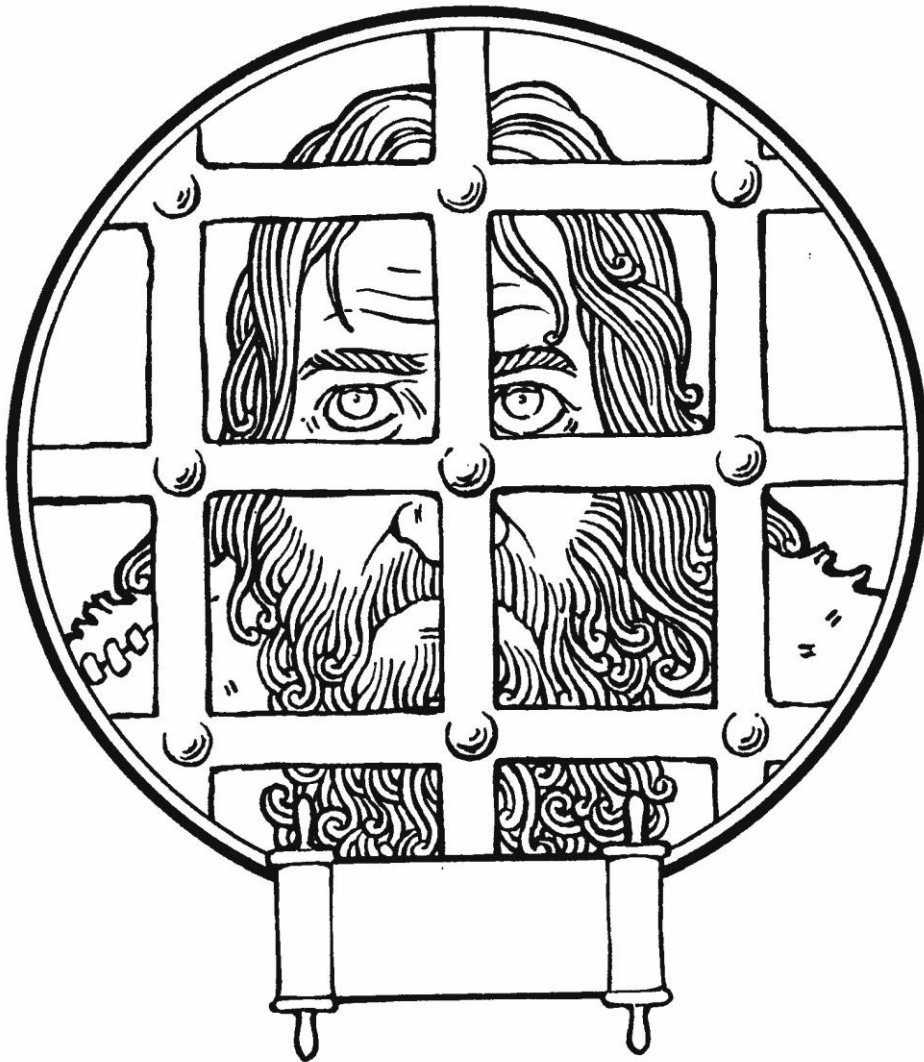


# Grace Lutheran Church



Third Sunday of Advent  
December 14th, 2025

# Service Notes—Third Sunday of Advent

## Welcome Visitors

Service usually lasts 60 to 70 minutes. We invite you to worship with us again soon and to make Grace your church home. Please sign Connection Cards and welcome!

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## Children

Children of all ages are welcome in worship services and will learn to participate at a very young age if present. A nursery is available if a part-of-the-service nursery stay might be helpful. Activity bags for children aged 8 and younger are available near the doors to the sanctuary. Ask an usher for one if you’re not sure where they are.

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## Preparing for Worship | Third Sunday of Advent

What Have You Come in to See? A fortune teller? That is, one who will tell you whatever it is they think you want or expect to hear. An entertainer? That is, someone who amazes you with talent, wardrobe, and special effects to take your mind off of your troubles and makes you think about your fantasies or get lost in someone else’s? “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses.” And isn’t that true?

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## Serving the Assembly

Preacher .....	Pastor Dehning
Organist.....	Cindy Gribble
Director of Music .....	Sarah Kavanagh
Musicians .....	(8:30 a.m.) & (10:30 a.m.)
Elders .....	(8 a.m.) Eric Hahm & Ryan Dierking
.....	(10:30 a.m.) Warren Wiederhold & Rich Hines
Altar Guild .....	(8 a.m.) Kathy Dixon
.....	(10:30 a.m.) Kay Knop
Bread Baker.....	
Acolyte .....	(8 a.m.), (10:30 a.m.) Luis Glatt
Reader.....	(8 a.m.) Marvin Wiederhold, (10:30 a.m.) Brad Smith

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# Gathering

## *Prelude*

“People Look East, the Time is Near” French Carol,  
arr. Cherwien/Ashdown

## *Welcome*

*We invite you to record your attendance with us, either by filling out a connection card in the pew in front of you and placing it in the offering basket or by utilizing our Church Center app.*

## *Gathering Song*

“Hark the Glad Sound” | LSB 349

## *Stand*

*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.

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

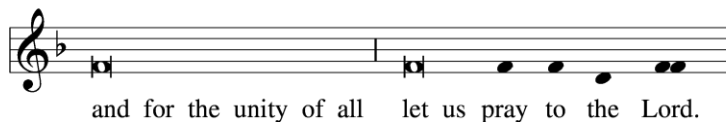
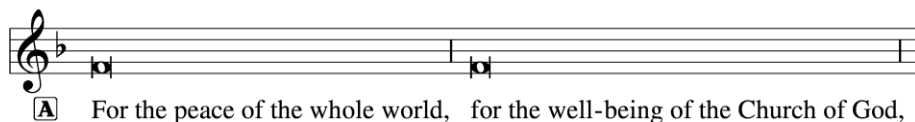
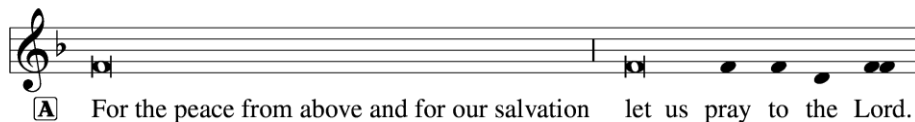
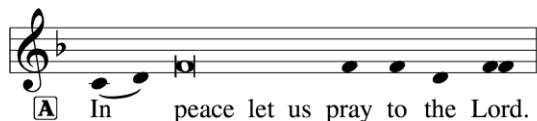
**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

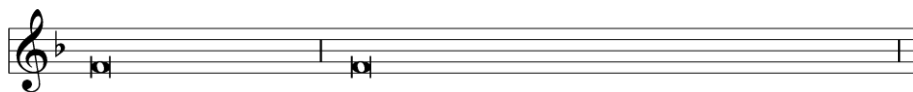
**C** Amen.

*Face the cross for the procession.*

## Kyrie

| LSB 152





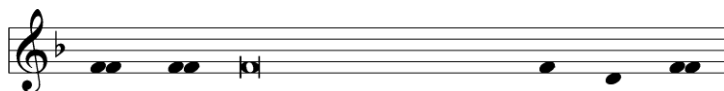
**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



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



**C** A - men.

### *Greeting and Prayer of the Day*

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*Sit*

## Word

## *Lighting of the Advent Wreath*

### *First Reading*

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;  
it shall blossom abundantly  
and rejoice with joy and singing.  
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.  
Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.  
Say to those who have an anxious heart,  
“Be strong; fear not!  
Behold, your God  
will come with vengeance,  
with the recompense of God.  
He will come and save you.”  
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
then shall the lame man leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.  
For waters break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;  
the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.  
And a highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Way of Holiness;  
the unclean shall not pass over it.  
It shall belong to those who walk on the way;  
even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.  
No lion shall be there,

nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.  
And the ransomed of the Lord shall return  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain gladness and joy,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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

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

### *Second Reading*

**James 5:7-10**

Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

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

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

*Stand*

### *Gospel Acclamation*

| **LSB 156**

### *Gospel*

**Matthew 11:2-15**

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” And

Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,  
who will prepare your way before you.’

Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

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

**G** Praise to You, O Christ.

*Sit*

***Sermon (8:00am)***

***Children’s Program (10:30am)***

Like the shepherds of old listened to the angel’s message and then spoke that message to others, this morning, we will do the same. After the children and soloists sing the stanzas of “Quem Pastores,” everyone is invited to join together in singing the refrain. As we sing together, it reminds us of the oneness we have in Christ as we hear the miracle of Christmas and the reason for Christ’s birth.





### *Hymn of the Day*

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” | *LSB 357*

*Stand*

### *Nicene Creed*

**C** I 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.

### *Prayers of Intercession*

*The assembly responds to each petition:*

**P** Lord, in Your mercy,      **C** hear our prayer.

### *Sharing the Peace of Christ*

*Sit*

## Meal

*Offering*

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” by Paul Bunjes

*Stand*

*Offertory*

“What Shall I Render” | LSB 159

## *The Great Thanksgiving*

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** We lift them to the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:

## *Sanctus*

| *LSB 161*



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

**P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

- 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  $\nabla$  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  $\nabla$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

- P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

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

- P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgement. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us 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.

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

### *Agnus Dei*

| LSB 163

**C** 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.

Sit

### *Distribution*

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*Holy Communion is celebrated every week at Grace Lutheran Church in the confidence of receiving from our Lord all that He promises. In Holy Communion, we eat and drink His true*

*body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Christ and with one another. With such celebration goes the pastoral concern that all the baptized trust Christ's words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us.*

*Because Holy Communion is a confession of faith, worshippers who are in doubt or hold a differing confession of faith and yet desire to receive Holy Communion are encouraged to speak with the pastor.*

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### ***Distribution Hymns***

**LSB 624 | “The Infant Priest Was Holy Born”**

**LSB 797 | “Praise the Almighty, My Soul Adore Him”**

**LSB 392 | “God Loves Me Dearly”**

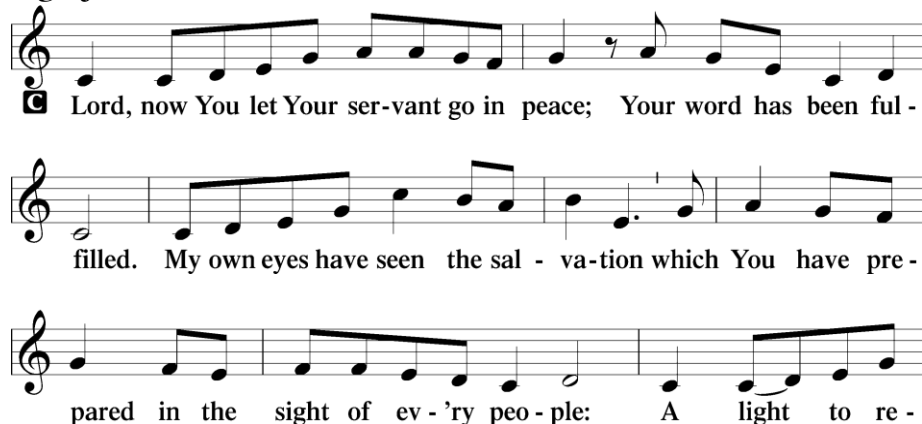
**LSB 333 | “Once He Came in Blessing”**

**LSB 348 | “The King Shall Come”**

*Stand*

### ***Song After Communion***

**“Lord, Now You Let Your Servant Go In Peace” | LSB 165**



Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been ful -

filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va-tion which You have pre -

pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re -



### *Prayer after Communion*

LSB 166

**P** Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Sending

### *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.

*Sit*

### *Sending Song*

“The Advent of Our King” | LSB 331

## ***Dismissal***

- P** Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.
- C** Thanks be to God.

## ***Postlude***

**“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers” arr. Stephen Gabrielsen**

## ***Acknowledgments***

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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## **About Grace Lutheran Church**

Established in 1975, Grace Lutheran Church has faithfully served our community, spreading the good news of Jesus Christ and extending a hand of fellowship and service to all.

## **Our Vision**

Inviting Community in Christ

## **Our Mission**

Inviting all people to grow in faith toward God and in love toward one another.

## **Stay Connected**

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