

**Hope Lutheran Church**  
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**Grace Lutheran Church**  
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Reverend Matthew Converse, Pastor  
Kirsten Jines, Preschool Director  
Joyce Dubach, Organist  
**December 7, 2025**  
**Second Sunday of Advent**



### **Introduction to the day**

At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

**Food pantry need: cereal and soup**  
**Attendance for November 30, 2025 - 00**

### **PRELUDE**

*please stand if you are able.*

**GATHERING** *The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God,  
whose home is heaven and earth,  
whose salvation is sure.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God  
and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Long-expected God,  
**we confess that we look to ourselves  
for the peace and security only you can provide.  
We reach for swords and spears,  
reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.  
We become impatient while waiting  
and weary of keeping awake.  
Free us from self-reliance,  
and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.  
Increase our trust in God's timing,  
and awaken us to your advent among us,  
that we may abound in the hope you have promised.  
Amen.**

God judges us not as we deserve,  
but according to God's own righteousness.

✙ You are freed and forgiven,  
saved by grace,  
and ready to welcome the Savior.  
**Amen.**

## GATHERING SONG

(ELW 711)

• **O Day of Peace**

TEXT: CARL P. DAW JR., B. 1944

MUSIC: C. HUBERT H. PARRY, 1848-1918

### GREETING

*During this time, the presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

### Lighting the Advent Wreath

Week One SECOND SUNDAY - WATCH for the Light  
Responsive Litany

'Advent is a time to watch.

**We watch, with hope, for the dawning light.**

Advent is a time to watch for hope in our despair.

**We watch, with hope, for the dawning light.**

Advent is a time to watch for grace and forgiveness.

**We watch, with hope, for the dawning light.**

Advent is a time to watch for peace in the midst of conflict.

**We watch, with hope, for the dawning light.**

Advent is a time to watch for the end of darkness.

**We watch for Jesus, the Light of the World.**

### Candle Lighting

This morning we light two candles. The first candle reminds us that Advent is a time of waiting. The second candle reminds us that Advent is also a time of watching. We watch with expectant eyes, trusting that God is active, present and constantly at work. As we light the second candle, we ask for faith to watch for God's presence, and open eyes to see all that God is doing.

### Closing Prayer

Let us pray:

**God in heaven, as we learn to watch for signs of your presence,  
open our eyes that we might see the ways you are at work around us, within us,  
and through us. Amen.**

## LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH

### Jesus, the Light of the World

#### Congregational Part

ELDERKIN

GEORGE D. ELDERKIN

(Sing twice)

We'll walk in the light, beau-ti - ful  
light, come, where the dew-drops of mer-cy shine  
bright, O, shine all a-round us by day and by  
night, Je - sus, the light of the world.

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## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**WORD** *God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 11:1-10**

A reading from Isaiah.

- <sup>1</sup> A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
- <sup>2</sup> The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
- <sup>3</sup> His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.  
He shall not judge by what his eyes see  
or decide by what his ears hear,
- <sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor  
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
- <sup>5</sup> Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
- <sup>6</sup> The wolf shall live with the lamb;  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;  
the calf and the lion will feed together,  
and a little child shall lead them.
- <sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze;  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
- <sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
- <sup>9</sup> They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain,  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.
- <sup>10</sup> On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations  
shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM: Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19**

- <sup>1</sup> Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to <sup>1</sup> the king's son;  
<sup>2</sup> **that he may rule your <sup>1</sup> people righteously  
and the <sup>1</sup> poor with justice;**  
<sup>3</sup> that the mountains may bring prosperity <sup>1</sup> to the people,  
and the <sup>1</sup> hills, in righteousness.  
<sup>4</sup> **Let him defend the needy among the people,  
rescue the poor, and crush <sup>1</sup> the oppressor.**  
<sup>5</sup> May he live as long as the sun and <sup>1</sup> moon endure,  
from one generation <sup>1</sup> to another.  
<sup>6</sup> **Let him come down like rain upon <sup>1</sup> the mown field,  
like showers that water the earth.**  
<sup>7</sup> In his time may the <sup>1</sup> righteous flourish; and let there be an abundance of peace till  
the moon shall <sup>1</sup> be no more.  
<sup>18</sup> **Blessed are you, LORD God, the <sup>1</sup> God of Israel;  
you alone do <sup>1</sup> wondrous deeds!**  
<sup>19</sup> And blessed be your glorious <sup>1</sup> name forever,  
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen. Amen.

## **SECOND READING: Romans 15:4-13**

A reading from Romans.

- <sup>4</sup> Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by  
steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup> May  
the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one  
another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> so that together you may with one voice  
glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
<sup>7</sup> Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of  
God. <sup>8</sup> For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of  
the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors  
<sup>9</sup> and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,  
“Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles  
and sing praises to your name”;  
<sup>10</sup> and again he says, “Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people”; <sup>11</sup> and again, “Praise  
the Lord, all you gentiles,

and let all the peoples praise him”;

<sup>12</sup> and again Isaiah says,

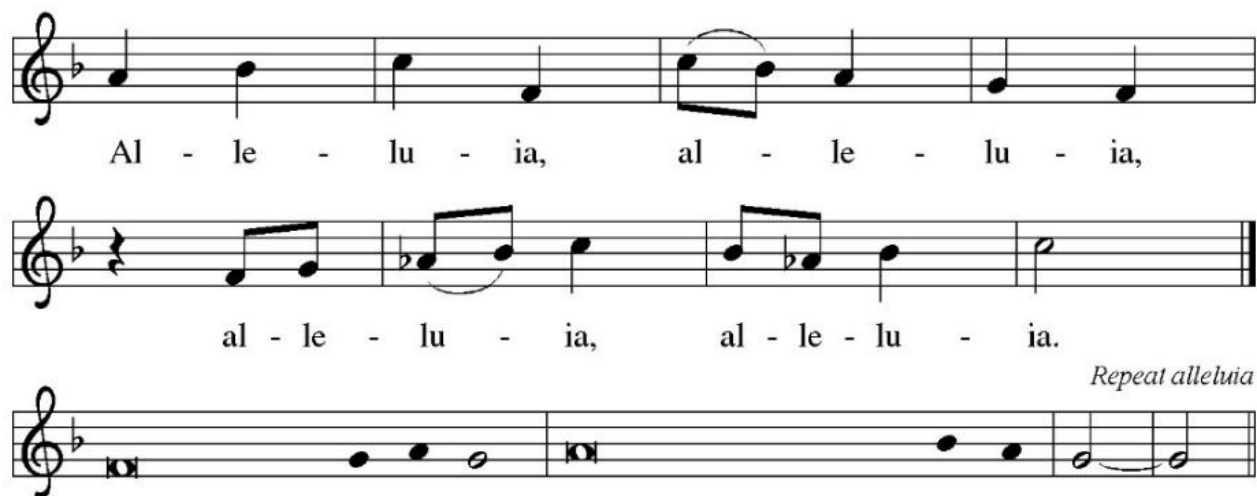
“The root of Jesse shall come,  
the one who rises to rule the gentiles;  
in him the gentiles shall hope.”

<sup>13</sup> May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming,

<sup>2</sup> “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” <sup>3</sup> This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord;  
make his paths straight.’ ”

<sup>4</sup> Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup> Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, <sup>6</sup> and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup> But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?

<sup>8</sup> Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, <sup>9</sup> and do not presume to say to yourselves,

‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>10</sup> Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup> “I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **SERMON**

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*(ELW 256)*

. **Comfort, Comfort Now My People**

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635-1711; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

Music: *Trente quatre pseumes de David*, Geneva, 1551

## **CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead.\***

**On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**



**and he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

*A brief silence.*

With wisdom and understanding, inspire the faithful around the world. Unite hearts and minds in work to address poverty, access to housing, and equity among peoples. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

With counsel and might, move us to care for creation. As we dream of the day when all creatures will flourish alongside one another, guide us in ways humanity and all creation will mutually thrive. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

With righteousness and faithfulness, encourage nations to live in harmony with one another. We pray for international student and teacher exchanges, for our partner churches, and for the shared mission of Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Disaster Response. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

With steadfastness and encouragement, strengthen those who have lost hope in the face of grief, depression, or disease. Renew the spirits of those recovering from surgery and medical procedures. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

With welcome and hospitality, embolden us in our shared ministry to overcome all that divides. In acts of repentance, reconciliation, and reparation, may we serve in the way of Christ. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

With joy and peace, we remember our ancestors in the faith. Fill us with the hope of the Holy Spirit now and into the ages of ages. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.  
**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

*The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.*

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.*

*The assembly is seated.*

**MEAL** *God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## **OFFERING**

**(ELW 253) .**

### **He Came Down**

Text: Cameroon traditional

Music: Cameroon traditional; arr. John L. Bell, b. 1949

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

**God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE

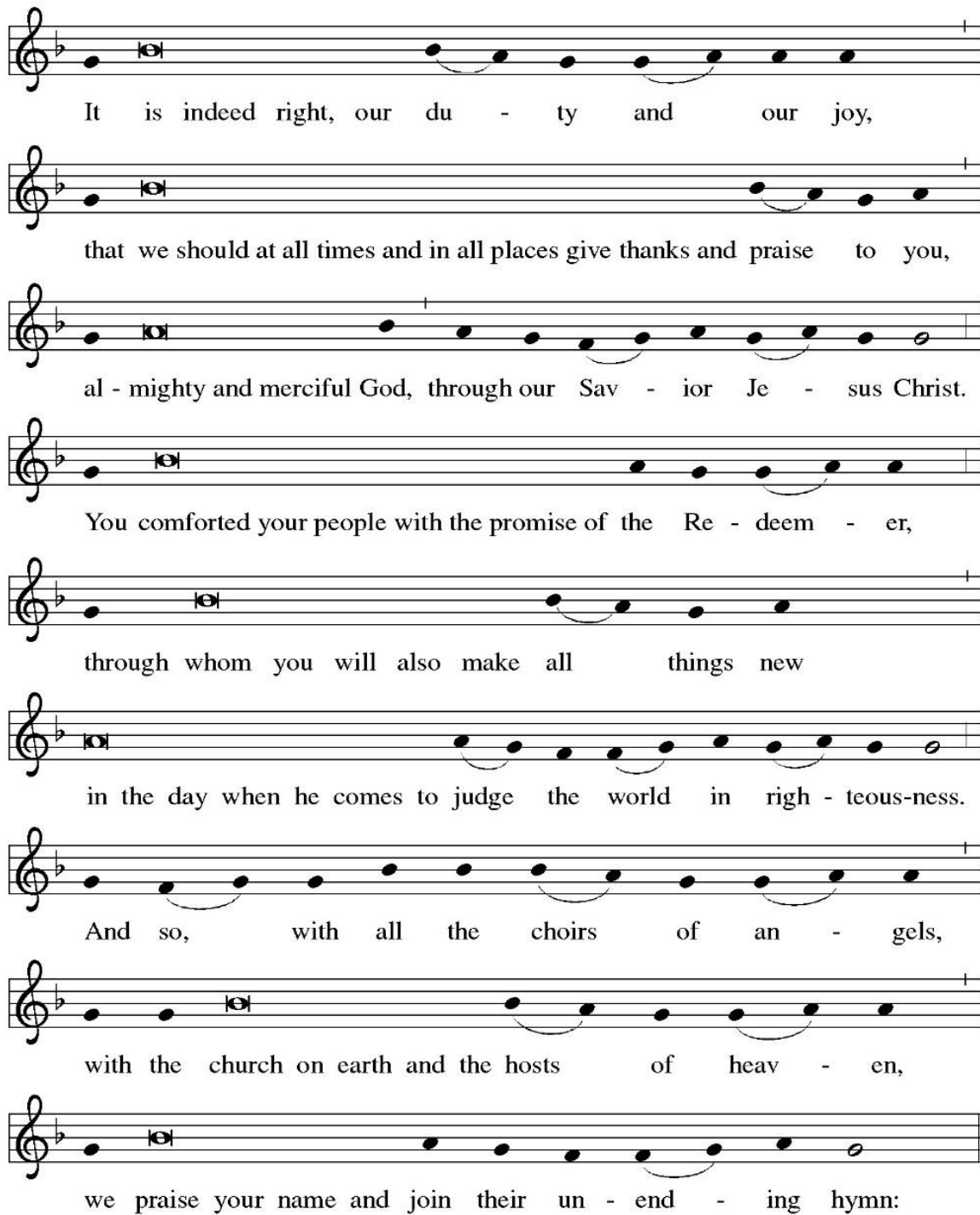
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

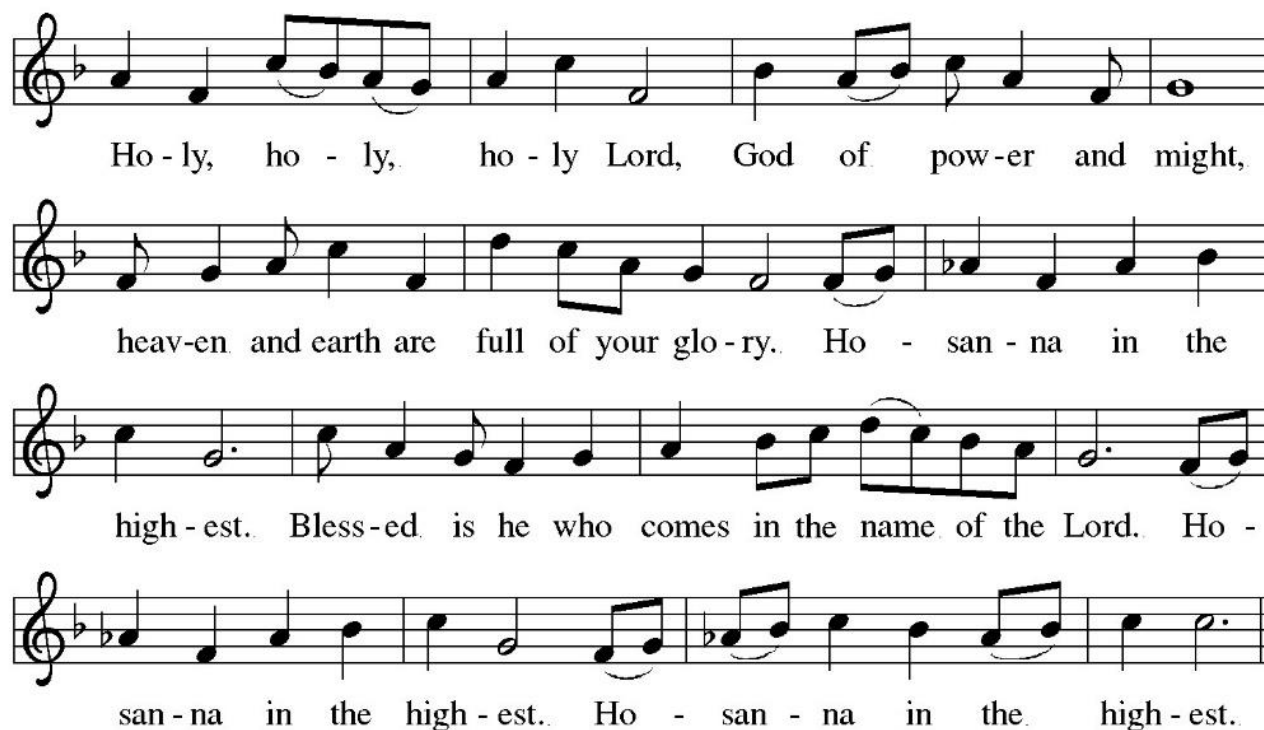
## Preface



It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,  
al - mighty and merciful God, through our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ.  
You comforted your people with the promise of the Re - deem - er,  
through whom you will also make all things new  
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righ - teous-ness.  
And so, with all the choirs of an - gels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heav - en,  
we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

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## Holy, Holy, Holy



## Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy God, the Beginning and the End,  
our Salvation and our Hope,  
we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.  
When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair,  
you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy.

At this end of the ages  
your Son Jesus came to bring us your love  
and to heal all the suffering world.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,  
his life, death, and resurrection,  
we await his coming again  
in righteousness and peace.

Send your Spirit on us  
and on this bread and wine we share:  
strengthen our faith,  
increase our hope,  
and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,  
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church,  
both now and forever.

**Amen**

### **Lord's Prayer**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Here is life. God is with us.

Come, receive what God has promised.

## COMMUNION

*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say*

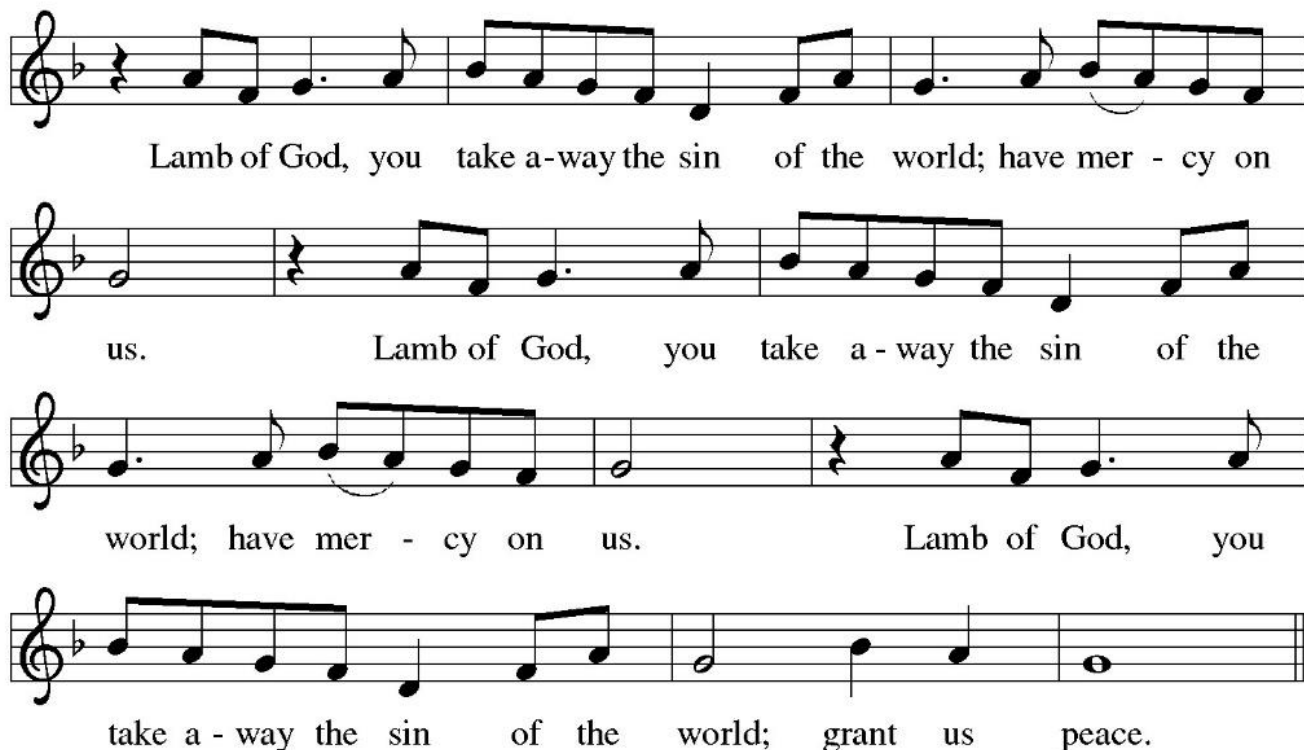
The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*and each person may respond* **Amen.**

*The ministers commune either after or before others commune.*

## COMMUNION SONG



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you  
take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

## COMMUNION SONG

(ELW 266)

. **ALL EARTH IS HOPEFUL**

Text: Alberto Taulé, b. 1932; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946

Music: Alberto Taulé

## Prayer after Communion

Let us pray:

God our host,

at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness.

Send us forth, eager to share the feast,

welcome the stranger,

and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

**Sending** *God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

**Blessing**

May God who comes among us,  
Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,  
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,  
and good news to share today and always.

**Amen.**

**Sending Song**

*(ELW 726) .*

**Light Dawns on a Weary World**

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: William P. Rowan, b. 1951

**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Keep awake.

**Thanks be to God.**

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**ANNOUNCEMENT**

**BREAD LOAF OFFERING - DECEMBER – The Center For Whitley County Youth**

- Food Pantry needs, with the colder weather the need for Soup increases. While we still need Cereal and Peanut Butter, we could also use Soup as well.
- December's Bread Loaf Offering will be going to "The Center For Whitley County Youth". The Center has served the youth of Whitley county for the past 20 years and has served over 10,000 students. Flyers and information will be available in the Parish Hall. If you have any questions, see Joe Freiburger



- Adelphi meeting will be on Monday the 8th at 11 am. The ladies are to enter the Sanctuary before 11 am. The preschool children will be presenting their Christmas program. The ladies will have their luncheon following the program.
- The attendance for weekly Midweek Advent services in the past has been very poor. This year we will have one midweek Advent Service on Tuesday December 16th at 6:00pm. This will be a Soup and Salad carry in for both Hope and Grace in the Parish Hall at Grace. You can bring in your favorite Soup, Salad or home made bread items and we will have a devotional in the Parish Hall as we eat. The church will be providing drinks. Please plan on attending and having some great fellowship.
- **Holiday Service Location and Time**  
 Last year there was concern that we did not have a late Christmas Eve Service. We have brought that back this year.  
 Christmas Eve 7pm Grace no communion  
                             9pm Hope no communion  
                             11pm Grace no communion

## **Weekly Agenda at Grace Lutheran Church**

### **Monday December 8, 2025**

Helping hands 12:30 pm

Finance Team 5:30 pm

Scouting America Troop 84 B/G 6:30 pm

Church Council 6:30 pm

AA 7:30 pm

### **Tuesday December 9, 2025**

T.O.P.S 9:30 am

Sigma ETA 6:30 pm

Cub scouts Pack 3082 6:30 pm

### **Wednesday December 10, 2025**

Men's Breakfast 8 am

Food Pantry 12 pm

Food Vouchers 4 pm

### **Thursday December 11, 2025**

AA 7:30 pm

Al-non 7:30 pm

### **Friday December 12, 2025**

**Pastor's Day Off**

Food Pantry 12 pm

Troop 84 Lockin 5pm

### **Saturday December 13, 2025**

Troop 84 Lockin

### **Sunday December 14, 2025**

Troop 84 Lockin

Worship @ Hope 8:15 am

Worship @ Grace 10:00 am

Fellowship 11:15 am

Girl scouts 2 pm

**sheets in the parish hall, for coffee hour. Coffee hour will be after church service,  
for anyone that would like to stay.**