



The Third Sunday in Advent
December 15, 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: In the Bleak Midwinter
Joy to the World

Dan Chadburn
arr. Melody Bober

Welcome (Tanzania Delegation)

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 image shows three staves of musical notation 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, then continues with a melody. The lyrics are written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody and lyrics. The third staff concludes the piece with a final note and a fermata.

Responsive Litany and Candle Lighting begins here

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

Love is more than a flicker within the human heart.

Lord, reveal your love and make us new.

In a hurried world with little time for others, Advent calls us to remember that...

Love is patient.

In a world where we often become consumed by our own interests, Advent calls us to remember that...

Love is kind.

In a world where we often are quick to anger and slow to forgive, Advent calls us to remember that...

Love is not easily angered, and through love we come to forgive.

This Advent let us behold the love of God embodied in our Savior's birth.

God is love. Whoever lives in love, lives in God, and God lives in them.

The first, second, and third candles are lit.

This morning we light three candles. The first candle reminds us of the marvelous hope revealed through the Savior's birth. In a time of despair, God shattered the darkness with the hope of a new future. The second candle reminds us of the peace that only Christ can instill in the human heart. In a world that abounds with hostility, Christ alone is the One who speaks, "Peace, be still." The third candle helps us remember that God's perfect love made flesh can fill our hearts, ignite our souls, and change our lives.

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.

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.

Joy to the World



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

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 the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Hymn: Zulu Carol

Traditional South African Carol

Verse 1-2: Call and Response, Verse 3-4: Sing together Verse 5: Call and Response-slower

Ending: Repeat the last line several times and get softer.

Zulu Carol

U ya ngin tan da, u nku-lu nku - lu. U yangin tan da, um sin di si, ngiya pin-da

ngi - ti, on gi tan da yo, on gi tan da yo, u nku-lu nku - lu. U ya ngin

da yo, u nku-lu nku - lu, u nku - lu nku - lu, u nku - lu nku - lu.

Traditional South African Carol.

Adaptation by Charlotte Diamond.

Arranged by Paul Gitlitz.

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Pronunciation: *a* as in *father*, *e* as the *a* is in *mate*, *i* as in *machine*, *o* as in *pole*, *u* as in *rule*

Zulu:

U ya ngin tan-da (U ya ngin tan-da)
U,nkulu u,nkulu (U,nkulu u,nkulu)
U ya ngin tan-da (U ya ngin tan-da)
U'm sin di-si (U'm sin di-si)
Ngi'ya pinda ngiti (Ngi'ya pinda ngiti)
On gi tan dai-yo (On gi tan dai-yo)
On gi tan dai-yo (On gi tan dai-yo)
U,nkulu u,nkulu (U,nkulu u,nkulu)

English:

I am beloved
by the Almighty
I am beloved
Love heals me
I say again that
I am beloved
and that I love
the Almighty

Ending: repeat last line several times getting softer and softer

GROW:

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

Tanzania Temple Talk

Annie and Mark Morgan

First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-20

The prophet Zephaniah's message is mostly one of judgment for sin. This reading, however, which comes from the conclusion of the book, prophesies joy for Judah and Jerusalem. Judgment has led to repentance, and God's salvation is at hand.

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!

¹⁵The Lord has taken away the judgments against you,
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.

¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Do not fear, O Zion;

do not let your hands grow weak.

¹⁷The Lord, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing
¹⁸as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

¹⁹I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.

And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.

²⁰At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised

among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

Despite being in prison, Paul is remarkably upbeat as he writes this letter. Here, he urges his friends in Philippi to trust God with all their worries and concerns with the hope that they will experience God's joy and peace.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia!

Alleluia!

I am sending my messenger before you,
who will prepare your way before you.

Alleluia!

Alleluia!

Gospel Reading: Luke 3:7-18

⁷John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?" ⁸Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

¹⁰And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" ¹¹In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." ¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" ¹³He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts

concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

¹⁸So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.
The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ!

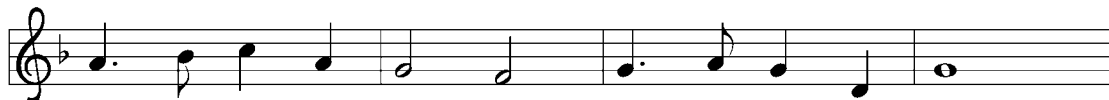
Message

Pastor Tim Maybee

Hymn of the Day: In the Bleak Midwinter

ELW 294

In the Bleak Midwinter



1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor earth sus - tain;
3 What . . . can I give him, poor as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;
If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;



snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed
if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;



in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.
yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830–1894

Music: CRANHAM, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934

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 who reforms, fill your church with courage to do your will. Empower your people in taking risks that bear fruit. Raise up leaders who will proclaim the good news. Lord, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

God who creates, you hold in balance diverse ecosystems. Encourage efforts to protect wild lands from devastation. Care for animals and people in the path of destructive fires, storms, and other disasters. Lord, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

God who leads, this world cries out for true justice. Guide legislatures, judges, and lawyers in actions steeped in love and restoration. Increase the desire to advocate for all who are confronted with discrimination and oppression based on race, gender, sexuality, class, or age. Lord, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

God who embraces, help us notice the places where your people are hurting or sick. Show your compassion and remember your people in love. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God who abides, you dwell among the people of this congregation. Deepen our relationships with one another, and make us aware of the diverse talents and gifts present here. Lord, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God who consoles, we thank you for the time we have had with loved ones who have died. Comfort us with the promise of everlasting life in you. 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

Text and music © 2013 Augsburg Fortress

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 proclaim 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 - fic - 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
Text © 1987, 1989 World Council of Churches. All rights reserved.
Music © 1989 Marcílio de Oliveira Filho, admin. World Council of Churches

**Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence
In Thee is Gladness
He Came Down**

**ELW 490
ELW 867
ELW 253**

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.

We Are Marching in the Light of God



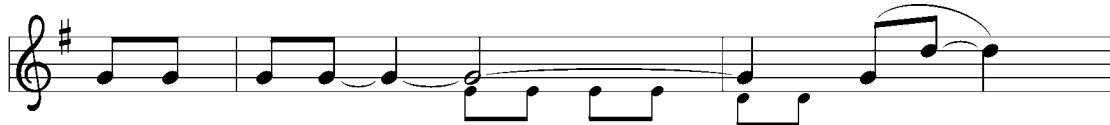
Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha -
 We are march - ing in the light of God, we are march - ing in the



nyen' kwen - khos'. Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos',
 light of God. We are march - ing in the light of God,



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
 we are march - ing in the light of God.



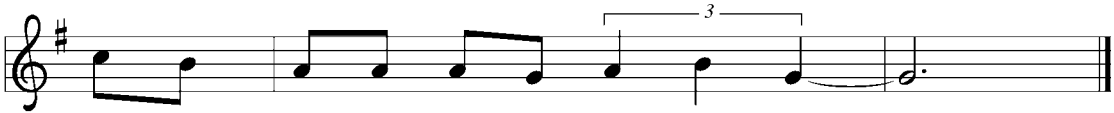
Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) OO
 We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) OO



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
 we are march - ing in the light of God.



Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) OO
 We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) OO



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
we are march - ing in the light of God.

Additional stanzas ad lib.:

We are dancing ...

We are praying ...

We are singing ...

Text: South African traditional; tr. Freedom Is Coming, 1984

Music: SIYAHAMBA, South African traditional

Tr. © 1984 Utryck, admin. Walton Music Corp.

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Dismissal

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

Thanks be to God!

Postlude: Nokobe

(drum rhythm) from the Ewe Tribe, Ghana, Africa