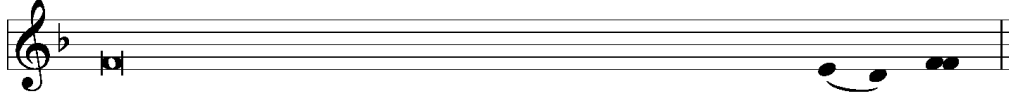
**L** Let us bless the Lord.



**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.

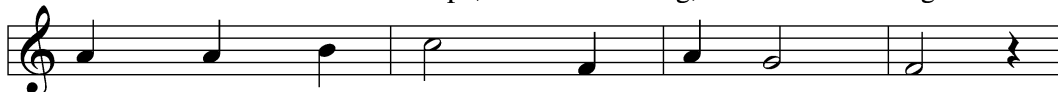
*Sit*

# O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide

LSB 355



1 O Sav - ior, rend the heav - ens wide;  
 2 O Fa - ther, light from heav - en send;  
 3 O earth, in flow'r - ing bud be seen;  
 4 O Fount of hope, how long, how long?



Come down, come down with might - y stride;  
 As morn - ing dew, O Son, de - scend.  
 Clothe hill and dale in garb of green.  
 When will You come with com - fort strong?



Un - lock the gates, the doors break down;  
 Drop down, you clouds, the life of spring;  
 Bring forth, O earth, a blos - som rare,  
 O come, O come, Your throne fore - go;



Un - bar the way to heav - en's crown.  
 To Ja - cob's line rain down the King.  
 Our Sav - ior, sprung from mead - ow fair.  
 Con - sole us in our vale of woe.

5 O Morning Star, O radiant Sun,  
 When will our hearts behold Your dawn?  
 O Sun, arise; without Your light  
 We grope in gloom and dark of night.

7 There shall we all our praises bring  
 And sing to You, our Savior King;  
 There shall we laud You and adore  
 Forever and forevermore.

6 Sin's dreadful doom upon us lies;  
 Grim death looms fierce before our eyes.  
 O come, lead us with mighty hand  
 From exile to our promised land.

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