

Hanging of the Greens



*First Sunday of Advent ~ Hanging of the Greens
November 29, 2020*

Grace Lutheran Church

Welcomes You to Worship

202 Second Street SE, Watertown, South Dakota

605-886-5737

Web Site: glcwn.org ~ gracecl@midconetwork.com

Pastor Cheryl Rondeau-Bassett ~ 605-237-1501

PRELUDE

Congregation responses in Bold Print

Welcome and Announcements

INVITATION TO CELEBRATE THE COMING OF CHRIST

OPENING HYMN:

“Awake, awake and greet the new morn!”

ELW 242 vs...1 & 4

1 Awake! Awake, and greet the new
morn,
for angels herald its dawning.
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born,
behold! the Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor,
to bring all hearts together,
he opens wide the heav'nly door
and lives now inside us forever.

4 Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night,
though dark the winter and cheerless,
the rising sun shall crown you with light,
be strong and loving and fearless.
Love be our song and love our prayer
and love our endless story;
may God fill ev'ry day we share
and bring us at last into glory.

CALL TO WORSHIP

In a few days' time we will be celebrating the birth of Christ, so let us restore our souls, and refresh our spirits.

Restore us, O God, let your face shine that we may be saved. Amen.

Though we are complicit in the frenzy of consumerism, the unreality of expectations, the tension of gift giving, and the pressure to attend gatherings:

Restore us, O God, let your face shine that we may be saved. Amen.

Though we would like to be more Christ-centred in our daily lives, we know we can turn to God, and be restored. So, we ask:

Restore us, O God, let your face shine that we may be saved. Amen.

HYMN

“Renew Me, O Eternal Light”

LBW 511

- 1 Renew me, O eternal Light,
and let my heart and soul be bright,
illumined with the light of grace
that issues from your holy face.
- 2 Remove the pow'r of sin from me
and cleanse all my impurity,
that I may have the strength and will
temptations of the flesh to still.

- 3 Create in me a new heart, Lord,
that gladly I obey your word.
Let what you will be my desire,
and with new life my soul inspire.
- 4 Grant that I only you may love
and seek those things which are above,
till I behold you face to face,
O Light eternal, through your grace.

ADVENT PRAYER:

Let us pray, **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.**

Hanging of the Wreaths: Significance of the Advent Wreath

(READER) How shall we make this place a reminder of our need of repentance and the faithfulness and integrity that comes from God our maker and redeemer?

Let us hang garlands *and wreaths* as Hosea speaks the word of God:

A reading from **Hosea, chapter 14: 4, 8-9**

I will heal [my people's] disloyalty; I will love them freely,
for my anger has turned from them.

O Ephraim, what have I to do with idols? It is I who answer and look after you.
I am like an evergreen cypress; your faithfulness comes from me.
Those who are wise understand these things;
those who are discerning know them. For the ways of the LORD are right,
and the upright walk in them, but transgressors stumble in them.

(READER) The tradition of the Advent Wreath

PSALM: PSALM 80: 1-7,17-19

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

²**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.**

³Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

⁴**O Lord God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

⁶**You have made us the derision of our neighbors,**

and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

¹⁷**Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one you have made so strong for yourself.**

¹⁸And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name.

¹⁹**Restore us, O Lord| God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

Hanging of Garland: Significance of the garland.

(READER) The evergreens

HYMN *“Lo, How a Rose Is Growing”* *ELW 272 vrs 1, 2, & 4*

<p>1 Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung! Of Jesse's lineage coming as seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, amid the cold of winter, when half-spent was the night.</p> <p>2 Isaiah had foretold it, the rose I have in mind; with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind. To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior, when half-spent was the night.</p>	<p>This flow'r, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air, dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere. True man, yet very God, from sin and death he saves us and lightens ev'ry load.</p> <p>4 O Savior, child of Mary, who felt our human woe; O Savior, king of glory, who dost our weakness know: bring us at length, we pray, to the bright courts of heaven and into endless day.</p>
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FIRST READING: ISAIAH 64: 1-9

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
²as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
⁴From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.
⁵You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed.

⁶We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

⁷There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

⁸Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand. ⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Word of God, Word of Life **Thanks be to God.**

Colors and Paraments: Significance of the colors and paraments

(READER) The traditional color of our worship

DIALOG: (*inspired by Matthew 24: 36-44, Romans 13: 11-14*)

We don't always know that time it is,

but according to Jesus, it is time to watch.

We're not always sure what we should wear,

but according to the Spirit, we should wear garments of Light.

We're not always sure what we should do,

But according to God, we should always seek good for those around us.

SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 1:3-9

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Word of God, Word of Life **Thanks be to God.**

The Christmas Tree: Significance of the Christmas tree.

(READER) The Christmas tree

HYMN:

“Away in a Manger”

ELW 277

1 Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

- 2 The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
- 3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

Hangings of Chrismons or Other Symbols of Christ and Faith

Significance of Chrismons & Presentation

(READER)

Here in this place we prepare for the coming of the Lord.
Here we will remember his Advent,

his birth in Bethlehem, weak and helpless as an infant.
And here we rekindle our prayer, "Come, Lord Jesus"
as we await his coming as the bright and morning star.

**Hang symbols and signs of Christ — ruler, prophet, priest.
Hang stars, crosses, triangles, the "alpha" and the "omega"
to remind us of his identity, his story, and of the holy Trinity.**

A reading from the book of Revelation, chapter 22: 12-14, 17

"See, I am coming soon ... I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates.

"It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."

The Spirit and the bride say, "Come."

And let everyone who hears say, "Come."

And let everyone who is thirsty come.

Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.

The word of the Lord. **Come Lord Jesus**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Lighting of the Advent Candle: Significance & Lighting

(READER) Advent is a time of expectation to symbolized a time of preparation,
The Advent Season will not be complete until all four candles are lit, with the central
pure white Christ candle is also burning brightly on Christmas Eve.

**Loving God, as we enter this Advent season,
We open all the dark places in our lives and memories
to the healing light of Christ.
Show us the creative power of hope.
Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you,
That we may walk in the light of Christ.**

HYMN: "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" ELW 240 vs. 1

Light one candle to watch for Messiah; let the light banish darkness.
He shall bring salvation to Israel, God fulfills the promise.

**GOSPEL: The gospel comes from the Gospel of St Mark, the 13th chapter: 24-37
Glory to you oh Lord**

[Jesus said:] ²⁴In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,
²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory.

²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the
ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and
puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these
things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this
generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and
earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the
Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will
come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves
in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch.

³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will
come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find
you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep
awake." The Gospel of the Lord **Praise to you, oh Christ.**

HYMN "Oh, Come, Oh Come Emmanuel" ELW 257 vs 1-3

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,

that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.
2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,
embracing all things far and high:
in strength and beauty come and stay;

teach us your will and guide our way.

Refrain

3 O come, O come, O Lord of might,
as to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times you gave the law
in cloud, and majesty, and awe.

Refrain

NATIVITY Significance

(READER) The Nativity Scene

***SHARING OF THE PEACE:** The Peace of Christ, be with you all..

And also with you. (*Please greet each other in peace.*)

OFFERING/OFFERTORY: "Hark, the Glad Sound" ELW 239

1 Hark, the glad sound! The Savior
comes,
the Savior promised long;
let ev'ry heart prepare a throne
and ev'ry voice a song.
2 He comes the pris'ners to release,
in Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield.

3 He comes the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of his grace
to enrich the humble poor.
4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,
your welcome shall proclaim,
and heav'n's eternal arches ring
with your beloved name.

OFFERING PRAYER: Let us pray: **Savior of the nations, come. Make your home here in us. Feed us with your love, that our faith shine ever new and our lives reveal your light. Amen.**

DEDICATION OF THE ADVENT DECORATIONS

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH...

Guided by the light of Christ, let us pray for the coming dawn of joy, healing, and comfort for all God's people. *A brief silence.*

Give light to your people, Lord. As the darkness grows and we await the return of daylight, give new life to your church. Shape our communities to be faithful vessels of the gospel for the sake of the world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Restore your creation, Lord. You give the earth opportunities for both sleep and awakening. Thank you for the gift of this restful seasons so new life may grow according to your appointed time. Let your blessing rest upon the businessmen and women of this community during this time of economic strife and grant them rewards for their labor. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bring peace to the nations, Lord. Keep us alert to injustice and oppression, give us courage to cry out for what is right, and guide world leaders toward fairness, honesty, and peace for all. Grant health and safety to the members of our Armed Service and their families and create a desire to serve according to your will. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Stir up compassion in us for all who wait for you. Be near to those whose lives are shaken, those who are experiencing loss, those who long for healing and wholeness, those who are ill with COVID or wait outside, and those who are in any kind of need especially Rhys, Roy, Jim, Rose, Shannon, Rich, Gina, Rebecca, Loren, Bruce, Christopher, Judy, Lance, Jason, Rick, Patty, Lynn, Dianne, Bob, Raef, Dixie, family of Leonard Splinter, the family of Robert Wistzma, those in nursing or care center or are homebound. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for childcare workers, teachers and all in the educational community, Sunday/Wednesday school leaders, and all who nurture and educate children. We give you thanks for their diligence and devotion. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

From ages past, your faithfulness has never failed. Shine your face upon us and bring us into the company of all your saints in light. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.** We raise our prayers to you, O God, in the name of the one who is, who was, and who is to come, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER BLESSING:

May Christ, the Sun of righteousness, shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

“Go Tell it on the Mountain”

LBW 70

Refrain

- | | |
|---|---|
| Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born! | 2 The shepherds feared and trembled
when, lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth. <i>Refrain</i> |
| 1 While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. <i>Refrain</i> | 3 Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. <i>Refrain</i> |

DISMISSAL:

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord. **Thanks be to God. We will.**

Thank you for worshiping with us today!