



ADVENT
IMMINENT ARRIVAL

IMMINENT ARRIVAL OF THE MESSIAH



GRACE EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

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Glendale, Arizona 85301
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WELCOME TO GRACE!

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...

Feel free to reach out directly to our office staff via email or telephone. Call 623-937-2010 and use the extension to the right.

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AT TODAY'S SERVICE...

Preaching Minister: Pastor Sellnow

Liturgist: Pastor Jacobson

Senior ushers: 8:00 AM – Cash Hill
10:30 AM – Nash Beilke

Pianist: Lara Johnson

A/V Team: 8:00 AM – Tracey Moreland / Mark Breiling
10:30 AM – Sam Jacobson

ABOUT THE THEME

The Messiah is an important person. “Messiah” is the same word as “Christ” or “Anointed One.” He is someone who has been anticipated for a long time. Now we look at a time when his arrival is imminent!

The historic Christian Church gave Latin titles to each Sunday. They titled the Third Sunday in Advent “Gaudete,” which means “Rejoice!” As we reach the midway point of Advent, we ask Christ to empower us to do just that. We rejoice because God fulfills all his promises in Jesus..

ORDER OF SERVICE

Setting 4

HYMN: LET THE EARTH NOW PRAISE THE LORD

CW 315

Please stand

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

CONFESSION

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.
Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father, we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts. We have offended you and sinned against your holy law. We have done those things that we should not have done, and we have not done those things that we should have done. Have mercy on us, Lord! Spare us, forgive us, and restore us, according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Silence for meditation and reflection

DECLARATION OF GRACE

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.
Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

In peace let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Last Sunday the Candle of Peace was lit. We light the Candle of Peace and the Candle of Hope again today as we remember that Christ will come again and bring to the world everlasting peace.

The Candles of Hope and Peace are lit.

The third candle of Advent is the Candle of Joy. It reminds us of the joy that Mary felt when the angel Gabriel told her that a special child would be born to her – a child who would save and deliver his people.

God wants us all to have joy. The angel who announced to the shepherds that Jesus has been born told them: “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people – Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.”

We light this candle to remember that Christ brings the promise of a new life – a life in which the blind receive sight, the lame walk, and the prisoners are set free. We light it to remember that He is the bringer of true and everlasting joy.

The Candle of Joy is lit.

HYMN: WE LIFT THE LIGHT OF HOPE

to the tune of CW 512

We lift the light of joy, O God.
Your praise is our delight!
Your blessings flow that all may know
Unbounded joy in Christ.
Your blessings flow that all may know
Unbounded joy in Christ.

Text: Ken Bible

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SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

Amen.

Please be seated

FIRST READING

Isaiah 35:1-10

Isaiah tells us that the coming Messiah would transform sorrow to joy.

¹The desert and the parched land will be glad;
the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.

Like the crocus, ²it will burst into bloom;
it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.

The glory of Lebanon will be given to it,
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;
they will see the glory of the LORD,
the splendor of our God.

³Strengthen the feeble hands,
steady the knees that give way;

⁴say to those with fearful hearts,
“Be strong, do not fear;

your God will come,
he will come with vengeance;
with divine retribution
he will come to save you.”

⁵Then will the eyes of the blind be opened
and the ears of the deaf unstopped.

⁶Then will the lame leap like a deer,
and the mute tongue shout for joy.

Water will gush forth in the wilderness
and streams in the desert.

⁷The burning sand will become a pool,
the thirsty ground bubbling springs.

In the haunts where jackals once lay,
grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.

⁸And a highway will be there;
it will be called the Way of Holiness;
it will be for those who walk on that Way.

The unclean will not journey on it;
wicked fools will not go about on it.

⁹No lion will be there,
nor any ravenous beast;
they will not be found there.

But only the redeemed will walk there,
¹⁰and those the LORD has rescued will return.

They will enter Zion with singing;
everlasting joy will crown their heads.
Gladness and joy will overtake them,
and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

MEN'S OCTET

"Silent Night"

SECOND READING

James 5:7–11

James points to Job as an example of perseverance in the face of suffering.

⁷Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. ⁸You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. ⁹Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

¹⁰Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

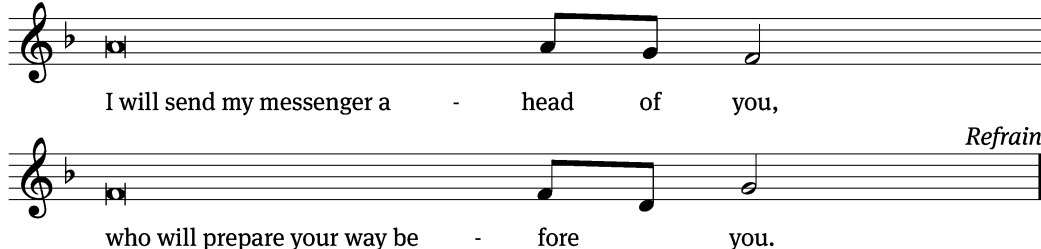
Matthew 11:10



Refrain



Tone



Refrain

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GOSPEL

Matthew 11:2–11

John's disciples wanted to verify that Jesus was the Messiah.

²When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples ³to ask him, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?”

⁴Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: ⁵The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor.

⁶Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.”

⁷As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? ⁸If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces. ⁹Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written:

“ ‘I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

At this time, children are invited to the front of the church to hear a special children's message from the Pastor.

HYMN OF THE DAY: O LORD, HOW SHALL I MEET YOU

CW 324

SERMON

Matthew 11:2-11

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM JESUS

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 OF THE CHURCH

Gracious Lord, you sent your Son into our world to destroy the power of Satan and restore the human race as your children and heirs. Work in us during this Advent season so that we may rejoice in the coming of our Savior and long for his coming again.

Make us eager to receive the King who comes to save us.

Use the preaching of your holy law to rid us of all delusions that we can gain your love with our own efforts. Move us to realize how hopeless we are because of sin and to feel sorrow for what we have done wrong.

Lead us to be honest about our sinful status in your sight.

Lift up our hearts to see the King who comes to save. Reveal to us his willingness to take on our human form and stand in our place. Show us the power he extends in his Word and sacraments to make us your children and keep us in faith. Thrill us with his promise to come and take us to our eternal home to live with you forever.

Open our eyes to see and believe the wonders of the Savior's love.

As we live with Christ and trust in him, move us to turn away from sin day after day with the strength your Holy Spirit provides. When we fall, forgive us and renew us to love and serve you and all people.

Empower us and guide us to walk with Christ by faith.

Protect us from the distractions that come at this time of the year. Even in gift-giving and celebrating, keep our hearts focused on Christ and his forgiving love.

Give us joy at his coming at Christmas, his coming in the gospel, and his coming again.

Special Intercessions

Move us to share with others the most important gift of this season, the truth about Jesus. Even in busy times lead us to pray for those whose joy is diminished because of sickness, pain, or loss. Give us opportunities to provide help to those in need.

May others see the love of Christ in our words and actions.

Loving Lord, work in us during this Advent season so that our joy may be genuine and may rest in the promises of the King who comes to save.

Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

OFFERINGS OF LOVE TO OUR LORD

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

HYMN: OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN

CW 358

Please stand

PRAYER

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 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.

Amen.

Please be seated

HYMN: THERE IS A REDEEMER

CW 519

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

Christmas Caroling to Shut-Ins
(with our choirs)

December 13, 1:00 PM
December 14, 11:00 AM

Children's Christmas Service
(Thursday Evening)

December 18, 6:30 PM

Christmas Eve
(Candlelight Services)

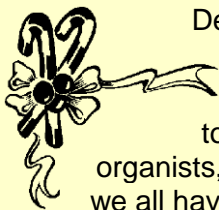
December 24
5:00 & 7:00 PM

Christmas Day
(Wednesday - One Service – with
Communion)

December 25, 9:00 AM

New Year's Eve
(Communion Service)

December 31, 6:00 PM



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 2025 were:

Rachel Kulhanek

Jeff Wegner

Michael Wilde

Our pianists in 2025 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 into 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,
Jon Scheel, President

MLC Auxiliary Has Updates to Share!

As you know, Martin Luther College in New Ulm, Minnesota, is where the future teachers, staff ministers, and pastors of the WELS are trained for the public ministry. We're so honored to fulfill this mission for the church.



As the MLC Auxiliary (formerly, the Ladies' Auxiliary), we love to lend encouragement and support to MLC students through scholarships, fun activities like BINGO Night, and special non-budgeted projects. Everything we do is intended to make their college experiences even better.

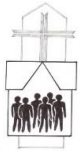
At our annual meeting this fall . . .

- we adopted a new constitution and bylaws.
- we adopted the 2025-26 Project List, requests from faculty and staff for non-budgeted items that enhance classroom and student life experiences.
- we planned our December 16 cocoa bar to give students a break during finals week.
- we started gearing up for BINGO Night on February 10.

Check out our website to see photos, get details, donate, and experience the joy of MLC Auxiliary.

Use this QR code or visit [MLC-wels.edu](https://mlc-wels.edu). Click on "Support MLC" and then "MLC Auxiliary."





Grace Groups

Gathering Together Around God's Word

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM JESUS

Matthew 11:2-11

What is the most unexpected gift you've ever received? What made it so good or bad at the time?

What about John's person and ministry made his imprisonment and martyrdom so shocking?

What "prisons" do you find yourself in this time of year? What questions do you have for Jesus when suffering does not seem to have an end in sight?

Agree/Disagree: Jesus only has my best interest in mind in this life.

Read Paul Gerhardt's magnificent Christmas hymn, "O Jesus Christ, Your Manger Is" (hymn 342 in our hymnal). How does he capture well the truth a suffering believer needs to hear this time of year?
