

**GRACE EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMS)**
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Organist, Choir & Music Director: Mrs. Elyse Adams

Welcome to Grace!

December 15, 2019

What We Believe:

✝ As Lutheran Christians we stand with the church of the ages and confess the faith of the **Holy Bible**, which is **God's Word**.

✝ We believe that our **Triune God** created man and woman holy; however, since we sinned and still sin we cannot free ourselves from **sin and death**. Therefore God sent His Son **Jesus Christ**, who is our **only way to salvation**. By His death and resurrection and through no work or decision of our own, we have forgiveness, life, and salvation.

✝ We joyfully receive these gifts in His Word, and in the holy sacraments of **Baptism** and the **Lord's Supper**.

✝ In all our teaching and preaching we seek to be faithful to God's holy **Law** which shows our sin, and to proclaim His precious **Gospel**, which is the good news of our **salvation in Christ!**

✝ We subscribe also to **Luther's Small Catechism** and the other documents in the Book of Concord of 1580 because they faithfully confess these biblical truths.

Guests and Holy Communion:

Holy Communion is a gift Christ gives to His Church. In it, He offers His true Body and Blood, in, with and under the bread and wine. When received in faith, it brings forgiveness, new life and salvation.

Holy Communion is also a statement of our unity in Christ (*community*). Those who receive the Lord's Supper at Grace Lutheran Church are baptized Christians who have been instructed in and publicly confess the Evangelical Lutheran faith.

For this reason, *only members of our congregation or sister congregations of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod* are ordinarily communed at this altar. If you have any questions regarding the doctrine of Close Communion, please talk to the pastor before or after the service.

Nursery: If your child becomes restless during the service, you are welcome to make use of the Nursery downstairs.

Friendship Pad: Please sign the friendship pad as it is passed during the offering.

Fellowship Time: Immediately following the 9:00 AM Worship in the Fellowship Hall.

Large Print Hymnals: Are available from the ushers!

Electronic Devices: PLEASE silence all devices during worship. Thanks!

May the Lord bless your worship today!

**Third Sunday in Advent
December 15, 2019 – Divine Service, Setting Three**

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC, CHIMES, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND SHARING OF THE PEACE

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

♪ Hail to the Lord's Anointed	LSB 398
Invocation	LSB 184
Confession of Sins and Absolution	LSB 184

SERVICE OF THE WORD

♪ Introit

Psalm 71:14–18; antiphon: Philippians 4:4



- P** Rejoice in the Lord | always;*
again I will say, | Rejoice.
- C** **I will hope con- | tinually***
and will praise you yet | more and more.
- P** My mouth will tell of your righteous acts, of your deeds of salvation | all the day,*
for their number is past my | knowledge.
- C** **With the mighty deeds of the Lord God | I will come;***
I will remind them of your righteousness, | yours alone.
- P** O God, from my youth you have | taught me,*
and I still proclaim your | wondrous deeds.
- C** **So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not for- | sake me,***
until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all | those
to come.

♪ Gloria Patri **LSB 186**

♪ Kyrie **LSB 186**

The Gloria in Excelsis is omitted during Advent.

♪ Salutation and Collect of the Day **LSB 189**

- P** 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.**

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.

Grace Choir Anthem – Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

Epistle – James 5:7–11

Pew Bible, p. 1013

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.

♪ Alleluia

LSB 190

Holy Gospel – Matthew 11:2–15

Pew Bible, p. 816

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.”

Apostles’ Creed

LSB 192 or inside back cover of hymnal

The Sixth Petition

And lead us not into temptation.

What does this mean?

God tempts no one. We pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice. Although we are attacked by these things, we pray that we may finally overcome them and win the victory.

♪Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

LSB 345

Sermon

♪Offertory

LSB 192

Offering – *Guests/members please sign and pass the Friendship Pad at the end of the pew, check appropriate columns, and print clearly including children’s names.*

Prayer of the Church

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

♪Preface

LSB 194

♪Sanctus

LSB 195

Lord’s Prayer

LSB 196

The Words of Our Lord

LSB 197

♪Pax Domini

LSB 197

♪Agnus Dei

LSB 198

Distribution – *If you are visiting with us, please read “Guests and Holy Communion,” printed inside the cover of the Friendship Pad. If you would like to receive Holy Communion in your pew, please notify the pastor or an usher. If possible, please sit near the center aisle, and it will be brought to you at the conclusion of the distribution. Wine greatly diluted with water is available in purple-tinted cups in the center of each Communion tray for those with alcohol sensitivities.*

Distribution Hymns:

♪Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness

LSB 636

♪Praise the Almighty

LSB 797

♪I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table

LSB 618

♪Lord Jesus Christ, Life-Giving Bread

LSB 625

♪Nunc Dimittis	LSB 199
♪Thanksgiving	LSB 200
♪Salutation and Benedicamus	LSB 201
♪Benediction	LSB 202
♪Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus	LSB 338

+ TO GOD BE THE GLORY +

Acknowledgments

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CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF December 15th THROUGH December 22nd

<u>TODAY</u>	9:00 AM	DIVINE SERVICE III WITH HOLY COMMUNION
	10:30 AM	Sunday School and Youth Bible Study
	10:30 AM	Voters' Meeting
	11:30 AM	Caroling to Shut-Ins
<u>MONDAY</u>	9:00 AM	Circuit Meeting at Chapel of the Cross, Mt. Pleasant
	6:30 PM	RLHS Board of Directors – Pastor Crane
<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	5:15 PM	Advent Supper
	6:30 PM	MIDWEEK ADVENT WORSHIP
	7:25 PM	Confirmation Class
<u>SUNDAY</u>	9:00 AM	DIVINE SERVICE III WITH HOLY COMMUNION
	10:30 AM	Bible Study
	10:30 AM	Sunday School Christmas Party



About the Bulletin Cover: The curse of Adam and Eve's first sin has traveled down every highway and byway and through every street, leaving all manner of devastation, brokenness, and illness in this world. But behold, the Lord is coming and bringing healing. By taking on the curse of the cross, He promises healing and makes all who are in Him whole, in body and soul! There is nowhere He will not travel for us to bring this healing, "far as, far as the curse is found" (LSB 387:3).

Our Partnership in the Gospel

Grace's Mission: We are friends in God's family through Jesus, strengthened by His Spirit to represent Christ in our daily lives, our community and the world.

Grace's Vision: To be an active, growing Christ-centered congregation offering youth and adults traditional Lutheran worship, Bible study and fellowship while reaching out especially to our neighbors, families and friends with the Gospel invitation.

2019 Theme: *"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." 1 Peter 4:10*

Our Worship Attendance:

December 4, 2019: 38

December 8, 2019: 114