

Second Sunday in Advent
Sunday, December 4, 2022
8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship w/Holy Communion



"Be and Make Disciples of Jesus Christ"

Grace Lutheran Church
111 Lutheran Drive, P.O. Box 86
Eaton, Ohio 45320
937.456.6258

GraceEaton111@gmail.com— www.gracelutheranofeaton.com
Pastor Dwight Hanson

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

In Holy Communion our Lord Jesus graciously invites those who have been baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit to repent of all that separates us from God, and to receive His sacred and real presence for the forgiveness of sins.

In addition to wine, grape juice is also offered.

Children who do not yet receive Communion may come for a blessing.

Holy Communion will be offered as you kneel at the altar rail.

Please take a moment this morning to fill out the "Attendance & Communion" Registration Cards (located in the pew racks). Pass your card to the end of your pew.

P - Presiding Minister; A - Assisting minister; **C - Congregation;**

* - PLEASE STAND

LBW - Green Hymnal

WOV - Blue Hymnal

+++

PRELUDE: ***"Wake Awake For Night is Flying" (arr. by: Ritter)***

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

***THE GATHERING:**

Advent reminds us of the return of the Lord, for whom we long.

P In this season of watching and waiting, we gather in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:**

P A voice cries in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord. Make straight in the desert a pathway for our God" (Isaiah 40:3). Let us come before our Lord in humility, asking forgiveness and mercy for sins known and unknown.

(Kneeling or sitting, we take a few moments for silent reflection.)

P Heavenly Father, we confess that we have not prepared the way as we should. We have not lived as children of the Light, walking according to your will.

C In the mercy of Christ, restore us, forgive us, and grant us your peace. Amen.

P According to the grace, promise and authority of the risen Lord Jesus, your sins are freely forgiven, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

***SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE:**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

***GATHERING HYMN: “Prepare the Royal Highway” (LBW 26)**



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch-es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

***GREETING:**

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

***PRAYER AT THE LIGHTING OF THE WREATH:**

P Let us pray: O God of hope, we thank you for your Word, and the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit. We long for the return of Christ, and the everlasting Light he brings. Illumine the path ahead as we watch, wait and prepare.

C **Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.**

As the acolyte lights two candles on the Advent wreath, the congregation sings ...

“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah” Vs. 2 (WOV 630)

2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.

He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954
Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune
Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

P Let us pray: Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world;

C **We ask this through Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 11:1-10

A A reading from Isaiah:

¹There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. ²And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. ³And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. ⁶The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. ⁷The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. ⁹They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. ¹⁰In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples — of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 72:1-7

A ¹Give the King your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the King's Son;

C ²**That he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;**

A ³That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the little hills bring righteousness.

C ⁴**He shall defend the needy among the people; he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.**

A ⁵He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.

C ⁶**He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth.**

A ⁷In his time shall the righteous flourish; there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

SECOND LESSON: Romans 15:4-13

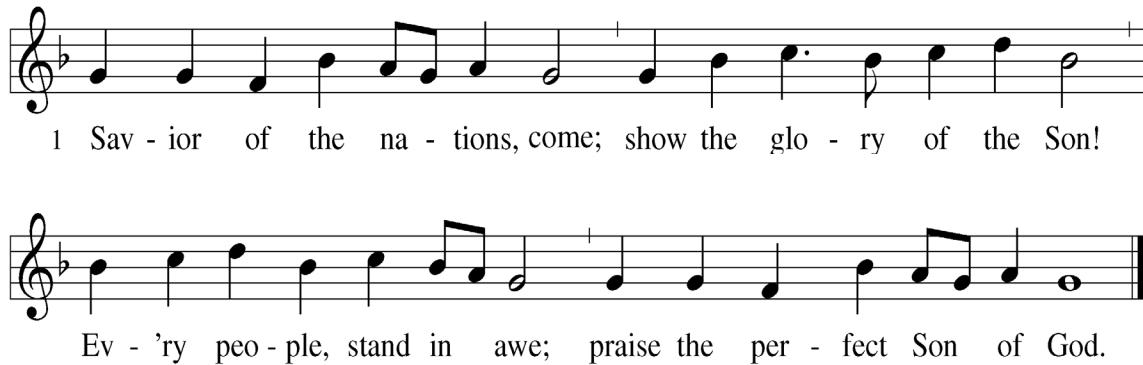
A A reading from Romans:

⁴Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, ⁶that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name." ¹⁰And again it is said, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people." ¹¹And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him." ¹²And again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope." ¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

***VERSE: “Savior of the Nations Come” vs. 1 (LBW 28)**

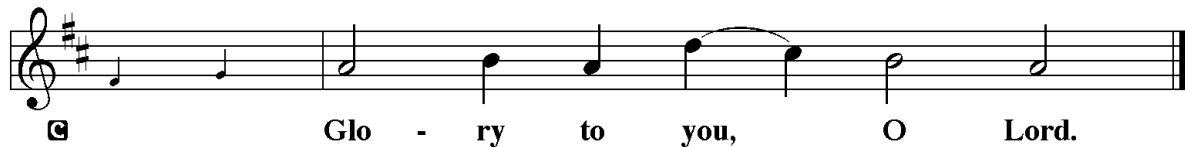


Text: attr. St. Ambrose, 340–397; tr. composite

Music: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND, J. Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524

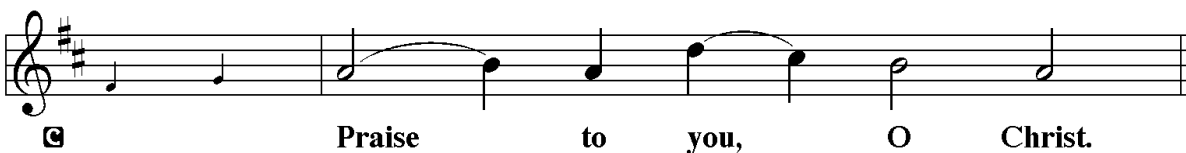
***HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the third chapter:



¹In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” ³For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’” ⁴Now John wore a garment of camel’s hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹And do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.



CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Picture a beautiful forest, and you get to walk through the middle of it. There, in the middle of the whole thing, once stood the biggest, most beautiful tree ever known. But now, it's just a stump. Sad, right? You might wonder about the tree that's no longer there. How many birds raised their young ones in nests that were hidden in its leaves? How many fallen branches became campfires for warmth and food? How many people found shade from the heat of the day, and maybe even a nap? A stump tells us that those days are over. And God wants us to think about that stump. Not only that, he wants us to look at it very closely. Do you see it? There's a small, green shoot, a new branch coming up out of the stump. It may be an old tree, but it has a new beginning! Can this be? Yes, it can. God gives hope for the future. You kids remind us that God has plans for the future, as well. When we all stay together in the Lord Jesus, all is well. Let's pray...

SERMON: Pastor Dwight Hanson

No Shortcut to Joy

Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. *So, are you all set for Christmas?* The question has a way of asserting itself even as early as December 4th, at least in our driven culture. And the mere asking of it has the power to raise a person's blood pressure. For many, such a question may signal the recitation of an unfinished list, nervously numbered in the back of the mind: *Decorations, gifts, wrapping, food, concerts, pageant, (did I mention a lingering cough), working with the calendars of busy family members, cards, details, more details.* Even if that isn't quite your situation this year, perhaps you remember other times when it was stressful, with a sort of glaze that can come over a person's eyes. Amid the onslaught, however, we may have missed the fact that none of what was just said answered the original question.

So, let me ask it again, but this time with a bit more of a John the Baptist accent... Are you prepared in your mind, heart, and relationships for the coming of the Heavenly Messiah into your home and life? *Oh, if you put it that way!* John

would have it put no other way. He's our Advent reality check. Some of John's words do technically require the punctuation of a question mark, like when he shouted at the proud of this world, "*who warned you?*" But even though it took the form of a question, it had all the force of an exclamation point.

No one was exempt from their need. We've all got preparations to make. John may not take away the list of unfinished things, but he does have a way of changing what's on that list. After he's done with us, we're more concerned with moral, spiritual, and relational matters.

So what if someone got the Black Friday deal of a lifetime for a Christmas gift, if it meant plowing over three fellow shoppers to get it, clearing a lane and leaving a trail of anger. That's not exactly what was meant by *preparing a straight path*.

The Baptist arrives on the scene each year about this time, and, we might add, just in time. He's the antidote to the madness. But there are a few things to note about him. First of all, apparently, he missed a whole bunch of appointments that would have made him more palatable to the modern mind. For example, clearly, he didn't meet with an image consultant, for he was very much out of step with the times; and while he was missing appointments, there went the fashion coordinator, as well as the personal chef; and what about the marketing firm? And his agent—did he forget entirely to nail down his intellectual property rights, securing the legacy of his "Name, Image and Likeness" profile?

Of course, none of that mattered to John. Here, the *prophet* didn't go to the people. *They* came to him. Maybe his phone battery died and he didn't get the memo to study the latest polls and trends. These would have pointed him into the city, where the people were. That's where the latest and greatest would be on full display. But John didn't seem to care about those things, having set up camp in the wilderness. In fact, he, himself, was the memo, sent from God for a purpose. *Prepare.*

He had one thing and one thing only firmly in view, the will of the Lord, clearing the brush from the royal highway. If it was that important for John, it should be so for us, too. Prepare the way in heart, soul, strength and mind. As it turns out, the way of the Lord runs right through the middle of peoples' lives.

The way the Kingdom works on earth is by one transformation at a time, each day in each person, which implies that it needs to be renewed. Even if a person started off well enough, it's easy to get side-tracked. John the Baptist,

untamed, unafraid, unimpressed, dared to use a word that few like to hear any more, “*repent.*” Turn back. Seek the Lord. Honor Him above all else, especially above yourself.

John’s mission on earth was to remind us that despite the many offers by this world, there’s absolutely no such thing as a short-cut to joy. The first reading for today reminds us that the Israelites once tried to have it on their terms. That’s how their Kingdom ended up being compared to a stump, the stump of Jesse. Jesse was King David’s father—such a bright future for this royal family tree! Wouldn’t the greatness last forever? Not if the people went away from the will of God. The mighty tree was cut down. God had it cut down. Why? Because it no longer produced good fruit, as judged by the Almighty, Himself, in accord with the Word that had been revealed, as well as the natural law of the Creator written upon the hearts of all people (Rom. 2:15).

However, along with the axe came a promise on the lips of the Prophet Isaiah—Let the humble hear the Word and see a distant light shining in the darkness, for a new shoot of life shall rise from the stump!

A life of faith is a life of honesty, godly wisdom, love and being steadfast. It’s lived day-by-day. For, as we already noted, there’s no short-cut to joy. In fact, all that’s false will be cut short, the axe laid at the root of the tree. Until we delight in the Lord—His will for us—there can be no lasting delight.

But where it’s the case that honest, repentant hearts still seek him, there He’s glad to be found. However, it may be in the wilderness, in other words, away from the glitz and glamour. The sign of God’s Kingdom may be a small thing like that of a green shoot coming out of an old stump, a hard lesson learned through failure, followed by mercy. The sign of the Kingdom may even be a baby born in an animal stable, if you can imagine that. But who would do such a thing? Next week the children of the church are going to help us imagine just such a thing.

Let’s prepare for Christmas with John’s words firmly in mind. And make sure you add in Paul’s words, too, for that second reading stated it well, “*Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope*” (Rom. 15:4). “*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope*” (Rom. 15:13). Thanks be to God. Amen.

***HYMN OF THE DAY: “On Jordan’s Banks the Baptist’s Cry” (LBW 36)**



1 On Jor - dan's banks the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and hear - ken,
 way for God with - in, and let us all our
 and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
 rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
 has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
 we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. composite
 Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

***APOSTLES' CREED:**

**C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
 Creator of heaven and earth.
 I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.
 He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
 and born of the virgin Mary.
 He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried.
 He descended into hell.
 On the third day He rose again.
 He ascended into heaven,
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
 I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

***PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:**

A Let us pray: Almighty and everlasting God, who humbles the mighty and lifts up the lowly, inspire repentance and faith in all of our lives. Help us to “prepare the way of the Lord” by looking to Jesus, the Light of the world. Bring low the mountains of pride. Fill up the valleys of despair with hope. Come and reign among us. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

A Pour out the Holy Spirit on the whole Christian Church, that we may be mission-driven. Guide the NALC, and all faithful brothers and sisters in other denominations. Bless and keep Bishop Selbo and staff, our Mission District, NALC Disaster Response, and our outreach partners: Military Veterans and Families Ministries; Allison and Campus Outreach; Abundant Grace of West Chester; Chris, Emily and family and the World Mission Prayer League; and all other helpful organizations within our community and throughout the world. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

A Bless the children, O Lord, as they prepare to present the Christmas story next Sunday. Let your Light shine through them. And remind us that we are all your children. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

A We pray, O Lord, for the needs of the world. Grant wisdom to all who hold offices of earthly power, that your holy will would guide them through worldly dilemmas. We pray for those who face war and uncertainty as the winter cold settles in. We pray for all who serve honorably in harm’s way, and their families. And we ask your blessing upon all who tend to the safety of the roads, day and night. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

A We pray for all who need healing in any way: *The Steven Barnes Family, Bea Breeden, Kierstyn Coffman, Debbie Creamer, Barbara Curtis, Larry Danley, The Giordano Family, Tammi Good, The Hammons Family, Carol Matevia, Brian Schamel, Judy & Mike Schamel, Iva-Laura Sherry, Dave Stevenson, Todd White*, as well as those whom we name in our hearts (silent prayer). Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray,

C **Trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

OFFERING

VOLUNTARY: (8:00)

ANTHEM: (10:30) *“Creation Sings” Choir*

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE: “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” vs. 2
(LBW 55)**



2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;



He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.



Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866
Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German carol, 14th cent.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER:**

P Let us pray. Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Maker of all things.

C **Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With
them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the
care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him
who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

***THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION:**

P In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

***LORD'S PRAYER:**

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.**

COMMUNION HYMNS: *“Lamb of God”*



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

“Lo, How a Rose Is Growing”
(LBW 58)



1 Lo, how a rose is grow - ing, a bloom of fin - est grace;
2 The rose of which I'm sing - ing, I - sa - iah had fore - told.
3 The shep - herds heard the sto - ry the an - gels sang that night:
4 This flow'r, so small and ten - der, with fra - grance fills the air;
5 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt all hu - man woe;



the proph - ets had fore - told it: a branch of Jes - se's race
He came to us through Mar - y who shel - tered him from cold.
how Christ was born of Mar - y; he was the Son of light.
his bright - ness ends the dark - ness that kept the earth in fear.
O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who tri - umphed o'er our foe:



would bear one per - fect flow'r here in the cold of
Through God's e - ter - nal will this child to us was
To Beth - le - hem they ran to find him in the
True God and yet true man, he came to save his
bring us at length, we pray, to the bright courts of



win - ter and dark - est mid - night hour.
giv - en at mid - night calm and still.
man - ger as an - gel her - alds sang.
peo - ple from earth's dark night of sin.
heav - en and in - to end - less day.

Text: German, 15th cent.; tr. Gracia Grindal, b. 1943

Music: ES IST EIN ROS, *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, Köln, 1599

“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”
(LBW 29)



1 “Com - fort, com - fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!” So says our God.
2 For the her - ald’s voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
3 Straight shall be what long was crook-ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain!



Com-fort those who sit in dark-ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row’s load.
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the king-dom now is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits his ho - ly reign!



To God’s peo - ple now pro-claim that God’s par - don waits for them!
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way!
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for - ev - er.
Let the val - leys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him!
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God’s word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1611–1684; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829–1878, alt.
Music: FREU DICH SEHR, *Trente quatre pseauxes de David*, Geneva, 1551

***POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE:**



☐ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-calls his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER:**

P Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
C **And unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one Heavenly food;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

***BLESSING:**

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.
C **Amen.**

***SENDING HYMN: “Soon and Very Soon” (WOV 744)**
This hymn is copyrighted. Please see the Blue “With One Voice” hymnal.

***DISMISSAL:**

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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CHRISTMAS GREETING CARDS for our shut-ins, active military personnel, and those in need of Christmas Cheer have been made and are now available to be signed by the congregation. **The cards are available on the tables in the fellowship hall until Dec. 4, 2022. Thank you.**

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Women of Grace, you are invited to a **Christmas Party**
December 12 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

“Bringing Jesus into your home at Christmas ...

How do you do it at your house?”

— Decorating ... Baking ... Gift-giving traditions ... Cards —

Please bring a **dessert** and its **recipe** to share for the **dessert buffet**
If you need a ride, please call the church office.

UPDATE: The Pictorial Directories will be a little longer in arriving, so if you are in need of an updated “name & number” directory, there are some available on the table in the Narthex.

Calling All Instrumentalists!!!

Come All Ye Faithful ... and bring some ***Joy to the Word*** ... by sharing your talents on **Christmas Eve!**

We will be playing the first hymn of the service **“O Come All Ye Faithful”** and the last hymn **“Joy to the World”** with the organ, the piano, and the congregation that evening. We will have one rehearsal.

Contact Janet Burkett to have your questions answered. Please let her know by **Thursday, December 8** if you are interested so you can have music in advance and let her know a convenient time for rehearsal.

GRACE AT A GLANCE

Grace Lutheran Church

111 Lutheran Dr., P.O. Box 86 - Eaton, OH 45320
Phone: 937-456-6258 Email: GraceEaton111@gmail.com
www.gracelutheranofeaton.com ~ ~ Like us on Facebook

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday -Friday: 10—1, 2—5

TODAY December 4, 2022— Second Sunday in Advent

8:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
9:30 a.m. Adult Education (FH)
9:30 a.m. Youth Sunday School—Pageant Practice
10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion

Monday December 5

Pastor's Day Off
6:30 p.m. Men's Disciple Group (Schamel's)
7:00 p.m. Girl Scout Leader Meeting (FH)

Tuesday December 6

5:00 p.m. TOPS (Catechism Room)
5:00 p.m. Confirmation Class (Adult Education/Meeting Room)
6:00 p.m. Men's Disciple Group (Schamel's)
6:30 p.m. Grief Support Group (FH)

Wednesday December 7— Midweek Advent 2

9:00 a.m. Bible Study (FH)
5:30 p.m. Choir
6:00 p.m. Advent Soup Supper (FH)
7:00 p.m. Advent 2 Midweek Worship— "Holden Evening Prayer"

Thursday December 8

7:00 p.m. Council & Executive Committee Meetings (Adult Ed/Meeting Room)
7:30 p.m. AA Meeting (FH)

Friday December 9—Production Day

Saturday December 10

7:30 a.m. Men of Grace (Bob Evan's)
1:00 p.m. Wedding of Carolyn Pollitt to David Bradley—All are invited!
(Sanctuary)
Following Reception (All are invited!)

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Altar Guild for December: Carol Perry, Carol Matevia
Offering Counter for December: 12/4 & 12/7—Janice Barnes;
12/11 & 12/14—Juli Troutman; 12/18 & 12/21—Carol Perry;
12/24 & 12/25—Jane Coggin

Sunday, December 4— Advent 2

	8:00 a.m.	10:30 a.m.
Greeter:	Tom Barnes	Marti Good-Ernst
Usher:	Tom Barnes	Jeff Kiracofe
Lector:	Patty Barnes	Debbie McKinney
Communion	Carolyn Pollitt	Barb Myers
Assistant:	Patty Barnes	John Kiracofe

Wednesday, December 7— Midweek Advent 2

	7:00 p.m.
Greeter:	Barb Myers
Usher:	Barb Myers
Lector:	Barb Myers

Sunday, December 11— Advent 3

	9:30 a.m.
Greeter:	Rex Mt. Castle
Usher:	Rex Mt. Castle
Lector:	David Kullman

Attendance & Stewardship — (\$4,187 needed wkly)

Thank Offering (11/16)	\$734.28
11.27.2022 8:00 a. 26	\$3,510.46
10:30 a. 40	

Great Commission Outreach Partners:

World Mission Prayer League—Chris & Emily and family, Lutheran Military Veterans and Families, Allison— Campus Outreach, Transfiguration Lutheran Mission

Grace Lutheran Mission Endowment Fund: The purpose of this fund is to extend the ministry of Grace Lutheran Church, apart from the general operation of the congregation. To learn more about our Mission Endowment Fund, please contact the church office and we'll give your question to the appropriate person.

IN OUR PRAYERS

*Please keep us updated on prayer needs by calling the office or making a note on the back of your "Attendance & Communion Registration" form. Thank you. **AFTER 4 WEEKS WE WILL REMOVE NAMES FROM THE LIST. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO KEEP SOMEONE ON THE LIST, PLEASE NOTE THEIR NAME ON THE BACK OF THE "ATTENDANCE & COMMUNION REGISTRATION" FORM.***

URGENT PRAYER LIST:

HEALING: (In Alphabetical Order)

The Steven Barnes Family: (Nephew of the Barnes Family at Grace)

Bea Breeden: (Mother of Mindy Ramsey)

Kierstyn Coffman

Debbie Creamer: (Cousin of Rob Dell)

Barbara Curtis: (Aunt of Kelly Coffman)

Larry Danley: (Friend of Coffman's)

The Giordano Family

Tammi Good: (Daughter-in-law of Marti Good-Ernst)

The Hammons Family

Carol Matevia

Brian Schamel: (Brother of Mike Schamel)

Judy & Mike Schamel

Iva-Laura Sherry: (Mother of Kelly Coffman)

Dave Stevenson

Todd White: (Friend of Shetter's)

LONG-TERM PRAYER LIST ... Jan Spitler, Tom Schamel, Amanda & Shayla Dell, Susan Root, Fran Kester, Teddi Watkins, Ruth & Larry Hardin, Dan Matevia, Jenifer Combs, Jean Bailey, Doug Davis, Pastor Dean & Sandy Haferman, Dave Brumbaugh, Scot Emig, Barbara Worley, Carolyn MacFadyen, Paula Hilleary, Travis Howard, Judy Jay, Bea Breeden, Will Suggs, Earl House, Barbara Lakes, Becky Hoskins, Kayli Johnson, Joe McHenry, Tom Barnes, Phyllis Turner: and those serving in the military: Capt. Love Hartman; Capt. John Kettelman; SPC Brandon Mann; Brad Newkirk; 1st Lt. Nicholas Webb, Lt. Col. Kyle Hundley, Brandon Leonard.

Opportunities for Prayer and Bible Study:

Join us on Sunday mornings in between services for a time of coffee & other goodies, fellowship, and a study on the lessons of the day.

Sunday Morning Adult Education & Bible Study between 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. worship. We study the lessons of the day when there is no theme study.

*Adult Education: Major events in **Christian History** up to the Reformation.*

All are Invited.

Youth Sunday School Corner: December, 2022

Here's what's coming up in the month of December for the Grace Lutheran Sunday School:

Christmas Pageant:

After a two-year hiatus, the Sunday School is once again planning a Christmas pageant! The kids have been working hard and will share the timeless story of Jesus' birth from the Gospel of Luke.

Pageant dress rehearsal will be on **December 4** during the regular Sunday School time (9:30 AM-10:15 AM). We will meet in the Education wing and practice in the sanctuary.

The **Christmas Pageant** will take place on **December 11, 2022 at one joint 9:30 AM service**. Kids and parents/grandparents can meet in the Education wing at 9:20 AM to get in costume. A carry-in brunch will follow the church service and everyone is welcome!

Christmas Party:

On **December 18**, the Sunday School will have a **Christmas party** with treats and a variety of Christmas activities during the regular Sunday School hour. All activities will take place in the Education wing.

Christmas Eve/Day and week following:

Worship as a family at candlelight Christmas Eve/Christmas Day services. Children's sermons are given at all services where kids are present.

There will be **no Sunday School on December 25 or January 1*** as we take a short Christmas break, following the school calendar.

Movie and Popcorn:

Sunday School will resume on **January 8th** with a **"Back to Sunday School" Christian Movie and Popcorn** in the Education wing.

As always, kids may feel free to bring friends to any of our events, and family members are always invited to sit in on classes. Questions? Feel free to talk to Kelly Hanson or Kelly Coffman.

□

- ♦ **The Phoebe Women's Small Group Bible Study.** They meet at 7:00 p.m. on the **2nd Monday of each month**. Contact Kelly Mt. Castle (937-336-1223 or email: Kelly.mtcastle@gmail.com).

- ♦ On the **Second and the Fourth Tuesdays of the Month, Wine & the Word**. The group is taking a break from studying **Daniel: Be Resolute** to do a study of

Advent. They meet at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Carol Perry & Karen & Daniel Schultz (they switch off). If you would like to join this study, please contact Carol Perry at 937-456-6683 or cbperry122@embarqmail.com.

The Wednesday Morning Prayer & Bible Study meets at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall and is currently studying the ***Proverbs***. Contact: Judy Hacker (937-456-69823).

These studies are open to any member and our friends. No prior Bible study background is needed. Please bring your Bible.

Please sign up to help with the **homeless shelter meals during 2023**. There is a **sign-up sheet** that will go around on **Sunday mornings or you can call Judy Schamel to sign up (937-533-6066)**. The board of elders thank you for helping with this very important ministry.



ADVENT 2022 WEDNESDAYS –DEC. 7, 14 & 21

Soup Supper at 6:00 PM

Holden Evening Prayer at 7:00 PM

Theme: “*WHEN THE BIBLE SINGS*”

Remember to Order Your Poinsettias

Fill out the Poinsettia Order Form on the back of this and future bulletins and the December Grace Herald. Deadline to Submit the Form is: Sunday, December 18, 2022.



Wedding

The Pollitt & Bradley Families

Request the honor of your presence
at the marriage of their parents

Carolyn Pollitt



to



David Bradley

Saturday the Tenth of December

Two Thousand Twenty-Two

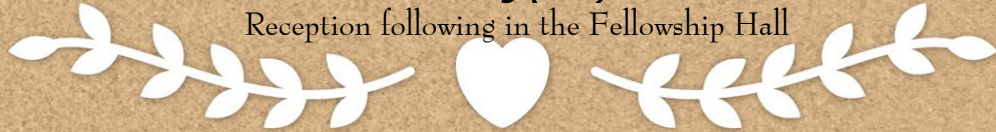
at One o'clock in the afternoon

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

111 Lutheran Dr. Eaton, OH 45320

*Please contact Carolyn to let her know whether or not you
will be attending (937) 329-4681*

Reception following in the Fellowship Hall





PLEASE JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE
the Birth of Jesus Christ Our Lord
with Holy Communion, Candlelight & Hymns

DEC
24

Saturday at 7:30 p.m. & 10:00 p.m.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

111 Lutheran Drive | Eaton, OH 45320

937-456-6258 | GraceEaton111@gmail.com

GraceLutheranOfEaton.com

