

# 3rd Sunday of Advent

Youth Christmas Program



**December 15, 2024**

**11:00am**

# Welcome to Grace

We give thanks that you have come to worship with us at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, and pray that you will receive God's awesome GRACE, mercy and love as we receive Word and Sacrament, the means of grace!

We invite our guests and visitors to worship with us often! If you will, please complete a visitor information sheet and/or record your visit in the red attendance book found in each aisle. Visitor/Member Information sheets may be returned to the pastor or an usher.

The complete worship service is contained in this worship folder. Large print worship folders and Busy Bags for our very young worshipers are available from the ushers! We love having children in worship! Should parents have need of nursery during worship, our professionally staffed nursery for childcare is available. Please see an usher for directions.

Our worship space is equipped with a hearing assistance system to accommodate those with hearing difficulties. Please ask the sound technician (at the rear left of the worship space) for a receiver, if desired. Printed copies of the sermon are available in the info kiosk, if desired.

Please remember to turn off or silence personal communication devices. We ask that you not bring food or drink into the worship space.

In accordance with the Biblical mandate and our Lutheran tradition, we seek to worship God "in Spirit and in truth...for these the Father seeks to worship him!" (John 4:23-24). If you are not familiar with liturgical worship, it is "the work of the people," as God speaks, the ministers speak and the congregation responds in a spoken, chanted and sung dialogue! Everything in our worship is focused on God and His incarnate, embodied presence in our midst! We pray that you will experience the Word made flesh as we worship today!

To establish and maintain a spirit of reverence, we remind worshipers to please greet one another and fellowship in the gathering space before entering the sanctuary, where others will be preparing their hearts and minds for worship. We appreciate your understanding!

**Little Lambs Children's Ministry is available at either worship service, after the Gospel reading for children ages 3 through third grade During Little Lambs Children's Ministry children and their leader go to the Nursery to enjoy age appropriate Biblically-oriented activities during the Sermon, creed and prayers. They return during the offering to join us for Holy communion! This gives little ones a Bible break during the service, while allowing parents to focus on the sermon!**

We invite you to learn more about our congregation at [www.grace43081.org](http://www.grace43081.org) and the NALC at [www.thenalc.org](http://www.thenalc.org)!

## PRELUDE

Linda Hoch - Organ

"Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness" - arr. Artur Kapp

"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers" - arr. Paul Manz

## Announcements

### Confession and Forgiveness

P In the name of the Father and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *(Matthew 28:19b)*

C **Amen.**

P As we await the fullness of Christ's coming, let us acknowledge our sins and failures before God.

*Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.*

P Our impatience for your coming, and our failure to prepare your way;

C **We confess to you, Lord.**

P Our ignorance of your presence among us, and our failure to be alert;

C **We confess to you, Lord.**

P Our lack of concern for others, and our failure to welcome one another, as we have been welcomed;

C **We confess to you, Lord.**

P Our unwillingness to open our hearts to you, and our failure to receive you;

C **We confess to you, Lord.**

P All our sins and iniquities, committed by what we have done, and left undone;

C **We confess to you, Lord.**

P For all this, we are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

C **For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us.**

P In the Advent of Christ, the dawn from on high breaks upon us with light and healing. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Jesus Christ and by His authority, I declare to you that all of your sins are forgiven, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

ENTRANCE HYMN

"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"

1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;  
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;  
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ring's bore,  
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.  
 go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.  
 shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.  
 a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.

The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.  
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.  
 A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;  
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.  
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.  
 in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.  
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

# The Liturgy of The Word

## THE APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

**C** **And also with you.**

## KYRIE

**P** In devout and joyful expectation, let us call out to Christ, who is our salvation.

**P** You came to proclaim the nearness of the Kingdom;

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** You come to call us to keep awake and alert;

**C** **Christ, have mercy.**

**P** You will come as Son of God and Son of Man, to gather your elect;

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

## ADVENT WREATH CANDLE-LIGHTING

**Leader** The third Sunday in Advent has traditionally been known as “Joy Sunday” and so the candle today calls us to joy! Joy in the dark days of Advent; joy as we move toward the winter solstice—the shortest day of the year; joy as we look for the return of the Lord in power and glory, even as we prepare to celebrate His birth in Bethlehem.

We read in Philippians 4:

*Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!  
Let all people know your forbearance. The Lord is at hand. Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God which passes all understanding will keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:4-7)*

*The third, rose candle is lighted as we sing three verses of the hymn.*

**Verse 1** **Light one candle to watch for Messiah:  
let the light banish darkness.  
He shall bring salvation to Israel,  
God fulfills the promise.**

**Verse 2** **Light two candles to watch for Messiah:  
let the light banish darkness.  
He shall feed the flock like a shepherd,  
gently lead them homeward.**

**Verse 3** **Light three candles to watch for Messiah:  
let the light banish darkness.  
Lift your heads and lift high the gateway  
for the King of glory.**

# Christmas Pageant: “The Tale of the Little Drummer Boy”

## Scene I: Roman military camp outside Jerusalem, just before the birth of Jesus.

Hymn: “I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve,” vss. 1 and 5

Children: 1 I am so glad each Christmas Eve,  
the night of Jesus’ birth!  
Then like the sun the star shone forth,  
and angels sang on earth.

**Cong: 5 And so I love each Christmas Eve,  
and I love Jesus too;  
and that he loves me ev’ry day  
I know so well is true.**

## Scene II: Streets of Jerusalem

Hymn: “O Little Town of Bethlehem,” vss 1 and 4

**Cong: 1 O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by;  
yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.**

**Cong: 4 O holy child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin, and enter in,  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell;  
oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!**

## Scene III: Journeying from Jerusalem

Hymn: “O Come, All Ye Faithful,” vss 1 and 3

**Cong: 1 O come, all ye faithful,  
joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him,  
born the king of angels:**

**Refrain**                    **O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!**

**Cong:**                    **3 Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God  
in the highest: *Refrain***

Scene IV: Streets of Jerusalem

Hymn: "We Three Kings"

Children:                1 We three kings of Orient are;  
bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
following yonder star.

**Cong: *Refrain***            **Oh, star of wonder, star of night,  
star with royal beauty bright;  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light!**

Scene V: Roman Military camp outside Jerusalem

Hymn: "Angels We Have Heard on High," vss. 1 and 3

Children:                1 Angels we have heard on high,  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply,  
echoing their joyous strains.

**Refrain**                    **Gloria in excelsis Deo;  
gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Cong**                    **3 Come to Bethlehem and see  
him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn king. *Refrain***

Scene VI: Hillside Outside Jerusalem, looking toward Bethlehem

Hymn: "Angels From the Realms of Glory," vss. 1 and 2

**Cong:                   1 Angels, from the realms of glory,  
wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
once you sang creation's story,  
now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

**Cong:                   2 Shepherds, in the fields abiding,  
watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing,  
yonder shines the infant light.  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

Scene VII: Roman Military Camp

Hymn: "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing," vss. 1-2

**Cong:                   1 Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn king;  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled."  
Joyful, all you nations, rise;  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with angelic hosts proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"**

***Refrain*                   Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn king!"**

**Cong:                   2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!  
Hail, incarnate deity!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel! *Refrain***



Scene VIII: *Shepherds Field, on the way to Bethlehem*

Hymn: "Away in a Manger," vss. 1-3

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

**Cong: 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.**

Scene IX: *Stable outside Bethlehem*

Hymn: "Silent Night," vss. 1 and 3

Children: 1 Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

**Cong: 3 Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light  
radiant beams from your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.**

Song: "The Little Drummer Boy," sung by children with drum

**THE PRAYERS**

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

*After each petition:*

P Lord, in your mercy;

**C Hear our prayer.**

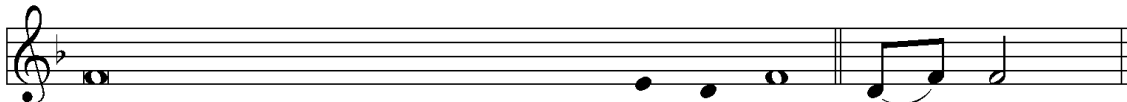
P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER *(Matthew 6: 9-13)*

**C** 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.

## THE BENEDICTION *(Numbers 6: 24-26)*



**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face to shine on you  
And be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ... give you peace.  
In the name of the Father, and of the Son ✠  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** A - men

## RECESSIONAL HYMN "O, Come, O, Come, Emmanuel"

O Come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

O Come, Thou Key of David, come,  
And open wide our heav'nly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

## THE RITE OF SENDING

Children Go in peace, serve the Lord!  
**C** Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE

"Hark the Glad Sound!" - arr. John Leavitt

Linda Hoch - Organ

**Offering:** An offering plate will be placed by the baptismal font for offerings to be presented during the offering procession. Offerings may be placed in the plate before or after the service.



**Please join us after the service in Loaves and Fishes café for fellowship, cookies and hot chocolate.**

## **ACTORS**

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**Drummer Boy:** Benny Hoch

**Mary:** Lauren Place

**Joseph:** Camden Strete

**Shepherds:** Emily Odum, Leah Place, Stella Blankenship

**Soldiers:** Maddie Nickoli, Molly Young, Hannah Laderman, Nate Holmes, Camden Kaczorowski, Sam Nickoli

**Wisemen:** Gabriel Young, Philip Young, Anna Young

**Angels:** Alison Milliner, Ellie Given, Macy Braatz, Maggie Hoch

**Animals:** Owen Laderman, Callan Strete, Isla Given, Caroline Young

**Sound Technician:** Brice Graves

**Stage Crew:** Michael Braatz, Vaughn Place

**Costumes:** Lois Rumph

**Set Design:** Sue Mahrt

**Piano:** Linda Hoch

**Choir Co-Directors:** Maria Laderman, Karen Bale

**Co-Directors:** Molly King, Jenny Blankenship, Sarah Odum

**Written by:** The Rev. Dr. David Wendel

**Special Thanks** to ALL who volunteered to make this youth Christmas Program a success including, Alicia Crain, Evan Crain, Vanessa Stewart, Cindy Odum, George Paulus, Ellen Paulus, Tom Moser! Thank you to the parents, friends and family for bring your children to rehearsal each week and practicing lines! We hope you have enjoyed the program as much as we have enjoyed seeing our youth bring the story to life on stage today!

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### **Flowers are given by...**

*Fred Pfanzen in celebration of Sarah Pfanzen's birthday.*

*Janet Breen in celebration of Merl's birthday.*

**Remember in our prayers...** *Joe Moleno, Shirley Moleno, Betty Milner, Karen Vann, Mary Cooney, Jim Hall, John Hicks, Amy Lynn Unkefer, Cheryl DoBroka, Rod Rice, Mark Schaller, Mary Ross, Jim Ross, the families of Jackie Chapman and Ted St. Clair.*



*You are  
invited!*

**Advent Mid-week Service at Grace  
“The Mystery of God-With-Us!”  
Wednesday, Dec. 18 at 7:00pm**

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**WELCOME, GUESTS!** We welcome you as our guest in our church home and invite you to continue to worship with us. We invite guests to take a welcome bag at the **WELCOME** Welcome Desk to learn more about Grace and fill out a Welcome Form to let us know you were worshipping with us today.

**Service Recording:** The recorded 8:15am service will be available at [www.grace43081.org](http://www.grace43081.org) around 11am.

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**Scan to *Simply Give***

This QR code connects you to the mobile version of Grace’s online giving page to give you a quick and easy way to access our webpage without having to type out a long web address. Through this link, you can create a one-time or on-going donation and to specify where you want your gift to be applied. The *Simply Giving*® Program (endorsed by Thrivent Federal Credit Union) is an automated stewardship program that helps members give generously. Scan to *Simply Give* today.

**Financial Update:** If you would like a copy of the full monthly Treasurer’s report as presented to Council, please reach out to the Treasurer, Melissa Hodek and it will be emailed to you.

**2nd Sunday of Advent:** 8:15am: 74; 11:00am: 116; Total: 190

## MUSIC NOTES

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### **“Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness” – arr. Artur Kapp**

It is not usual for a burgomaster (mayor) to write hymns, but the famous German composer, Johann Crüger chose to include this hymn by Mayor Johann Franck (1618-1677) in his *Geistliche Kirchen Melodien* (1649). The hymn celebrates the joy of communion, rather than recalling the passion of Jesus. The famous hymnologist, Julian, says “It is an exhortation to the soul to arise and draw near to partake the heavenly food and to meditate on the wonders of heavenly love.”

### **“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers” – arr. Paul Manz**

Laurentius Laurenti (1660-1722) wrote this hymn of rejoicing at the bridegroom’s coming to go with Matthew 25:1-13, the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids, which was the gospel for the 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity, though it is usually included in the Advent season. The tune HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG is a Swedish folk melody that was paired with Sarah Borthwick Findlander’s translation of the hymn in the Augustina Synod’s *Hymnal and Order of Service for Churches and Sunday Schools* (1901).

### **“Hark the Glad Sound” – arr. John Leavitt**

For the theme “Christ’s message” based on Luke 4:18-19 (“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor...”), Philip Doddridge (1702-1751) wrote a seven-stanza hymn. Doddridge, one of 20 children, was an Independent (Congregational) minister. He also founded an academy where he taught Hebrew, Greek, philosophy, logic, algebra, trigonometry, and theology. Doddridge died of tuberculosis from over work.



**Sunday, Dec. 15, 4pm at  
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Westerville, OH**

## Serving Today

OFFICIATING/ PREACHER	The Rev. Dr. David M. Wendel
DEACON	Molly King, Commissioned Lay Minister
ASSISTING MINISTER	Fred Pfanz
ORGANIST	Linda Hoch
SACRISTAN	Fred Pfanz
ACOLYTE	Gabriel Young
USHERS	Tom Moser, Andy Laderman, Michael King
GREETERS	John and Tracey Nave
ADVENT WREATH	Eric, Cheryl, Andrea and Heather Bush
ALTAR GUILD <i>Team 3</i>	Vanessa Stewart, Lois Bernhardt, Jodie Arreguin, Dorothea Fuhrman, Verna Kreachbaum, Amy Quinn, Linda Reasoner, Ellen Paulus, Joanne Figge
SOUND TECHNICIANS	Chris Banks, Eric Bush, Dan George, Paul Grant, Brice Graves
NURSERY ATTENDANTS	Kaitlyn F., Donna P.

## Acknowledgements

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Hymns:

"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers." Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660-1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823-1907. Music: Swedish folk tune. Text and Music: Public Domain.

"The Tale of the Little Drummer Boy." Advent/Christmas Program, 2024. ©The Rev. Dr. David M. Wendel

"I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve." Text: Marie Wexelsen, 1832-1911; tr. Peter A. Sveeggen, 1881-1959. © 1932 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress

"O Little Town of Bethlehem." Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893.

"Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful." Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880.

"We Three Kings." Text: John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820-1891, alt.

"Angels We Have Heard on High." Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, The Crown of Jesus Music, 1864.

"Angels, From the Realms of Glory." Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt., sts. 1-3; Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, st. 4

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing."Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

"Away in a Manger." Text: North American, anonymous, 19th cent.

"Silent Night." Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885

"The Little Drummer Boy."

"Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness/ SCMÜCKE DICH" – arr. Artur Kapp, from *Augsburg Organ Library: Reformation*, © Eres Edition, Lilienthal/Bremen, used by permission.

"Hark the Glad Sound!/ CHESTERFIELD" – arr. John Leavitt, from *Augsburg Organ Library: Advent, Series II*, ©1991 Augsburg Fortress



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<http://www.facebook.com/GraceEvangelicalLutheranWesterville>

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 9am-3pm, Fri 9am-Noon

**Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church** has been serving the Westerville community for more than 115 years, supporting local ministries such as the Westerville Area Resource Ministry, Westerville Partnership Habitat for Humanity, and Westerville CROP Walk. Grace also supports Lutheran Social Services programs like Faith Mission and provides weekly meeting space for four AA groups.

**Vision Statement:** We envision Grace to be a welcoming Christ-centered community of faith, inviting all, growing in discipleship, sharing in ministries.

**Mission Statement:** Our mission is to reach out with the love of Jesus to grow disciples and serve our community.