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Kirsten Jines, Preschool Director  
Joyce Dubach, Organist  
**November 30, 2025**  
**First Sunday of Advent**



### **Introduction to the day**

The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.

**Food pantry need: cereal and soup**  
**Attendance for November 23, 2025 -**

### **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 *Come to Be Our Hope, O Jesus* (ACS 904)

## Come to Be Our Hope, O Jesus

*Tú, Jesús, nuestra esperanza*



*Español:* 1 Tú, Je - sús, nues - tra es - pe - ran - za, ven y  
 2 Ven, y te - je\_un mun - do nue - vo ca - mi -  
*English:* 1 Come to be our hope, O Je - sus, come to  
 2 Come to build your new cre - a - tion through the



li - bra nues - tro ser. Ni - ño,  
 nan - do\_en la ver - dad, pa - ra  
 set your peo - ple free. From op -  
 road of ser - vant - hood; give new



na - ce\_en - tre no - so - tros, ven y da - nos tu po -  
 que, por fin, el pue - blo vi - va\_en ple - na li - ber -  
 pres - sion, come, re - lease us, grant us your true lib - er -  
 life to ev - 'ry na - tion, chang - ing e - vil in - to



der. Ven li - ber - ta pri - sio - ne - ros de in - jus -  
 tad. Ven, Je - sús, a - bre\_el fu - tu - ro de tu  
 ty. Come, re - lease from ev - 'ry pris - on those who  
 good. Come and o - pen our to - mor - row for your



ti - cia\_y a - flic - ción; ven, re - ú - ne nues - tros  
 rei - no de\_a - le - grí - a. Ven, de - rrum - ba\_es - te gran  
 suf - fer in our land. In your love we find the  
 joy - ful reign so near. Take a - way all hu - man



pue - blos en a - mor y\_en com - pren - sión.  
 mu - ro que hoy se - pa - ra no - che\_y dí - a.  
 rea - son still to live and un - der - stand.  
 sor - row; give us hope a - gainst our fear.

Text: Jaci Maraschin, 1929–2009, Portuguese and English; Spanish tr. Jorge Rodríguez

Music: JESUS NOSSA ESPERANÇA, Marçílio de Oliveira Filho, 1947–2005

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## 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

FIRST SUNDAY - WAIT for the Light

Responsive Litany

'Advent is a time to wait.

**We wait in hope for the dawning light.**

Advent is a time to wait for freedom from captivity.

**We wait in hope for the dawning light.**

Advent is a time to wait for comfort in our sorrow.

**We wait in hope for the dawning light.**

Advent is a time to wait for power in our weakness.

**We wait in hope for the dawning light.**

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

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

## CANDLE LIGHTING

This morning we light the first candle.

This candle reminds us that our hope is in Christ,  
and that God sent Jesus to be the Light of the World.

As we begin the journey of Advent,  
may we learn to wait patiently, with hope and confidence that God's  
light will one day illuminate our darkened world.

Closing Prayer

Let us pray:

**God in heaven, as we begin this season of Advent,  
we pray that you will teach us to wait with patience,  
endurance and trust. Remind us of your everlasting presence.**

**Fill us with hope for the future and love for humanity.**

**Bathe us in your eternal, loving light. 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 your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father 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 2:1-5**

A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>1</sup> The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup> In days to come

the mountain of the LORD's house  
shall be established as the highest of the mountains  
and shall be raised above the hills;  
all the nations shall stream to it.

<sup>3</sup> Many peoples shall come and say,  
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,  
to the house of the God of Jacob,  
that he may teach us his ways  
and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction  
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

<sup>4</sup> He shall judge between the nations  
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;  
they shall beat their swords into plowshares  
and their spears into pruning hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword against nation;  
neither shall they learn war any more.

<sup>5</sup> O house of Jacob,  
come, let us walk  
in the light of the LORD!

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 122**

<sup>1</sup> I was glad when they <sup>1</sup> said to me,  
"Let us go to the house <sup>1</sup> of the LORD."

<sup>2</sup> **Now our <sup>1</sup> feet are standing  
within your gates, <sup>1</sup> O Jerusalem.**

<sup>3</sup> Jerusalem is built <sup>1</sup> as a city  
that is at unity <sup>1</sup> with itself;

<sup>4</sup> **to which the tribes go up, the tribes <sup>1</sup> of the LORD,  
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name <sup>1</sup> of the LORD.**

- <sup>5</sup> For there are the | thrones of judgment,  
the thrones of the | house of David.
- <sup>6</sup> **Pray for the peace | of Jerusalem:**  
“**May they pros- | per who love you.**
- <sup>7</sup> Peace be with- | in your walls  
and quietness with- | in your towers.
- <sup>8</sup> **For the sake of my kindred | and companions,**  
**I pray for | your prosperity.**
- <sup>9</sup> Because of the house of the | LORD our God,  
I will seek to | do you good.”

## SECOND READING: Romans 13:11-14

A reading from Romans.

<sup>11</sup> Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup> the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup> let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup> Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Repeat alleluia*

## GOSPEL: Matthew 24:36-44

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples,] <sup>36</sup> “About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>37</sup> For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup> For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup> and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup> Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. <sup>41</sup> Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. <sup>42</sup> Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup> But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup> Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

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 *Freedom Is Coming* (ACS 903)

## Freedom Is Coming

1 Oh, free - dom, oh, free - dom, oh,  
Free-dom is com-ing. Free-dom is

free - dom.  
com - ing. Free-dom is com-ing. Oh, yes, I

free - dom, oh, free - dom, oh,  
know. Free-dom is com-ing. Free-dom is

free - dom.  
com - ing. Free-dom is com-ing. Oh, yes, I

yes, I know. Oh, yes, I know. Oh,  
know. Oh, oh, yes, I know. Oh, oh, yes, I

yes, I know. Oh,  
know. Oh, oh, yes, I know. Oh, yes, I

2 Oh, Jesus.  
Jesus is coming.  
Oh, yes, I know.

Text: South African; transc. *Freedom Is Coming*, 1984

Music: FREEDOM IS COMING, South African; transc. *Freedom Is Coming*

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## 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.*

God of the people, we come seeking wisdom and instruction. Uphold and strengthen lay leaders, teachers, deacons, pastors, and bishops. Teach us your ways and lead us in your paths. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of the earth, we seek your goodness in the grandeur of creation. Empower us to care for forests and oceans, as we see you in the world around us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of the nations, grant wisdom to leaders, judges, and mediators. Cast out words of hate and transform them into words for building up community. Remake implements of war to sow peace. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of healing, bring comfort and strength. We pray for our kindred and companions who are ill or despairing. Surround all with care and consolation. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of new possibilities, when addiction wounds, jealousy tears down, and relationships fray, show us how to journey with one another. Nurture therapists, counselors, and sponsors in their care for others. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God of all time, build up our lives that we would reflect your grace. At the last, bring us with all the saints to your holy city where peace and goodness make a home. 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

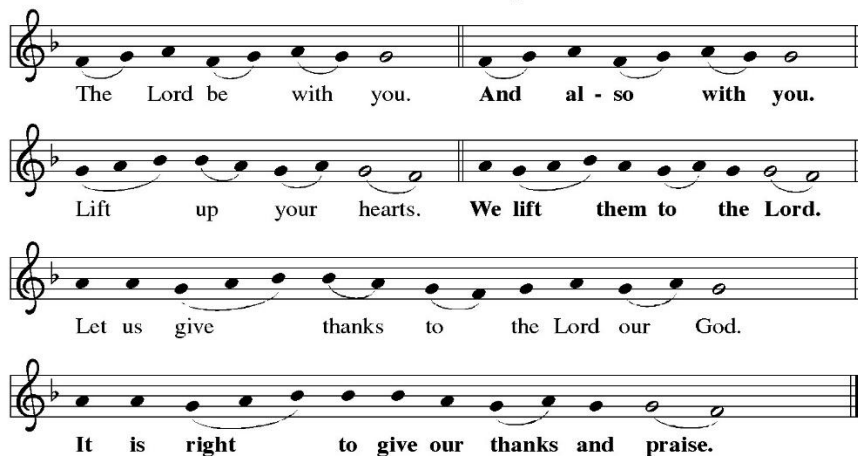
Music: Cameroon traditional; arr. John L. Bell, b. 1949

## 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.

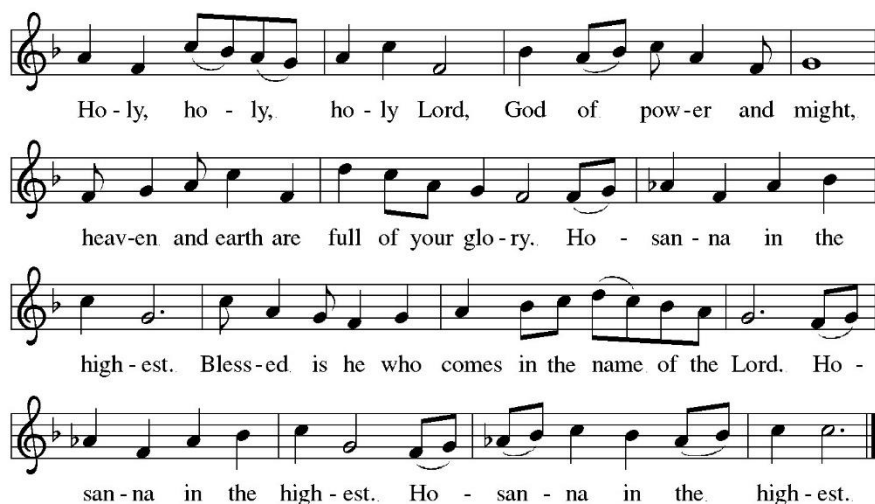
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## 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*

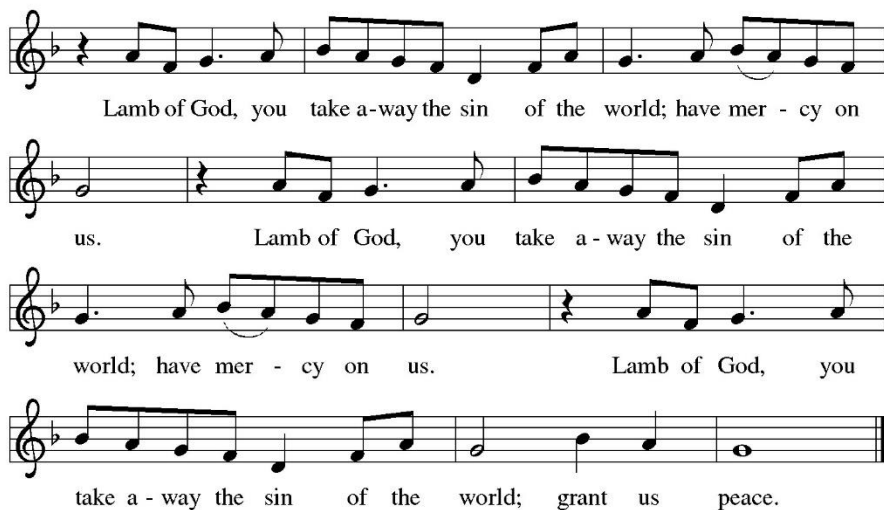
The body of Christ, given for you.

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.

## SONG DURING COMMUNION

(ELW 736)

### . GOD THE SCULPTOR OF THE MOUNTAINS

Text: John Thornburg, b. 1954

Music: Amanda Husberg, b. 1940

## 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.

## **Announcements**

*Brief announcements may be made, especially those related to the assembly's participation in God's mission in the world. Affirmation of Christian Vocation may be used here.*

## **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 439)**

. **Soon and Very Soon**

Text: Andraé Crouch, b. 1945

Music: Andraé Crouch

## **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Keep awake.

**Thanks be to God.**

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## ANNOUNCEMENT

### BREAD LOAF OFFERING - NOVEMBER – Giving Tree

- 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.
- 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.
- **Bread Loaf Offering**  
The November Bread Loaf offering will be going to our Giving Tree. Thanks to Linda Trowbridge, we will be partnering with Mission 25 and giving gifts for 2 families and also towels and linens. The money collected in the Bread Loaf will help buy gifts for any tags left on the tree and also help pay for the towels and linens. Since the Salvation Army does not have a director for Whitley County, we had to turn to other charities that needed help. The giving tree will be going up the weekend before Thanksgiving. Thank You for your generous giving. Any questions please ask Joe Freiburger, Linda Trowbridge or Pastor Matt
- **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.  
Thanksgiving 9am Hope  
Christmas Eve 7pm Grace no communion  
9pm Hope no communion  
11pm Grace no communion

## Notes

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

### **Monday December 1, 2025**

Helping hands 12:30 pm

Scouting America Troop 84 B/G 6:30 pm

Property Team 6:30 pm

AA 7:30 pm

### **Tuesday December 2, 2025**

T.O.P.S 9:30 am

Cub scouts Pack 3082 6:30 pm

### **Wednesday December 3, 2025**

Men's Breakfast 8 am

Pre-k chapel 10:20 am

Pre-k chapel 11 am

Food Pantry 12 pm

Pre-k chapel 12:40 pm

Food Vouchers 4 pm

### **Thursday December 4, 2025**

Pre-k Ornament making 9:30 am

Pre-k Ornament making 1:30 pm

AA 7:30 pm

Al-non 7:30 pm

### **Friday December 5, 2025**

#### **Pastor's Day Off**

Pre-k Ornament making 9:30 am

Food Pantry 12 pm

Pre-k Ornament making 1:30 pm

### **Saturday December 6, 2025**

Birthday Party 11 am

### **Sunday December 7, 2025**

Worship @ Hope 8:15 am

Worship @ Grace 10:00 am

Fellowship 11:15 am

Blood Pressure Checks 11:15 am

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