

Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2024 A.D.

10:30 AM



GRACE

Evangelical Lutheran Church



Christ-Centered

Mission-Driven

Traditionally-Grounded

Congregationally-Focused

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Second Sunday of Advent



Prelude Please Observe Silence For Meditation

Welcome and Announcements

- * Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness page 56

PRAISE

- * Gathering Hymn **Prepare the Royal Highway** **LBW 26**

The Lighting of the Advent Candles, The Candle of Peace

L: Last Sunday we lit the first candle in our Advent Wreath, the candle of hope. It has been lit again as we remember that Christ, who was born in Bethlehem is our hope. The second candle of Advent is the Candle of Peace. Christ brought peace when he first came to us and he will bring everlasting peace when he comes again. The prophet Isaiah called Christ "the Prince of *Peace*". "And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of *Peace*." (Isaiah 9)

C: "Of the increase of his government and *peace* there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever."

L: Our Lord Jesus calls us to be peace makers in a world of division and conflict.

C: He said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."
(Matthew 5:9)

L: Our Lord Jesus is our peace and has broken down the dividing wall between God and people. He bore our sins as he was crucified on the cross to bring reconciliation and *peace* to us all.

C: But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us *peace* was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. (Isaiah 53:5)

L: On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead to bring victory over sin and death and to bring *peace* to all. Jesus appeared to the disciples and showed them his hand and side and said to them,

C: "*Peace* be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit." (John 20)

We sing "A Candle is Burning" (tune: Away in a Manger) as we light the Candle of Peace

*A Candle is burning, a candle of peace,
a candle to signal that conflict must cease:
for Jesus is coming to show us the way;
a message of peace humbly laid in the hay.*

L: Let us pray... O God of Peace, we thank you for Your gift of Peace in Jesus Christ our Lord who lived, died, and rose again so that we might have peace with You and one another. Fill us with your Holy Spirit that we may be instruments of your peace. Help us to live in peace with one another and seek to be peacemakers in this broken and darkened world by shining the light of Christ's love into all the world. As we live as peacemakers may the world see in us our glorious Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray. **Amen**

EQUIP

- The First Lesson..... Malachi 3:1-7b
 L: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**
- The Psalm 66:1-8..... Bulletin pg. 5
- The Second LessonPhilippians 1:2-11
 L: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**
- * The Holy Gospel Luke 3:1-20
 Children's Sermon Pastor Doug
- The Message..... **"Prepare the Way of the Lord"** Pastor Doug
- Hymn of the Day..... **On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry** **LBW 36**
- * The Apostles' Creed.....page 65
- * The Prayers and the Peace.....page 65

GIVE

- The OfferingThe People of God
- * The Offertory and Prayer pages 66, 67

RECEIVE

- * The Great Thanksgiving.....page 68
- * The Eucharistic Prayer & The Lord's Prayer..... pages 69, 71
- * **The Distribution of the Holy Sacrament**
 Hymn During Communion.....**Just As I Am, Without One Plea**..... **LBW 296**
- * Post-Communion Canticle.....*Thank the Lord*.....page 72
- * Post-Communion Prayer
- * The Benediction

SEND

- * The Sending Hymn **People, Look East** **WOV 626**
- * The Dismissal: P: Go in peace. Be the Church! **All: Thanks be to God!**
- Postlude

* = Stand Hymnals in Pew Rack: LBW = Green WOY = Blue TCH = Burgundy

WELCOME TO ALL WHO WORSHIP at Grace Church this morning as we gather to worship the Father, + Son and Holy Spirit in truth. As you entered the sanctuary today, you received this bulletin containing the order for worship and announcements. Please also notice the Prayer List where you will find a listing of all the known prayer concerns. You are invited to use this as a guide for your personal prayers throughout the coming week. If you need information about our congregation or if you'd like to update your information, make sure to fill out the yellow Worship Today Form and place it in the offering plate at the time of the offering. If you have a prayer concern, indicate that on your Worship Today Form at the bottom or on the reverse side. If you are seeking a Church Home or would like more information about Grace, please contact Pastor Doug (980)234-8848.

THIS WEEK'S THEME: In this season of Advent and Christmas we are going to hear about each member of the Nativity Scene and see how their story proclaims the Good News of God's love in Christ. Last week we welcomed Zechariah and Elizabeth, the parents of John the Baptist (Luke 1:5-25, 57-80). Through their perseverance, prayer, and praise for God's promises kept, this older couple, who became parents of John the Baptist, reminds us of God's gift of hope in Christ. Today we add John the Baptist to the scene, the messenger of God who calls us to prepare the way of the Lord (Luke 3:1-20). This prophet wears camel hair, lives in the wilderness, and eats locusts and honey. This wilderness preacher and prophet proclaimed the Good News of the coming of the Messiah and how we are to prepare for His coming through repentance of our sins and responding to Christ's presence in the renewal of our lives and discipleship. John boldly preached the truth in love and many responded with a recommitment of their lives. However, as he called even King Herod to repent of his evil, Herod rejected the call and John was locked up in prison. May we receive the Good News of Christ's coming, rejoice, repent, and respond with lives of faithful discipleship!

FIRST LESSON: Malachi 3:1-7b

¹“Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the LORD whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. ³He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years. ⁵Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those

who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts. ⁶For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. ⁷From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts.”

PSALM 66:1-8

¹Be joyful in God, all you lands;

 sing the glory of his name; sing the glory of his praise.

²**Say to God, “How awesome are your deeds!**

because of your great strength your enemies cringe before you.

³All the earth bows down before you,

 sings to you, sings out your name.”

⁴**Come now and see the works of God,**

how wonderful he is in his doing toward all people.

⁵He turned the sea into dry land, so that they went through the water on foot, and there we rejoiced in him.

⁶**In his might he rules forever; his eyes keep watch over the nations;**

let no rebel rise up against him.

⁷Bless our God, you peoples;

 make the voice of his praise to be heard;

⁸**Who holds our souls in life,**

and will not allow our feet to slip.

SECOND LESSON: Philippians 1:2-11

²Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, ⁵because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 3:1-20

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁵Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, ⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'" ⁷He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin 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. ⁹Even 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." ¹⁰And the crowds asked him, "What then shall we do?" ¹¹And he answered them, "Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise." ¹²Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" ¹³And he said to them, "Collect no more than you are authorized to do." ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages." [¹⁵As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, ¹⁶John answered them all, saying, "I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." ¹⁸So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people. ¹⁹But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reprovved by him for Herodias, his brother's wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done, ²⁰added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison.]

Next Sunday's Readings: Zephaniah 3:14-20; Luke 1:46-55 (The Magnificat); Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 1:26-45
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GRACE PRAYER LIST

In the Grace Church Family: Jeffry Bivens, Rick & Cindy Bivens, Glenda Childers, Pat Dietz, Allen and Kay Hatchett, Irene Heavner, Larry Heavner, Lorene Heavner, Larry & Brenda Jarrett, Martha Johnson, Faye Lane, Harvey Leatherman, Phil & Malinda Leatherman, Betty Matheson, Jane Moss, Christine Norman, Tricia and Dan Panek, Michael, Debi & Stephen Pisko, Helen Smith, Ethan Starnes, Sandi Tallant, Libby Travis, Shirley Warlick, Scott & Carolyn Whisnant

Nursing Home: Juanita Haas (Trinity Village), Ted Whisnant (Trinity Village)

Friends and Relatives in our Prayers: Pray for Peace in Israel and the World, New Covenant Lutheran Mission Church, Bobby Aderholdt, Jimmy Aderholdt, LeAnn Buckwell, Patsy Bumgardner, Caleb Bumgarner & Family, Becky Cartee, Jessica Cassels & Family, Evelyn Childers, Dennis D'Alessio, Guy Franzen, Stormy Geter, Wendy Hannah, J.C., Rebecca Speagle Jackson, Ray Porter, Lily Rose, Alyssa McCary, Sgt. Ryan McMullen and shift, Angela Sanford, Anita Sabino, Marc Sigmon, Scott Speagle, Zachary Speagle and Amber, Nathan Starnes, Monica Thomas, United States of America; Faye White, and especially the families of those who have given their lives in the service of our country and those who continue to protect our freedoms and for all members of our Armed Forces.

Family and Friends of: Randy Sipe

(Names are left on the prayer list for 30 days unless the office is notified otherwise.)

*“Bless our God, you peoples;
make the voice of his praise to be heard;”
Psalm 66:7*

HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAY TO:

15 – Troy Feimster

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Today: **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
9:30am – Advent Bible Study
10:30am - Worship Celebration

Friday: Church Office Closed

Saturday: 11:00am – Wreaths Across America – Union Church

Next Sunday: **THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
9:30am – Advent Bible Study
10:30am - Worship Celebration

The Ministers.....The People of Grace Lutheran Church
Pastor Doug Hefner
Organist..... Sandi Tallant
Administrative Assistant Kristi Tucker
Leadership Board President Tim Eckard
Youth LeaderStormy Shull
LectorStormy Shull
Communion Assistants.....Rick & Cindy Bivens
UshersDavid Wilfong & Jack Wilfong
Altar Preparation.....Herb & Libby Travis
Offering Tabulators Todd Childers & Sheila Drum
Custodian Chris Abernethy