

ADVENT 2

DECEMBER 10, 2023



# The King Shall Come

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**PREPARE TO MEET HIM**



GRACE EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

623.937.2100

# WELCOME TO GRACE!

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We're glad you're here! May the Word of God bring you comfort in Christ alone. You can follow along with the service using this worship folder or using the screens above the chancel. If you're new here, below is some helpful information about our sanctuary and our worship...

- Please reserve the **BACK PEWS** for parents with **SMALL CHILDREN**.
- A **PARENT'S ROOM** with private changing area and restroom is available through the door at the back of the middle aisle. Windows from the room allow you to still watch the service and speakers allow you to hear as well. A volume control is available on the wall by the door.
- Ask an usher to receive an **AUDIO RECEIVER** and **HEADSET** if you need hearing assistance in the sanctuary or Fellowship Hall.
- **RESTROOMS** are available in the Narthex. Exit out of the north doors from the Sanctuary and go to the left. They are located in the alcove behind Luther's Seal.
- **LARGE PRINT** bulletins are available. See an usher to receive one.
- Visit our **WEBSITE** at <http://www.graceglendale.org> for additional information about our ministries and upcoming events.

## CONTACT US...

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Feel free to reach out directly to our office staff via email or telephone. Call 623-937-2100 and use the extension to the right.

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## AT TODAY'S SERVICE...

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**Senior ushers:** 8:00 AM – Jon Floerke  
10:30 AM – Drew Oliphant / John Sullivan

**Pianist:** Lara Johnson

**A/V Team:** 8:00 AM – Christian Ryan / Jon Scheel  
10:30 AM – Paul Sullivan

**Hymn: 308 There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying**

There's a voice in the wilderness crying,  
a call from the ways untrod:  
Prepare in the desert a highway,  
a highway for our God!  
The valleys shall be exalted,  
the lofty hills brought low;  
make straight all the crooked places  
where the Lord our God may go!

O Christians, you bring good tidings;  
get up to the heights and sing!  
Proclaim to a desolate people  
the coming of their King.  
Like the flow'rs of the field they perish;  
like grass their works decay.  
The pow'r and pomp of nations  
shall pass like a dream away.

But the Word of our God is eternal;  
the arm of the Lord is strong.  
He stands in the midst of the nations,  
and he shall right the wrong.  
He shall feed his flock like a shepherd,  
the lambs shall gently hold,  
to pastures of peace shall lead them,  
and bring them safe to his fold.

*Text: James L. Milligan, 1876–1961, alt.*

*Text: Public domain*

*(Please stand)*

## Responses

I rejoiced with those who said to me,  
**“Let us go to the house of the Lord.”**

How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord Almighty!  
**Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are ever praising you.**

The Lord is near to all who call on him,  
**to all who call on him in truth.**

## Time of Christmas

Show us your unfailing love, Lord,  
**and grant us your salvation.**

The glory of the Lord will be revealed,  
**and all people will see it together.**

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.  
**We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

## Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Last Sunday we lit the first candle in our Advent Wreath, the candle of Hope. We light it again as we remember that Christ will come again to fulfill all of God’s promises to us.

*(The candle of Hope is lit.)*

The second candle of Advent is the Candle of Peace. It is sometimes called the Bethlehem Candle to remind us of the place in which preparations were made to receive and cradle the Christ child.

**God gives us the gift of peace when we turn to him in faith.**

The prophet Isaiah calls Christ “the Prince of Peace.” Through John the Baptist and all the other prophets, God calls on us to prepare our hearts so that he may come in.

**Our hope is in God, and in his son Jesus Christ. Our peace is found in him. We light this candle today to remind us that he brings peace to all who trust in him.**

*(The candle of Peace is lit.)*

**Hymn: 512 We Lift the Light of Hope**      *sung to the tune of CW 512*

We lift the light of peace, O God,  
The Lord of truth and right.  
In Your domain let justice reign  
And bring us peace in Christ.  
In Your domain let justice reign  
And bring us peace in Christ.

*Text: Ken Bible*

*Text: © 2005 LNW Hymns, admin. LNW Hymns. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 705990*

## **Prayer**

Loving God, thank you for the peace you give us through Jesus. Help us prepare our hearts to receive Him. Bless our worship. Guide us in all that we say and do. We ask it in the name of the one born in Bethlehem.

**Amen.**

*(Please be seated)*

## **First Reading**

*Isaiah 40:1–11*

***In every section of this reading, God's Word stands at the center.***

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. <sup>3</sup>A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. <sup>5</sup>And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken." <sup>6</sup>A voice says, "Cry out." And I said, "What shall I cry?" "All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field. <sup>7</sup>The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people are grass. <sup>8</sup>The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever." <sup>9</sup>You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!" <sup>10</sup>See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and he rules with a mighty arm. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. <sup>11</sup>He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**ADULT CHOIR (8:00)**

*"Come, Messiah!"*

**GRACE NOTES (10:30)**

*"Emmanuel Medley"*

**Second Reading**

*2 Peter 3:8–14*

***Do not let God's perfect timing trip up your imperfect faith.***

<sup>8</sup>But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. <sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

<sup>10</sup>But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.

<sup>11</sup>Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives <sup>12</sup>as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. <sup>13</sup>But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

<sup>14</sup>So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

***(Please stand)***

## **Gospel**

*Mark 1:1–8*

***The preaching of repentance prepares us for the good news about Jesus.***

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, <sup>2</sup>as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

“I will send my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way”—

<sup>3</sup>“a voice of one calling in the wilderness,  
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him.’ ”

<sup>4</sup>And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. <sup>6</sup>John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>And this was his message: “After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. <sup>8</sup>I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

***(Please be seated)***

## **Hymn: 316 On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry**

On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry  
announces that the Lord is nigh;



come, then, and listen, for he brings  
good news about the King of kings.

Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin  
and furnished for a Guest within,  
and let us all our hearts prepare  
for Christ to come and enter there.

We hail you as our Savior, Lord,  
our refuge and our great reward;  
without your grace we waste away  
like flow'rs that wither and decay.

Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,  
and lift us up to fall no more;  
O make your face on us to shine,  
and fill the world with love divine.

All praise to you, eternal Son,  
whose advent has our freedom won,  
whom with the Father we adore  
and Holy Spirit evermore.

*Text: tr. composite; Charles Coffin, 1676–1749*

*Text: Public domain*

## Sermon

*Isaiah 40:1-11*

### **NEXT LEVEL COMFORT**

1. A trusted voice
2. A proper confession
3. A tangible gospel

*(Please stand)*

## **Apostles' Creed**

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)*

## **Prayer**

Lord, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy;  
**in your faithfulness and righteousness, come to my relief.**

Spare us, Lord, from the lies of the devil and the attacks of our conscience. Comfort and save us in your patient compassion.  
**Have mercy on us, Jesus.**

Guide us, Lord, to the wisdom of your Word and the power of your promises. Take away our confusion and doubt.  
**Have mercy on us, Jesus.**

Hear us, Lord, when we come to you in prayer. Make us confident to take you at your word and to follow you in faith.  
**Have mercy on us, Jesus.**

Empower us, Lord, to walk in your ways and live in your truth. Fill us with your love, that we may love you and one another.  
**Have mercy on us, Jesus.**

### **Offerings Of Love to Our Lord**

Please fill out the “Welcome to Grace” register in your pew at this time!

### **Hymn: 312 Comfort, Comfort All My People**

“Comfort, comfort all my people;  
    speak of peace,” so says our God.

“Comfort those who sit in darkness,  
    groaning from their sorrows’ load.

Speak to all Jerusalem  
of the peace that waits for them;  
    tell them that their sins I cover,  
    that their warfare now is over.”

All their sins our God will pardon,  
    blotting out each dark misdeed;  
all that well deserved his anger  
    he no more will see or heed.

They have suffered many’\_a day;  
now their griefs have passed away.

    God will change their aching sadness  
    into ever-springing gladness.

John the Baptist's voice is crying  
in the desert far and near,  
calling people to repentance  
for the kingdom now is here.  
O that warning cry obey!  
Now prepare for God a way;  
let the valleys rise to meet him  
and the hills bow down to greet him.

Then make straight the crooked highway;  
make the rougher places plain.  
Let your hearts be true and humble,  
ready for his holy reign.  
For the glory of the Lord  
now o'er earth is spread abroad,  
and all flesh shall see the token  
that his word is never broken.

*Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; Johann G. Olearius, 1611–1684*  
*Text: Public domain*

***(Please stand)***

## **Prayer of the Day: Advent 2**

Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming, give us strength in our conflicts, and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Time of Christmas

Almighty God, you gave your only Son to take on our humanity and to dwell among us. Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children in Baptism, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

**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.**

## Blessing

The almighty and merciful Lord—the Father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit—bless us and keep us.

**Amen.**

*(Please be seated)*

## Hymn: 324 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

O Lord, how shall I meet you,  
how welcome you aright?  
Your people long to greet you,  
my hope, my heart's delight.  
O Jesus, let your Word be  
a lamp to light my way,

to show me how to please you,  
to guide me ev'ry day.

Love caused your incarnation;  
love brought you down to me.  
Your thirst for my salvation  
procured my liberty.  
Oh, love beyond all telling  
that led you to embrace  
in love, all love excelling,  
our lost and fallen race!

Rejoice, then, you sad-hearted,  
who sit in deepest gloom,  
who mourn o'er joys departed  
and tremble at your doom.  
Despair not; he is near you,  
he's standing at the door  
who best can help and cheer you  
and bids you weep no more.

Sin's debt, that fearful burden,  
let not your souls distress;  
your guilt the Lord will pardon  
and cover by his grace.  
He comes, for you procuring  
the peace of sin forgiv'n,  
his children thus securing  
eternal life in heav'n.

He comes to judge the nations,  
a terror to his foes,  
a light of consolation  
and blessed hope to those  
who love the Lord's appearing.

O glorious Sun, now come,  
send forth your beams most cheering,  
and guide us safely home.

*Text: tr. composite; Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, D. M. Luther's ... Geistliche Lieder, Berlin, 1653, abr.*

*Text: Public domain*

## Acknowledgments

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## **TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS:**

Today's altar flowers were donated by Joan Allen in remembering the birthdays of her husband and son.

## **ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK:**

Worship: 8:00 AM – 164    10:30 AM – 128  
Communion: 8:00 AM – 129    10:30 AM – 56  
Sunday School: Adults: 82 – Children: 29  
Midweek Bible Class: Tue: 20 – Wed: 10 – Fri: 14

## **HOSPITALIZED OR RECUPERATING AT HOME:**

Janet Brussman  
Dixie Carpenter  
Sandra Lederer

## **OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- 1. Forward in Christ and December Bible-reading and activity calendars are in the Narthex and south entrance to the church.*
- 2. Thank you to the crew that cleaned the church last week. The cleaning crew for December 16th will be captained by Monica Assaker with Jim and Christine Brenner, Amanda Brenner, John and Lynn Graft, Andy Graft, and Cody Graft.*

**ALTAR FLOWER SIGN-UP SHEETS...** Please sign up for altar flower donations by filling out the Altar Flower binder in the narthex. Altar bouquets cost \$35 each. Enclose payment in a pink envelope (checks payable to Grace Ladies Aid) and place it in the collection plate.

**2024 SCRIPTURAL WALL CALENDARS...** are available for purchase in the Fellowship Hall before Bible Class for \$9.00 each. The proceeds support the Grace Ladies' Aid.

**SCRIPTURAL CHRISTMAS & GREETING CARDS...** are available for purchase before Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall. Cards are \$6.00 per box or \$1.00 per card. Proceeds support the ministry of Grace Ladies' Aid.

## **THIS WEEK AT GRACE:**

**TODAY : WORSHIP, 8:00 & 10:30 AM**

Bible Class, 9:30 AM

**Children's Christmas Practice, 9:30 AM**

**Celebration of Christmas, 6:00 PM**

MON - Handbells, 6:15 PM

Boy Pioneers, 6:30 PM

Choir Practice, 7:00 PM

TUE - Bible class, 2:00 PM

All Meeting Night

WED - Public School Confirmation, 6:30 PM

Bible Class, 7:00 PM

THUR - **LES Music Concert, 2:00 PM**

FRI - Bible Class, 10:00 AM

SUN - **COMMUNION WORSHIP, 8:00 & 10:30 AM**

Bible Class, 9:30 AM

**Children's Christmas Practice, 9:30 AM**



## OTHER EVENTS COMING UP...

**ALRC ADVENT SERVICES...** Arizona Lutheran Retirement Center (1928 W. Orangewood Ave., Phoenix, 85021) will be hosting Advent services on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 AM, beginning this Wednesday (12/6). The theme for the season is "The Clothing of the King". Services will be in the activity room. All are welcome.

**CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS...** TONIGHT at 6:00 PM, Grace music groups will present the Celebration of Christmas service. Please use the insert in your bulletin to invite friends and family to attend and hear the retelling of the Christmas story!

**DONATE FROM YOUR SMARTPHONE...** Scan this image using your phone's QR code reader! Contact Debbie at ext. 322 if you have any questions or need help with setting this up. Automatic or one-time deductions for offerings may also be accessed from the [graceglendale.org](http://graceglendale.org) site with the "Click Here to Donate Online" button. A phone app is also available for donations: install Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement and search Organizations for Grace Ev Lutheran Church. *Please use checking or savings account information rather than a credit or debit card to save the processing fees.*



## FINANCIAL UPDATE:

Need amounts are based on an offerings goal of **\$947,436.00 by 6/30/2024.**

### **Week ending 12/3/2023:**

Weekly Need:	19,500.00
Weekly Actual:	28,788.93
Weekly +/-:	+9,288.93

### **YTD 7/1/2023 through 12/3/2023:**

YTD Need:	401,000.00
YTD Actual:	393,338.02
YTD +/-:	-7,661.98

Dear Grace Members:

Please show your thanks to the fine organists and pianists who serve us throughout the year by making a financial gift to be divided among our musicians. We do not pay our organists, nor do we buy their music for them. At this time of the year, we all have the opportunity to show them what a blessing they are to us!

**Our organists in 2023 were:**

Rachel Kulhanek  
Jeff Wegner  
Michael Wilde

**Our pianists in 2023 were:**

Lara Johnson  
Stacey Hill

Checks (payable to Grace Ev. Lutheran Church with “Organist Gift” on the memo line) or Cash (in an envelope with your name and/or envelope # and “Organist Gift” written on the outside) may be placed in the offering plates or turned in to the office by December 31st.

Thank you! And special thanks to our Organists and Pianists! We are very BLESSED to have such a talented group of musicians!

Sincerely,  
Chris Kallies, President