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Third Sunday *of* Advent

*Third Sunday of Advent
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Jackson Center, Ohio
December 17, 2023
Traditional Service
8:00 am*

Welcome to
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Third Sunday of Advent
December 17, 2023 ~ 8:00 A.M.



*Holy
Communion*

Beliefs and Customs

We Celebrate Holy Communion today. All who are baptized and believe Jesus Christ is truly present in this sacrament are invited to dine at the Lord's Table. If you desire a pastoral blessing please come forward with your hands folded. Gluten free wafers are available from the server. White grape juice is in the center of the tray. Lined baskets are available on each side aisle to dispose of your used cup.

Welcome to Our Guests

"Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid". We believe God has a purpose for you being with us today and our desire is to be an instrument in helping you discover and fulfill that purpose. You are always invited to come and worship with us. Please let us know if the pastor or we may be of service to you in any way.

As We Gather

Like children, we do not dress ourselves. God causes righteousness, as he clothes us with both righteousness and salvation. He has restored our fortunes and caused great joy, bringing us home from the far land of sin and death. No wonder we are to pray without ceasing, always giving thanks. He is coming again; the way has been prepared. And God will cause us to be blameless in every way at his return. He will surely do it, for he is faithful.

Gathering

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

** Indicates times during which the congregation stands.*

The Prelude

Lighting of the Candles

Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Dick & Linda Jenkins

L: Last Sunday we lit the candles of Hope and Peace, two gifts and promises of our gracious God..

Today we light the third candle of Advent, the candle of Joy. (Light Three Blue Candles).

L: Advent time is a joyful waiting time. Just as God's chosen people awaited the coming of the long-promised Messiah, the Christ of Christmas, we now await the return of the Joy of Ages. We wait for the day where we can join our voices with the

⁹ Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him, that glory may dwell in our land.

¹⁰ **Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other.**

¹¹ Faithfulness springs up from the ground, and righteousness looks down from the sky.

¹² **Yes, the LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.**

¹³ Righteousness will go before him and make his footsteps a way.
Praise the LORD!

Second Lesson: 2 Peter 3:8-14

ESV pg. 1019

Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (sung)

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

*Holy Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

ESV pg. 836

Glory to you, O Lord (sung)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ. (sung)

Sermon

“What’s in a Title?”

Pastor Shelly

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; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and

glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic 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

*The Prayers of the Church (stand)

Thanksgiving
We give thanks for the saving Word and all God's gifts.

Gathering of the Gifts

*The Offering Hymn **“Away in a Manger”** LBW # 67

*The Offertory **“Let the vineyards be fruitful”** LBW # 66

*Offertory Prayer Page 67

Pastor: Merciful Father,

All: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us- our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord's Supper
God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

Holy, Holy, Holy (Sanctus) LBW pg. 69

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

Distribution of Holy Communion

“Lamb of God” LBW pg. 72

Communion Hymn **“What Child Is This”**

LBW # 40

*Communion Blessing

*Prayer after Communion

Sending

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

Installation of Officers

*The Benediction

Mission and Ministry Moments

*Closing Hymn

“The First Noel”

LBW # 56

Sending

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

All: Thanks be to God.

Silent Prayer and Meditation

Organ Postlude

Enter to Worship --- Depart to Serve
Mission and Ministry Moments

There is a **box for offering** located on a table at the back of the church, for you to drop off offerings. All offerings are greatly appreciated to help the church stay in good financial standings.

At the **back of the church** there is a **pastoral letter packet** from Bishop Selbo in regards to the conflict between Israel & Hamas. Please feel free to pick up a packet and take home with you to read.

Volunteers needed at the Sidney F.I.S.H. store. If you are interested in volunteering, stop and fill out an application at the store.

The Backpack program is asking for donations for the program. They are asking for fruit cups, applesauce cups, pudding cups and peanut butter cups, small individual boxes of cereal, & small individual microwave meal cups. There is a labeled box in the south vestibule for your donations.

Thrivent Choice dollars need to be designated for next year, Thrivent members can designate by going online.

A **Huge Thank you** to all who participated in purchasing items from our Angel Tree. The families and seniors whom received the gifts were very much appreciative of them.

Altar Flowers If you would like to provide altar flowers for a special occasion, you can do so by ordering them from your chosen florist. Please have them delivered to Grace Lutheran and placed on the altar. Also notify Nikki, in the church office, regarding the bulletin announcement of the occasion.

Members of Grace thank you so much for baking a turkey, a pie or saying a blessing. Because of you we were able to serve 456 people for the Community Thanksgiving Dinner. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.
Wanda Wildermuth, Chairperson Thanksgiving Dinner

December Holiday Worship Schedule

December 24: Christmas Eve.

9:00 am Worship

10:00 am Sunday School

Candlelight Worship

7:00 pm Christmas Eve with communion.

10:30 pm Christmas Eve with communion & choir.

December 25: Christmas Day

9:00 am Christmas Morning Service