



The First Sunday in Advent
December 1, 2024
9:30 AM

Amazing Grace Lutheran Church

7160 South Robert Trail, Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077
651-455-0093 www.aglcigh.org

Welcome friends in Christ! We're grateful for your presence here in worship today.
If you are visiting, please sign the guest book in the entryway.

- Children are welcome to utilize the open space in the back for quiet play during worship.
- Feel free to remain seated at any time during the service.

GATHER:

We gather as people of God, a family of faith.

Advent is a season of hope. We hear hope proclaimed by the prophets and poets of old, and are inspired to live in hope for Christ, who daily breaks into our world through the spirit and who has promised to come again in fullness. We live in a world that trades in isolation and comparison, competition and fear. Our hope is in the One who will turn the world around, causing us to live in connection and compassion, mutuality and liberation.

Centering Music: *Hope (from Triptych for Christmas)*
Rejoice, Rejoice Believers

Joel Raney
arr. Erik Khiss

Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Light of Hope

A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent

Music and words by
Joel Raney

8 Congregation:

Light of peace, calm our des-pair, Light of
14 hope, lift us up when we fall, Light of joy bright-ten our
20 days; Light of love, — teach us your ways. —

The musical notation consists of three staves of music in 3/4 time. The first staff starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (Bb), and a 3/4 time signature. It begins with a whole rest for 8 measures, followed by the lyrics. The second staff continues the melody with lyrics. The third staff concludes the phrase with lyrics and a final note.

Responsive Litany and Candle Lighting begins here

In the tender compassion of our God,
The dawn from on high shall break upon us.

We begin the season of Advent with expectant and believing hearts.

We wait upon the Lord and place our hope in God's word.

During Advent we confront the darkness that so often exists around us.

We wait upon the Lord and place our hope in God's word.

During Advent we confront the failure to trust that so often resides within us.

We wait upon the Lord and place our hope in God's word.

During Advent we confront the division that so often occurs between us.

We wait upon the Lord and place our hope in God's word.

The first candle is lit.

This morning we light the first candle which reminds us of the ultimate hope that comes through our Savior's birth. In a world where we are often overwhelmed by our circumstances, Advent comes as a gentle whisper offering us hope to heal the broken, befriend the lonely, and share the good news of the Gospel. This morning, let us begin the Advent season with expectant and trusting hearts.

27 Congregation continues:

Light of life, Ma-ker of day, gath-er our sha-dows and
cast them a - way. Bea-con of truth, gleam-ing and bright,
shine in our hearts, shat - ter our night.

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Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
alive in the world,
reviving creation,
arriving soon.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy,
we confess that we have sinned.
We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.
We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

God of might,
we confess that we have sinned.
We have turned away from our neighbors.
We have trusted false promises.

God in our midst,
we confess that we have sinned.
We plead: come to us.
Bring your mercy to birth in us.

A righteous branch springs forth:
it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,
in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.
By the power of the Holy Spirit,
receive the grace and forgiveness of God
through † Christ Jesus,
whose day draws near.
Amen.

Gathering Hymn: Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

ELW 244

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'ings 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!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907
Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

Greeting

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.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray together.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

GROW:

We grow as we are fed by the Word and nourished at the Lord's table.

First Reading: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

In the Old Testament, "righteousness" often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today's reading, Jerusalem's future name—"The Lord is our righteousness"—proclaims that God is even now working salvation for Israel.

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Upon Timothy's report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church.

⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia!

Alleluia!

Stand up and raise your heads,

Your redemption is drawing near!

Alleluia!

Alleluia!

Gospel Reading: Luke 21:25-36

[Jesus said:] ²⁵“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ!

Message

Pastor Tim Maybee

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying



1 Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing, the watch-men
 2 Zi - on hears the watch-men sing - ing, and all her
 3 Glo - ri - a! Let heav'n a - dore you! Let saints and



on the heights are cry - ing; a - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, at last.
 heart with joy is spring-ing. She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom.
 an - gels sing be - fore you, with harp and cym-bal's clear-est tone.



Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es, and at the
 Her dear friend comes down, all glo - rious, the strong in
 Gates of pearl, twelve por - tals gleam - ing, lead us to



thrill-ing cry re - joic - es: "Come forth, you maid-ens! Night is past.
 grace, in truth vic - to - rious: her star is ris'n; her light is come.
 bliss be - yond all dream - ing, with an - gel choirs a - round your throne.



The bride - groom comes! A - wake; your lamps with glad - ness take!"
 Now come, O Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son.
 No eye has caught the light, no ear the thun-d'ring might



Al - le - lu - ia! Rise and pre - pare the feast to share;
 Sing ho - san - na! Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all,
 of such glo - ry. There we will go: what joy we'll know!



go, meet the bride - groom, who draws near.
and fol - low to the ban - quet hall.
There sweet de - light will ev - er flow.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608; tr. composite

Music: WACHET AUF, Philipp Nicolai

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Confession of Faith

Living together in trust and hope, let us confess our faith.

**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

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

A brief silence.

God of righteousness, your people live in hopeful expectation of your coming. Fill your church with renewed passion for our shared mission, and deepen our relationships with other Christians and other faith traditions in our local community and across the world. Support and strengthen our neighbors both here and in Magulilwa, Tanzania. Lord, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

God of the cosmos, all creation shows that your presence is near. Help us sense your goodness and love in the sun and moon, in sprouting leaves and bare branches, in the roaring sea and quiet breeze. Lord, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

God of the nations, your reign extends over all principalities and powers. Give leaders and all in authority hearts for justice and peace. Encourage efforts to enact policies that benefit the common good. Lord, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

God of change, you accompany us through life's transitions. Be near to all who are changing jobs, moving, welcoming children, or facing the loss of loved ones. Sustain those who are ill or suffering especially those we name before you now. In times of change, remind us of your steadfast love. Lord, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

God of community, your Spirit holds us together. Sustain our care for one another. Inspire us to seek new ways to live together and to embrace the diversity of thought and identity in our communities. Lord, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of memory, we give you thanks for faithful ones who have died. Tend to our grief and sorrow with renewed trust in your promise of abundant and eternal life. Lord, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Peace

The peace of the risen Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Offering

AGLC gives in the style of our Tanzanian partners. You may place any gift in the basket as you come forward for communion. If you don't have a physical gift to share, you are encouraged to dip your hand in the basket as a reminder that God uses you to do God's work in the world.

Filled with Hope and Gratitude



1 Filled with hope and grat - i - tude and filled with ver - y
 2 God's e - ter - nal mer - cy, meant for all of hu - man -
 3 Hun - gry peo - ple eat good things and find an hon - ored
 4 Filled with hope and grat - i - tude and filled with ver - y



God, I sing with soul and spir - it ex - ul -
 kind, is giv - en as de - liv - 'rance from op -
 place; the rich are sent a - way though they are
 God, I sing with soul and spir - it ex - ul -



ta - tion, for God has smiled up -
 pres - sion. The pow - er - ful and
 hun - gry. The prom - ise to our
 ta - tion, for God has smiled up -



on the hum - ble ser - vant who will give her
 haugh - ty find that they are now cast down, the
 fore - bears God re - news for us to - day: the
 on the hum - ble ser - vant who will give her



own sweet milk to Christ, the world's sal - va - tion.
 low - ly raised be - yond this world's de - ri - sion.
 world is filled with God's a - bun - dant mer - cy.
 own sweet milk to Christ, the world's sal - va - tion.

Text: Paul Damico-Carper, b. 1981, based on Luke 1:46-55

Music: ADVENT MAGNIFICAT, Paul Damico-Carper

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Offering Prayer

Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.

And also 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.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning
you created light and darkness, day and night,
and you set the sun, moon, and stars in the sky.
In a pillar of fire by night and a pillar of cloud by day
you led your people into freedom.

Lead us in the darkness and the light by the Spirit of Christ, our Hope.

May your Spirit be for us a safe cover of darkness,
like the darkness of rich soil sprouting seeds,
or like the darkness of the womb that cradles new life.
May the Incarnate One be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.
The darkness and the light sing glory unto Christ.

Lead us in the darkness and the light by the Spirit of Christ, our Hope.

Sung Words of Institution

Verses 1 & 2: Pastor, Verse 3: All



3. So, we thank You for _ the wine _ and for the bread; _ For we



see the life _ You gave _ and the blood You _ shed. And we re -

-mem - ber Your won - drous _ love, You gave Your bod - y, You shed Your _
 blood; And we re - mem - ber Your won - drous _
 love, You gave Your bod - y, You shed Your _ blood.

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Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,

now and forever. Amen.

Invitation

Amazing Grace Lutheran Church practices open communion. Whether you are a member of AGLC or not, you are invited to the table that is set by Christ for you.

God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

Distribution

P: The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

The wine used in worship is alcohol-free. Gluten-free bread is available upon request.

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 - gría. 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, Marcílio de Oliveira Filho, 1947–2005

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Comfort, Comfort Now My People
Lost In the Night
The King Shall Come

ELW 256
ELW 243
ELW 260

Prayer after Communion

Generous God,

We thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name. Amen.

Announcements

GO:

We go into the world, sent by God, to serve all people in the name of Jesus.

Benediction

God of endings and beginnings,
God in the darkness and the light,
God, our hope for the journey,
✠ bless and keep you now and forever.

Amen.

People, Look East



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
 4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
 plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
 bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
 life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
 that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
 bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
 with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
 east. and sing to - dav— Love. the Lord. is on the wav.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965

Music: BESANÇON, French carol

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Dismissal

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

Thanks be to God!