

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:

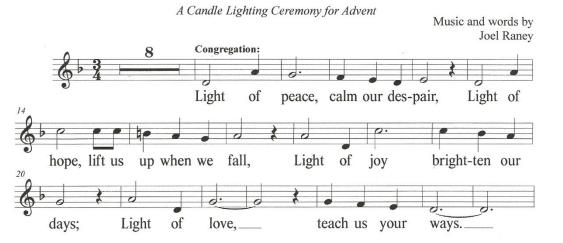
We gather as people of God, a family of faith.

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



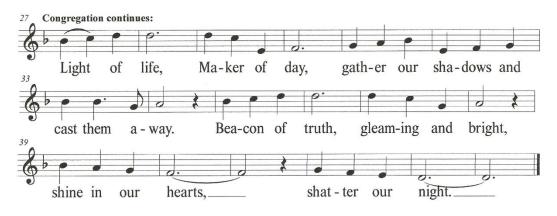
Light of Hope

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.** 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.



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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.

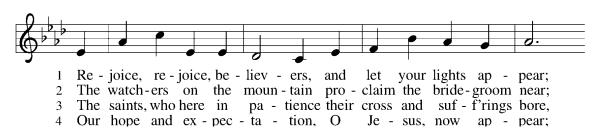
God of might, we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.

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

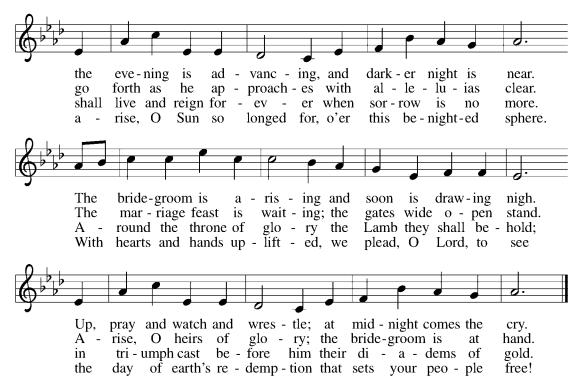
A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through + Christ Jesus, whose day draws near. Amen.

Gathering Hymn: Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

ELW 244



Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



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

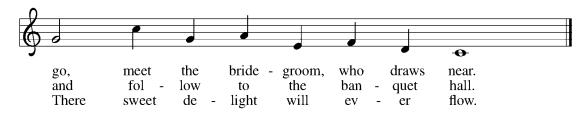
Pastor Tim Maybee

Hymn of the Day: Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

ELW 436

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

Wake, a - wake, for night is fly ing, the watch-men 1 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 the heights are cry - ing; a - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, at last. on 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 the and at es. friend comes down, all Her dear 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. with an - gel choirs a - round your throne. bliss be-yond all dream-ing, The bride - groom comes! A - wake; your lamps with glad - ness take!" Now come, 0 Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son. No eye has caught the light, no ear the thun-d'ring might Rise Al - le - lu ia! the feast to and pre - pare share: Sing ho - san na! Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all, of such glo There will what joy we'll ry. we go: know!



Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608; tr. composite Music: WACHET AUF, Philipp Nicolai Text © 1999 Augsburg Fortress

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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



Text: Paul Damico-Carper, b. 1981, based on Luke 1:46-55 Music: ADVENT MAGNIFICAT, Paul Damico-Carper Text and music © 2013 Augsburg Fortress

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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.**

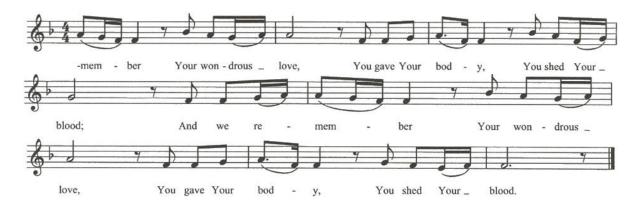
We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you created light and darkness, day and night, and you set the sun, moon, and stars in the sky. In a pillar of fire by night and a pillar of cloud by day you led your people into freedom. Lead us in the darkness and the light by the Spirit of Christ, our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





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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.

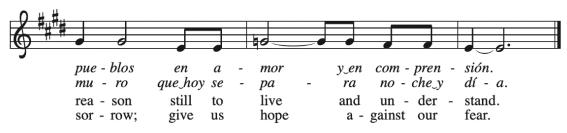
Invitation

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.*





Text: Jaci Maraschin, 1929–2009, Portuguese and English; Spanish tr. Jorge Rodríguez Music: JESUS NOSSA ESPERANÇA, Marcílio de Oliveiro Filho, 1947–2005 Text © 1987, 1989 World Council of Churches. All rights reserved. Music © 1989 Marcílio de Oliveiro Filho, admin. World Council of Churches

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Comfort, Comfort Now My People	ELW 256
Lost In the Night	ELW 243
The King Shall Come	ELW 260

Prayer after Communion

Generous God,

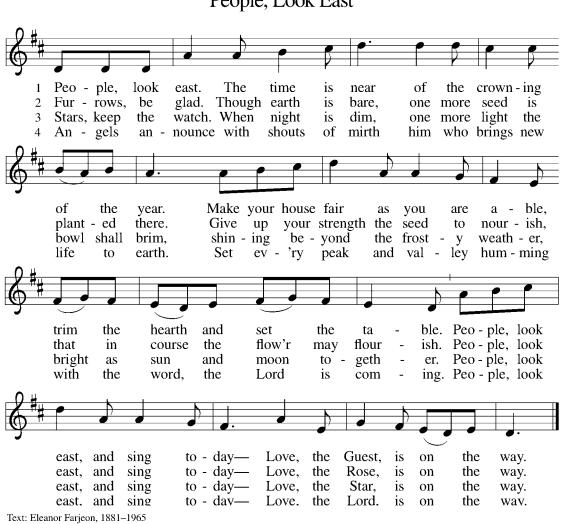
We thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name. Amen.

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.



Music: BESANCON, French carol

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Dismissal

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel. Thanks be to God!

Postlude: People Look East

arr. Paul Taylor

People, Look East