



ADVENT
IMMINENT ARRIVAL

IMMINENT ARRIVAL OF MY LORD AND MY GOD



GRACE EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

5600 West Palmyre Ave

Glendale, Arizona 85301

tel: 623-937-2010

email: info@graceglendale.org

web: <https://www.graceglendale.org>



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.

Rev. Mark Jacobson pastorjacobson@graceglendale.org	x321
Rev. Jasper Sellnow pastorsellnow@graceglendale.org	x303
Principal Jasper Sellnow principal@graceglendale.org	x303
Office Manager, Debbie Petersen officemanager@graceglendale.org	x322
School Office Manager, Monica Assaker massaker@graceglendale.org	x326
Church Secretary secretary@graceglendale.org	

AT TODAY'S SERVICE...

Preaching Minister: Pastor Sellnow

Liturgist: Pastor Jacobson

Senior ushers: 8:00 AM – Bruce Rademacher / Jon Floerke

10:30 AM – Todd Rovey / Ryan Jacobson / Josias Muehlich

Organist: Rachel Kulhanek

A/V Team: 8:00 AM – Mark Breiling / Alex Groth

10:30 AM – Sam Jacobson

ABOUT THE THEME

December 21 is the Festival of St. Thomas, Apostle. According to church tradition, it is the day he died a martyr's death while doing mission work in India. On Easter evening, Thomas was absent when Jesus appeared to the other disciples, and he famously refused to believe that Jesus had risen from the dead until he could see and touch Jesus' wounds. After seeing the risen Jesus a week later, Thomas cried out, "My Lord and my God!" There are still skeptics today who think that Jesus' virgin birth or resurrection from the dead are myths. It is appropriate to invite those skeptics to find out what the Bible says about those events. The Holy Spirit can work on their hearts just like he did with Thomas.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Setting 3 (CW 188)

HYMN: BEHOLD, A BRANCH IS GROWING

CW 360

Please stand

INVOCATION

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

Amen.

CONFESSION

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I deserve your punishment both now and forever. But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent suffering and death. Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

ABSOLUTION

CW 188

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. 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.
Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

CW 190

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.

SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Last Sunday we lit the candle of Joy. We light it and the candles of Hope and Peace again as we remember that Christ will come again and bring us everlasting peace and joy.

The Candles of Hope, Peace, and Joy.

The fourth candle of Advent is the candle of Love. Its light is meant to remind us of the love that God has for us. It is sometimes called the Angel candle because the angel announced that God in love was sending his Son to be our Savior.

Jesus shows us God's perfect love. He is God's love in human flesh. The Bible says, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life."

The Candle of Love is lit.

HYMN: WE LIFT THE LIGHT OF HOPE

the tune of CW 512

We lift the light of love, O God,

Your candle in our night.

You come to give and help us live

The mighty love of Christ.

You come to give and help us live

The mighty love of Christ.

Text: Ken Bible

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Our Savior Jesus Christ, after your resurrection from the dead, you strengthened the faith of your apostle Thomas, and he acknowledged you as Lord and God. We pray that you would also keep us steadfast in this true and saving faith and by your Word and sacrament banish every doubt; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated

FIRST READING

Judges 6:36–40

Gideon asks for proof that God would keep his promises.

³⁶Gideon said to God, “If you will save Israel by my hand as you have promised— ³⁷look, I will place a wool fleece on the threshing floor. If there is dew only on the fleece and all the ground is dry, then I will know that you will save Israel by my hand, as you said.” ³⁸And that is what happened. Gideon rose early the next day; he squeezed the fleece and wrung out the dew—a bowlful of water.

³⁹Then Gideon said to God, “Do not be angry with me. Let me make just one more request. Allow me one more test with the fleece, but this time make the fleece dry and let the ground be covered with dew.” ⁴⁰That night God did so. Only the fleece was dry; all the ground was covered with dew.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ADULT CHOIR (8:00)
GRACE NOTES (10:30)

“We Walk by Faith”
“Emmanuel Medley”

SECOND READING

Hebrews 10:35—11:1

We have faith that God will continue to keep his promises.

³⁵So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded.

³⁶You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. ³⁷For,

“In just a little while,
he who is coming will come
and will not delay.”

³⁸And,

“But my righteous one will live by faith.
And I take no pleasure
in the one who shrinks back.”

³⁹But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved.

¹Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 20:29



Refrain



Tone



Refrain

Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have be - lieved.

Tune: © 2010, 2021 GFTSMUSIC Publishing Company, Inc., admin. Music Services. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 705990

GOSPEL

John 20:24–29

Jesus continues to demonstrate that he is our Lord and our God.

²⁴Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!”

But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

²⁸Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

²⁹Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY: BY ALL YOUR SAINTS STILL STRIVING CW 892 sts. 1, 6, 3

SERMON

John 20:24-29

CHRISTMAS PROMISES KEPT

Please stand

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

**We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.
Amen.**

Please be seated

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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.

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

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.

Move us to take to heart the words of John: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

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.

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

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.

Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.

Hold in your care, Lord, those who are experiencing physical and emotional pain and all who are afflicted by disease or facing death. Pour out your compassion on the grieving and comfort the mourners who miss someone they loved.

Move us to pray for these brothers and sisters and to help when we can.

Special Intercessions

Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.
Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

OFFERINGS OF LOVE TO OUR LORD

Please fill out the "Welcome to Grace" register in your pew at this time!
Remember to mark if you are communing.

Please stand

PREFACE

CW 199

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who in blessing his saints of the past has given us assurance and hope that, following their example, we may run the race marked out for us and receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

CW 200

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Blessed are you, Lord God, eternal King and gracious Father. In love you made us the crown of your creation. In mercy you planned our salvation. In grace you sent your Son to redeem us from sin.

We remember and give you thanks that your eternal Son, Jesus Christ, became flesh and made his dwelling among us, that he willingly placed himself under law to redeem those under law, that he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death on a cross, that he has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood in this Sacrament. Forgive our sins, increase our faith, strengthen our fellowship, and deepen our longing for the day when Christ will welcome us to his eternal feast. Praise and thanks and honor and glory be to you, O God our Father, and to your Son and to the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
Amen.

LAMB OF GOD

CW 202

Please be seated

DISTRIBUTION

*In **Holy Communion** we receive the assurance of forgiveness through the body and blood of our Savior. By sharing in this Sacrament, we also express our complete agreement with one another according to the teachings of the Bible. If you have not joined our fellowship (**Wisconsin Synod**), please permit us to tell you about our Lutheran Christian faith before you partake of this Holy Supper so that you can judge for yourself whether there is complete agreement between us.*

DISTRIBUTION HYMN:

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

CW 327

LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE

CW 672

Please stand

THANKSGIVING

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

PROCLAMATION

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving-kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake

us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, 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: HARK THE GLAD SOUND! THE SAVIOR COMES

CW 313

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

Liturgical and musical settings of Scripture based on text from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House.

Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2025 Concordia Publishing House.



UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

Christmas Eve
(Candlelight Services)

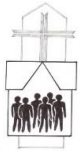
December 24
5:00 & 7:00 PM

Christmas Day
(Thursday - One Service –
with Communion)

December 25, 9:00 AM

New Year's Eve
(Communion Service)

December 31, 6:00 PM



Grace Groups

Gathering Together Around God's Word

CHRISTMAS PROMISES KEPT

John 20:24-29

Think about all the settings in which you have heard or seen the phrase “peace on earth” during the Christmas season. What do you suppose different people take such words to mean?

Poor Thomas is known mostly by the monicker “doubting” Thomas. What other qualities in Thomas did you hear in today’s sermon that would be good to remember as we have a rounded view of this man? How does Thomas serve as someone we can identify with?

Thomas saw the promises of Christmas fulfilled in the resurrection of Jesus. Why does Christmas mean nothing without Easter?

Unpack the “peace” Jesus proclaimed on Easter and the following week to Thomas and the other disciples. How does Jesus word of peace help us understand the angels’ announcement to the shepherds on Christmas in the fields near Bethlehem?
