

Third Sunday in Advent

REJOICE! PRAY! TRUST!

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
December 14, 2014





Our mission at Grace is to teach the inspired and inerrant Word of God, to proclaim that Jesus Christ is the crucified and risen Savior of the world and to nurture believers for lives of Christian service.

We are very pleased that you have joined us for worship today at Grace-Tucson! We pray that this time will be a blessing for you as God comes to you with his Word and promises and as you offer him your thanks and praise.

Worship Notes

The **order of service** we follow is printed out in this worship folder. You'll notice that the service is a dialogue between God and us, his people. The pastor speaks to God along with the congregation and also speaks the Word of God to the people.

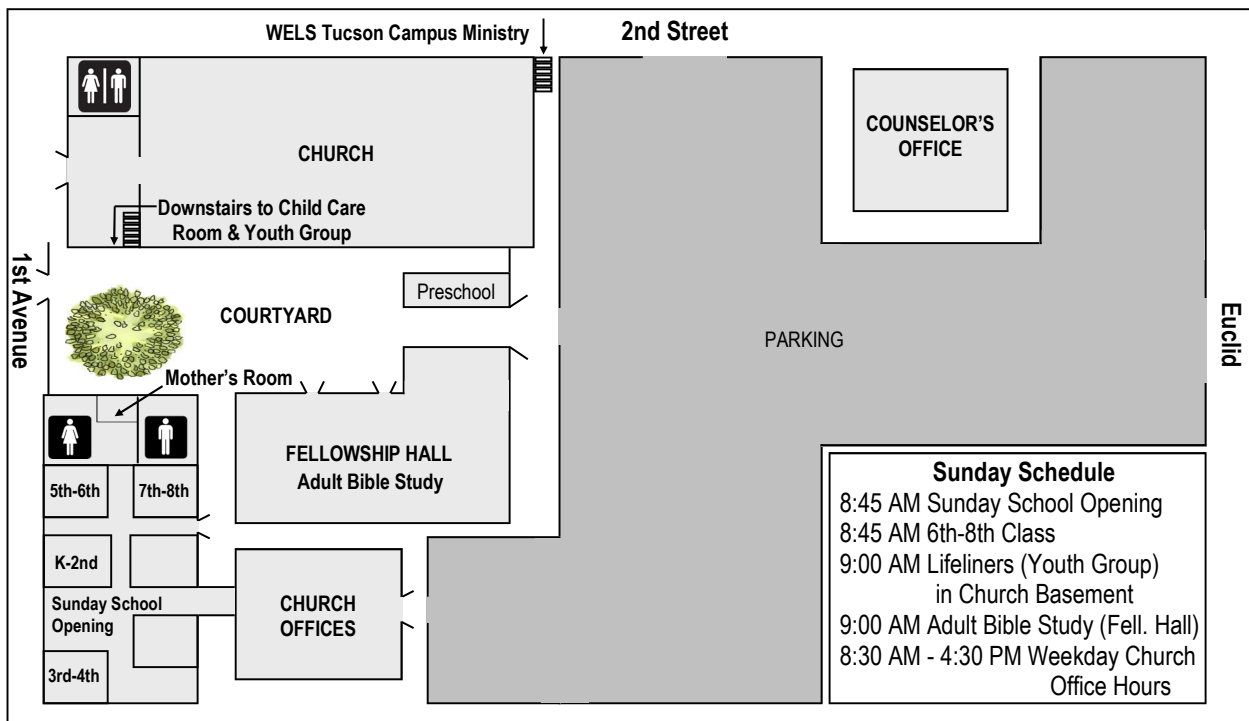
Hymns are found in our hymnal, *Christian Worship*, which is the red book in the pew rack in front of you.

Large print hymn sheets are available in the entryway. You may also ask an usher or greeter to get one for you.

We believe that many blessings come from having families worship together and we love to have **children in worship!** If you need to calm a restless child, you may:

- stand for a few moments in the entryway, sometimes that's all that's needed
- go down the stairs to the left in the entryway—they will lead down to the Child Care Room where you will still be able to hear the service
- visit the private Mother's Room across the courtyard in the women's restroom—you will be able to hear the service there also

Printed copies of the sermon are available in the entryway. CDs of the entire worship service will be made upon request from the sound technician in the balcony. It only takes a few minutes to copy. You may also find sermons and services in print, audio and video on our website: www.GraceLutheranSAZ.org



ORDER OF WORSHIP

WELCOME

Please stand

ADVENT GATHERING SONG

The congregation sings the following line continually while the vocalist sings the verses.

Come, come Em - man - u - el. Come, Em - man - u - el.

1. *Shout for joy, for the Lord has come.*
2. *Oh fear not, for God has come.*
3. *Oh rejoice in the Lord, and come.*
4. *For the Lord who is near will come.*

Congregation sings refrain once more.

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.
Congregation: Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

- M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.
- M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.
- C: Amen.

PRESERVICE MUSIC:

7:45 AM—
Veni, Emmanuel
Arr. by J. Bert
Carlson

10:00 AM—
Gesù Bambino
Arr. by Pietro A.
Yon

We come before the true God only because of his mercy and not because we deserve to come. We confess our unworthiness and rejoice to hear the assurance of forgiveness.

The singing of the Gathering Song resumes following the Confession of Sins.



1. *Lord, have mercy upon us and come.*
2. *Christ, have mercy upon us and come.*
3. *Lord, have mercy upon us and come.*

Congregation sings refrain once more.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

M: We light three Advent candles remembering Jesus, the Light of the world. He came to defeat the prince of darkness.

C: We remember Jesus, who came in answer to his people's prayers. John proclaimed him the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

M: We hear his call to see the light.

C: We light three Advent candles as a sign of our trust and confidence.

M: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

C: Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.

Three Advent candles are lit.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Please be seated

FIRST LESSON

Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to them all, "This day is sacred to the LORD your God. Do not mourn or weep." For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law. Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is sacred to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of

Nehemiah 8:9-18 (NIV)

the LORD is your strength." The Levites calmed all the people, saying, "Be still, for this is a sacred day. Do not grieve." Then all the people went away to eat and drink, to send portions of food and to celebrate with great joy, because they now understood the words that had been made known to them. On the second day of the month, the heads of all the families, along with the priests and the Levites, gathered around Ezra the scribe to give

The First Lesson is frequently a reading from the Old Testament. It shares a common theme with the Second Lesson (often from one of the epistles) and the Gospel.

attention to the words of the Law. They found written in the Law, which the LORD had commanded through Moses, that the Israelites were to live in booths during the feast of the seventh month and that they should proclaim this word and spread it throughout their towns and in Jerusalem: “Go out into the hill country and bring back branches from olive and wild olive trees, and from myrtles, palms and shade trees, to make booths”—as it is written. So the people went out and brought back branches and built themselves booths on their own roofs, in their courtyards,

in the courts of the house of God and in the square by the Water Gate and the one by the Gate of Ephraim. The whole company that had returned from exile built booths and lived in them. From the days of Joshua son of Nun until that day, the Israelites had not celebrated it like this. And their joy was very great. Day after day, from the first day to the last, Ezra read from the Book of the Law of God. They celebrated the feast for seven days, and on the eighth day, in accordance with the regulation, there was an assembly.

WORSHIP CHOIR (10:00 AM)

A Light Will Shine

*The people who walk in the darkness, they will see a great light!
The people who walk in the darkness, on them a light will shine!
Those who live in the shadow of death will be filled with joy!
And unto them will a child be born, heaven’s gift: a baby boy.*

*Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel’s strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear Desire of ev’ry nation, Joy of ev’ry longing heart.*

SECOND LESSON

Philippians 4:4-7 (NIV)

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition,

with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

HYMN (7:45 AM)

The Advent of Our King CW 1 st. 1 & 6

The ad - vent of our King Our prayers must now em - ploy,
All glo - ry to the Son, Who comes to set us free,

And we must hymns of wel - come sing In strains of ho - ly joy.
With Fa - ther, Spir - it, ev - er one Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

WORSHIP CHOIR (10:00 AM)

Rejoice and Sing

*Rejoice and sing, you children of God; He comes to us. Alleluia!
He comes to us, our Savior and King! Alleluia, alleluia! Rejoice!
He comes to us! Rejoice and sing! Alleluia! Rejoice and sing!*

Please stand

The congregation stands out of respect for the words of Christ our King.

GOSPEL

Luke 3:7-18 (NIV)

John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.” “What should we do then?” the crowd asked. John answered, “The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same.” Tax collectors also came to be baptized. “Teacher,” they asked, “what should we do?” “Don’t collect any more than you are required to,” he told them.

Then some soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?” He replied, “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely—be content with your pay.” The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Christ. John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” And with many other words John exhorted the people and preached the good news to them.

The Apostles’ Creed developed in the Early Christian Church as a personal confession of faith. It is so named because it confesses the faith taught by the Apostles of Jesus.

APOSTLES’ CREED

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Please be seated

SERMON

Philippians 4:4-7
The Lord is Near

1. Rejoice

2. Pray

3. Trust

Please stand

SONG OF ZECHARIAH



Now bless the God of Is - ra - el, Who comes in love and
Re - mem - ber - ing the cov - e - nant, God res - cues us from
In ten - der mer - cy God will send The Day - spring from on



pow'r, Who rais - es from the roy - al house De -
fear, That we might serve in ho - li - ness And
high, Our ris - ing sun, the light of life For



liv - 'rance in this hour. Through ho - ly proph - ets
peace from year to year; And you, my child, shall
those who sit and sigh. God comes to guide our



God has sworn To free us from a - larm, To
go be - fore To preach, to proph - e - sy, That
way to peace That death shall reign no more, Sing



1, 2.
save us from the heav - y hand Of all who wish us harm.
all may know the ten - der love, The grace of God most high.



3.
prais - es to the Ho - ly One! O wor - ship and a - dore!

Please be seated



If you prefer, use your smart phone to give online by scanning this QR code.

OFFERTORY MUSIC:

7:45 AM—

What a Friend We Have in Jesus
Arr. by Victor Labenske

10:00 AM—

In Thee is Gladness
Arr. by Paul Manz

OFFERING

Members of Grace respond to their Savior’s love with offerings that are given joyfully, generously, regularly, and in a way that is proportionate to how the Lord has blessed them. Their cheerful gifts support the mission and ministry of our congregation. If you are a guest today, please know that we do not expect you to contribute to our congregation’s work. However, if you would like to give an offering to the Lord in response to his love to you, we are happy to receive it and put it to work in God’s kingdom.

Please fill out the Friendship Register located in the red folder at the end of the row and pass it along. Thank you!

Please stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH—ADVENT

M: Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent’s head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

C: **We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.**

M: As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

C: **Move us to take to heart the words of John: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.”**

M: You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

C: **Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.**

M: Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

C: **Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.**

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent Prayer.

M: Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

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

LORD’S PRAYER

C: **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

Matthew 6 and Luke 11 record how Jesus taught his disciples to pray. We use his example prayer as part of our public worship, trusting that he will hear and answer our prayers.

Please be seated

HYMN

When All the World Was Cursed
Christian Worship #20

Please stand

PRAYER

M: Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart, that being strengthened and comforted by your Holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and (†) give you peace.

C: Amen.

Please be seated

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLOSING HYMN (see page 9)

May the Peace of God
Christian Worship Supplement #745

THOSE ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

- Preacher** Pastor Nathan Kassulke
- Worship Leader** Pastor Ron Koehler
- Accompanists** Kathy Parra (7:45 AM)
Tina Christianson (10:00 AM)
- Acolyte** Demarco Tsoie (10:00 AM)
- Vocalists** Nicole Peterson (7:45 AM), Beth Kassulke (10:00 AM)
- Worship Choir Director** Teri Guenther (10:00 AM)
- Flute** Lakeisha Johnson (10:00 AM)
- Violin** Maya Parra (10:00 AM)
- Handbells** Tina Christianson, Melissa Newbrey, Cora Stuhr (10:00 AM)
- Ushers** Vic Thornton, Vernon Neal (7:45 AM)
Mark Christianson, Jon Dongoske, Jonathan Ganster (10:00 AM)
Danny Koehler, Jonathan Miller, Dustin Pauley, Rick Street (10:00 AM)
- Sound & Recording Tech** Jeremy Snavelly (10:00 AM)

The blessing of Aaron has been spoken over God’s people for over 3,500 years. The Lord said, “So I will put my name on [them], and I will bless them.” Numbers 6:27

POSTLUDE:

7:45 AM—
I Am Trusting You, Lord Jesus
CW #446

10:00 AM—
Come, O Long-Expected Jesus

Copyright Information:
Advent Gathering Song: By James Chepponis. © 1995 GIA Publications, Inc.
A Light Will Shine!: By Lloyd Larson. © 2013 Lorenz Publishing Co.
Rejoice and Sing: By Anna Laura Page. © 2013 Word Music, LLC.
Song of Zechariah: Words by Ruth Duck. Music by Marty Haugen. © 1992, 1996 GIA Publications, Inc.
May the Peace of God: By Keith Getty and Stuart Townend. © 2005 Thankyou Music; admin. EMI CMG Publishing.
Copyrighted material reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-710199 & CCLI License #3095263.

745

May the Peace of God

1 May the peace of God our heav'n - ly Fa -
 peace which pass - es un - der - stand -
 ther, And the grace of Christ the ris - en
 ing, And this grace which makes us what we
 Son, And the fel - low-ship of God the
 are, And this fel - low-ship of his Com -
 Spir - it Keep our hearts and minds with - in his
 mun - ion Make us one in spir - it and in
Refrain
 love. And to him be praise for his
 heart.
 glo - rious reign From the depths of earth to the
 heights of heav'n. We de - clare the name of the
 Lamb once slain— Christ e - ter - nal, the King of
 kings.
 2 May this kings.