



The Third Sunday of Advent
Morning Prayer
December 11, 2022
Rev. Jake Parsons, Vacancy Pastor
Grace Lutheran Church

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Prelude

Belva Hanson, Organist

Welcome

Pastor Jake Parsons

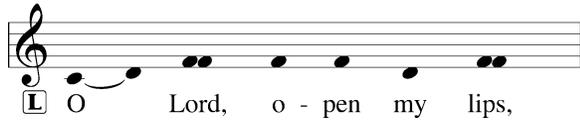
Announcements

- Donations for poinsettias - \$10 each
- Donations for the church's new Christmas Tree – Total cost, approximately \$500
- Advent Mid-Week Worship begins: Wednesday, November 30, 2022, 5:30pm Soup Supper; 6:30pm Worship
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship 6:30pm
- Christmas Day and New Year's Day – **worship may be canceled**

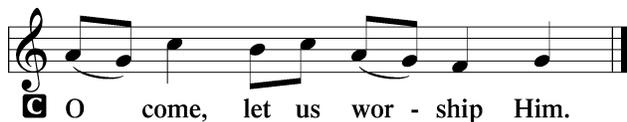
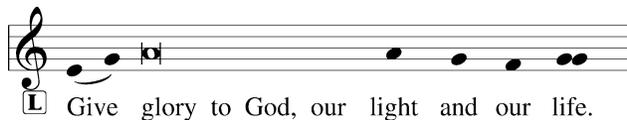
Stand

Versicles

LSB 235



+Psalmody+





C O come, let us sing to the Lord;



let us make a joy-ful noise to the rock of our sal-va-tion.



I Let us come in - to His pres - ence with thanks - giv - ing;



let us make a joy - ful noise to Him with songs of praise.



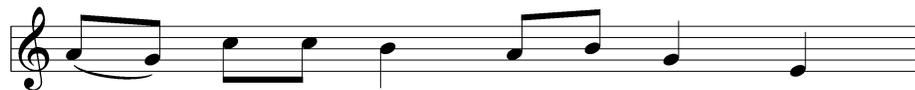
II For the Lord is a great God and a great king a-bove all gods.



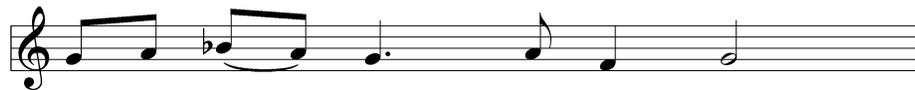
I In His hand are the depths of the earth;



the heights of the moun - tains are His al - so.



II The sea is His, for He made it;



and His hand formed the dry land.



I O come, let us wor - ship and bow down;



let us kneel be - fore the Lord, our mak - er.



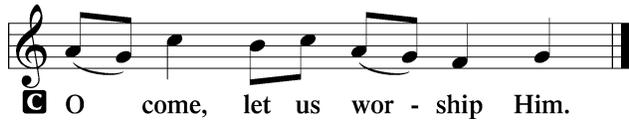
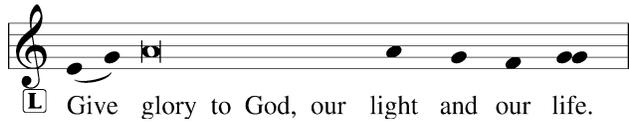
II For He is our God, and we are the peo - ple



of His pas - ture and the sheep of His hand.



C Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it;



Psalm 146

- P** ¹Praise the LORD!
Praise the LORD, O my soul!
- C** ²**I will praise the LORD as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**
- P** ³Put not your trust in princes,
in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.
- C** ⁴**When his breath departs he returns to the earth;
on that very day his plans perish.**
- P** ⁵Blessèd is he whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the LORD his God,
⁶who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them,
who keeps faith forever;
⁷who executes justice for the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry.
- C** **The LORD sets the prisoners free;
⁸the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.**
- P** The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
the LORD loves the righteous.
- C** ⁹**The LORD watches over the sojourners;
he upholds the widow and the fatherless,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.**
- P** ¹⁰The LORD will reign forever, your God,
O Zion, to all generations. Praise the LORD!

Sit

338 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus





From our fears and sins re-lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Born to reign in us for-ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con-so - la-tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,
By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na-tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

+Readings+

Reading

Isaiah 35

L A reading from Isaiah, chapter 35.

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;

²it 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.

³Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴Say 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."

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶then 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;

⁷the 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.

⁸And 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.

⁹No 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.

¹⁰And 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.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Reading

James 5:7–11

L A reading from James, chapter 5.

⁷Be 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. ⁸You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Reading

Matthew 11:2–15

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ⁴And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the 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. ⁶And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

⁷As 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? ⁸What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is he of whom it is written,

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

¹¹Truly, 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. ¹²From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force.

¹³For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, ¹⁴and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. ¹⁵He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

L 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

+Canticle+

Stand

936 Sing Praise to the God of Israel



1 Sing praise to the God of Is - ra - el! Sing praise for His
2 God spoke by the proph - ets long a - go, His prom - ise on
3 You, child, will go on be - fore the Lord As proph - et, His
4 O bright, ris - ing Sun, now shine on us In need of il -



vis - i - ta - tion! Re - deem - ing His peo - ple from their sin,
oath re - call - ing— To A - bra - ham made in for - mer years:
way pre - par - ing; To speak on be - half of God Most High,
lu - mi - na - tion; Come scat - ter the shades of sin and death



Ac - com - pish - ing their sal - va - tion, Up - rais - ing a
Of van - quish - ing foes ap - pall - ing, That those He de -
His coun - sel of truth de - clar - ing: Rich mer - cy and
And shat - ter their dom - i - na - tion. Be guid - ing our



might - y horn with - in The house of His ser - vant Da - vid!
liv - ered from their fears Might glad - ly and tru - ly serve Him.
grace for all where - by In - iq - ui - ty is for - giv - en.
foot - steps on the path Of peace, in Your pres - ence dawn - ing!

Sit

Offering

Donations, Tithes and Offerings

Here are two ways to support Grace Lutheran with your tithes, gifts and offerings.

1. Place offering in the plates in the Narthex.
2. Mail your offering to the church directly.

Your offerings are significant in the ministry of the church and preschool and we appreciate them!

+Prayer+

Kneel/Stand

Collects

Collect of the Day

L 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.

Advent Collect

L Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Collect for Grace

L O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, You have safely brought us to the beginning of this day. Defend us in the same with Your mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by Your governance, may be righteous in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 241

L Taught by our Lord and trusting 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.**

Stand

Benedicamus

LSB 241

L Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

LSB 242

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C Amen.

917 Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise



1 Sav - ior, a - gain to Thy dear name we raise
2 Grant us Thy peace up - on our home - ward way;
3 Grant us Thy peace, Lord, through the com - ing night;
4 Grant us Thy peace through - out our earth - ly life,



With one ac - cord our part - ing hymn of praise;
With Thee be - gan, with Thee shall end, the day.
Turn Thou for us its dark - ness in - to light.
Our balm in sor - row and our stay in strife;



Once more we bless Thee ere our wor - ship cease,
Guard Thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
From harm and dan - ger keep Thy chil - dren free;
Then, when Thy voice shall bid our con - flict cease,



Then, low - ly bend - ing, wait Thy word of peace.
That in this house have called up - on Thy name.
For dark and light are both a - like to Thee.
Call us, O Lord, to Thine e - ter - nal peace.

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Prayers of Grace (updated 11/20/2022)

...for those who cannot be with us today.

Liz Lepper, Gene Ryzski, Charlie Larson, Max Hanneman, Nan Lippitt

...for those recently diagnosed.

Samantha, Yvonne, Gene Monroe, Cali Pullium

...for those preparing for, or recovering from surgeries and procedures.

Mike Hanneman, John Kaylen, D'Arcy, Janet (Abel) Bollinger, Ernie Heuchert (brother of Kathy Valencia), Patty Taylor, Elwyn Byrd

...for those suffering with the pain of chronic illness.

Edith Quaid, Ruth Webber, Christy Esparza, Moira Sandrock, Barbara Aris, Henry Span, Theresa Squires, Dorothy Abel, and Delores Feliz

...for those battling cancer

Karen Duncan, Scott Gomes (Firefighter), Diana Williams, Barbara Diaz, Sandra Rodriguez, Kim Passmore, Mike Mueller, Jobie Stiegler.

...for those grieving a lost friend or family

The family of Lois Harlow, Maxine Raymond, and Joan Edwards, Millie Smith, Nancy Dewey, Lou Brum

...for those awaiting their final rest

Mark Payne, Kathleen Fenton, and Norma Chapman

...for those in suffering the pain of difficult life circumstances

Jennie (healing and direction), Gene and Deena Redden, Tammie Earl

...for those serving in the military and the government.

Marco Bollinger (Navy), President Biden, Vice-President Harris, Governor Newsom and Mayor Alice

...for missionaries, sister congregations, pastors and Church workers.

Herb and Markie Burch, Paul and Gena Nelson, Pastor Gary, Pastor Ray and Pastor George

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The Right Hand

The Naming of a Column

Some of you may remember my original “Right Hand” column in the Santa Maria Times (1995 – 8). I alternated it with a column (“In the Spotlight”) where I did in-depth interviews with clergy of our community. Those collegial interviews were some of the most profound experiences of my ministry. They continue to bless me.

One of the most pleasurable interviews was with Pastor Al Jansen of St. Andrews UMC. We were about the same age, shared some major similarities, and had deep respect for one another. In probing his life-story, we discovered that we shared a great similarity in our thinking and in our Christian faith. I trusted his perspective.

At one point in our interview, he suddenly asked me, “Where did you come up with the name for your column? It’s catchy, and unique!” I was non-plussed and fumbled about for a bit. Finally, I concluded that because I had hand-written my first few columns, and as I was right-handed, the appellation seemed appropriate. I liked it, and it stuck. Al agreed, and it’s been my appellation since.

I did not realize it at the time (Al did), but the term “right hand” has been a very important biblical concept concerning proximity to God. It infers a very special position by the Heavenly Father (Christ) and it denotes wisdom. The term is used 58 times in the Bible and an entire psalm (91) has been written to praise its reality. I would not have had the “chutzpah” in the beginning to make such an inference, but after 30 years I am kind of used to its sound. I think I’ll keep it!

“May God keep us from complacency, and may we press on to know Him more deeply and obey Him more fully....” In Deo speramus.

Rev. Gary Hanson, Elder

Stewardship Chair