

Listen for the Announcements

December 10,
2023



Second Sunday of
Advent

WELCOME, GUESTS!!! We are so glad you came! If you have any questions or would like more information about our church, any member of Grace would be happy to speak with you. Please take the time to fill out a guest register at the church's entrance. Restrooms are located to the left as you exit the sanctuary. Congregational responses are indicated by indent and boldened letters.

THEME FOR TODAY'S READINGS – Since Jesus' coming is sure and so important, he sends out forerunners in the footsteps of St. John the Baptist, who helps us prepare properly for his coming. They do it with the message that he himself has given. Pay close attention to the heralds of the coming Lord, the prophets and apostles, and the pastors and teachers in our midst who have succeeded them to prepare us for his coming.

MORNING PRAYER - Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming, give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

ADVENT SEASON –Jesus came to accomplish our redemption. He comes today in the means of grace to distribute salvation, and he will come again on the last day with our resurrection. The candle lighting focuses our attention on Jesus, our brother, and the light of the world.

The advent candles are set on an octagon, the eighth day when Christ arose. Each of the four candles represents a thousand years from the promise to the fulfillment of the prophecy. The second candle is the "Bethlehem Candle," to remember the love of Christ which came through the manger.

ORDER FOR TODAY'S SERVICE: COMMON WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION– CW, p.15

OPENING HYMN:

#20

WHEN ALL THE WORLD WAS CURSED

****Please Stand for The Last Verse****



1 When all the world was cursed By Mo - ses' con - dem -
2 Be - fore Saint John was born, He leaped in joy - ful
3 Be - hold the Lamb of God, Who bears the world's trans -
4 Oh, grant, dear Lord of love, That we re - ceive, re -



na - tion, Saint John the Bap - tist came With
meet - ing, Con - fess - ing him as Lord Whose
gres - sion, Whose sac - ri - fice re - moves The
joic - ing, The word pro - claimed by John, Our



words of con - so - la - tion. With true fore - run - ner's
moth - er he was greet - ing. By Jor - dan's roll - ing
dev - il's dread op - pres - sion. Be - hold the Lamb of
true re - pent - ance voic - ing, That glad - ly we may



zeal The great - er one he named, And him, as
stream, A new E - li - jah bold, He tes - ti -
God, Who takes a - way our sin, Who for our
walk Up - on our Sav - ior's way Un - til we



yet un - known, As Sav - ior he pro - claimed.
fied of him Whom proph - ets had fore - told.
peace and joy Will full a - tone - ment win.
live with him In his e - ter - nal day.

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635–1711, abr.; tr. Paul E. Kretzmann, 1883–1965, alt.
Tune: WAS FRAG ICH NACH DER WELT (67 67 66 66) Ahasverus Fritsch, 1629–1701, alt.



In the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

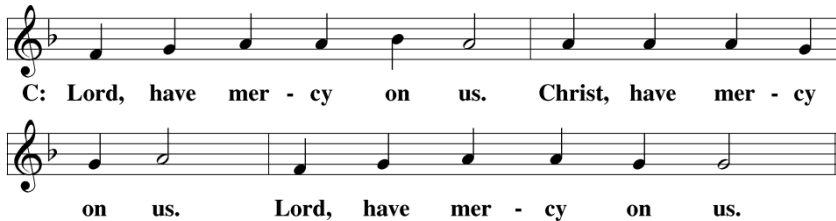
CONFESSION OF SINS

Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this, I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner. Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

KYRIE



God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.



PRAYER AND PRAISE

In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

GLORY BE TO GOD

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS





O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the
sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the
sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer. You sit at the right hand of
God the Father; have mercy on us. For you on-ly are holy;
you on-ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the Ho-ly Spirit,
are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY



C: And al - so with you.

The Lord be with you.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

****Please Be Seated****

FIRST LESSON:

Isaiah 40: 1 – 11

The message of God's messengers has not changed. It is a message that prepares us for his coming both at Christmas and on the Last Day. The messenger cries out: We are nothing; He is everything. We are born to die; He comes to give life.

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call out to her. Her warfare really is over. Her guilt is fully paid for. Yes, she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice is calling out: In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord.

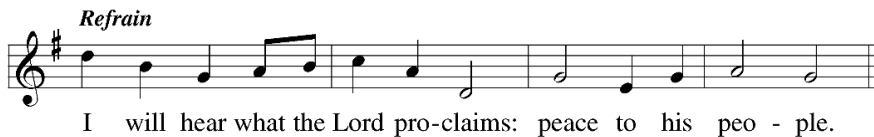
In the wasteland make a level highway for our God. ⁴Every valley will be raised up, and every mountain and hill will be made low. The rugged ground will become level, and the rough places will become a plain. Then the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all flesh together will see it. Yes, the mouth of the Lord has spoken. A voice was saying, "Cry out!"

And I said, "What shall I cry out?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like a wildflower in the countryside. Grass withers, flowers fade, when the breath of the Lord blows on them. Yes, the people are grass. Grass withers, flowers fade, but the Word of our God endures forever.

Get up on a high mountain, O Zion, you herald of good news. Lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, you herald of good news. Lift it up! Do not be afraid! Say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" Look, God the Lord will come with strength, and his arm is ruling for him. Look, his reward is with him. The result of his work is in front of him. Like a shepherd he will are for his flock. With his arm he will gather the lambs. He will lift them up on his lap. He will gently lead the nursing mothers.

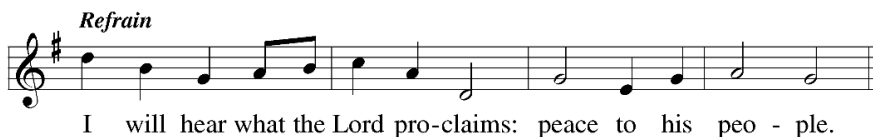
PSALM OF THE DAY:

PSALM 85



You showed favor to your land, O LORD;*
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
You forgave the iniquity of your people*
and covered all their sins.
Show us your unfailing love, O LORD,*
and grant us your salvation.

Refrain



I will listen to what God the LORD will say;*
 he promises peace to his people, his saints.
 Surely his salvation is near those who fear him,*
 that his glory may dwell in our land.
 Love and faithfulness meet together;*
 righteousness and peace kiss each other.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

2 PETER 3: 8 – 14

A little child keeps asking during Advent: Is Christmas here yet? With like eagerness we ask the Savior King's messenger: How come it takes so long? The messenger assures us that the promise of his final coming also will be kept, just as surely as the promise of his first coming was kept.

But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: For the Lord, one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow to do what he promised, as some consider slowness. Instead, he is patient for your sakes, not wanting anyone to perish, but all to come to repentance.

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. On that day the heavens will pass away with a roar, the elements will be dissolved as they burn with great heat, and the earth and what was done on it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be destroyed, what kind of people ought you to be, living in holiness and godliness, as you look forward to and hasten the coming of the day of God? That day will cause the heavens to be set on fire and destroyed, and the elements to melt as they burn with great heat. But according to his promise we look forward to new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

Therefore, dear friends, as you look forward to these things, make every effort to be found in peace, spotless and blameless in his sight.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. All mankind will see God's salvation. Alleluia. (Luke 3:4, 6 cf. NIV)



GOSPEL

MARK 1: 1 – 8

Since he is coming both to destroy and to save, the sending of forerunners to help us prepare is a special mark of the Savior's grace and kindness. Notice the forerunner's humility: He is not even fit to untie the shoes of the one whose coming he proclaims.

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:

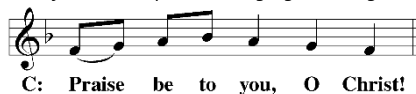


The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. This is how it is written in the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare the way for you. A voice of one calling out in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord. Make his paths straight."

John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him. They were baptized by him in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins. John was clothed in camel's hair, and he wore a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. He preached, "One more powerful than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals! I baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

****Please Be Seated****

HYMN OF THE DAY:

#16

ON JORDAN'S BANKS THE BAPTIST'S CRY

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc -
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin And fur -
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref -
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, And lift
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, Whose ad -

es that the Lord is nigh; Come, then, and lis - ten,
 nished for a guest with - in, And let us all our
 uge and our great re - ward. With - out your grace we
 us up to fall no more. Oh, make your face on
 vent has our free - dom won, Whom with the Fa - ther

for he brings Good news a - bout the King of kings.
 hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
 us to shine, And fill the world with love di - vine.
 we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. John Chandler, 1806–76, st. 1-3, alt.; composite, st. 4-5.
 Tune: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR (LM) Latin melody, 15th century, adapt.

SERMON TEXT

SERMON:

MARK 1: 1 – 8

THE ONE MOST POWERFUL COMES

CREATE IN ME

C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men.

Please Be Seated

OFFERING – Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 9: 7: “Each one should give as he has determined in his heart, not reluctantly or under pressure, for God loves a cheerful giver.” This service is our gift to our guests; should you feel obliged to give, we thank you for your generosity.

ADVENT PRAYER

Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent’s head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

Move us to take to heart the words of John: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.”

You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.

Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

LORD’S PRAYER

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.

Please Be Seated

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

#376

JESUS, YOUR BLOOD AND RIGHTEOUSNESS

1 Je - sus, your blood and right - eous - ness My beau - ty
2 Bold shall I stand in that great day— Who can a
3 Lord, I be - lieve your pre - cious blood, Which at the
4 Lord, I be - lieve were sin - ners more Than sands up -
5 When from the dust of death I rise To claim my

are, my glo - rious dress; Mid flam - ing worlds, in
word a - gainst me say? Ful - ly through you ab -
ver - y throne of God For - ev - er will for
on the o - cean shore, You have for all a
man - sion in the skies, E'en then this shall be



these ar - rayed, With joy shall I lift up my head.
 solved I am From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.
 sin - ners plead, For me—e'en for my soul—was shed.
 ran - som paid, For all a full a - tone - ment made.
 all my plea: Je - sus has lived and died for me.

6 Jesus, be worshiped endlessly!
 Your boundless mercy has for me,
 For me and all your hands have made,
 An everlasting ransom paid.

Text: Nicolaus L. von Zinzendorf, 1700–60, abr.; tr. John B. Wesley, 1703–91, alt.
 Tune: ST. CRISPIN (LM) George J. Elvey, 1816–93.

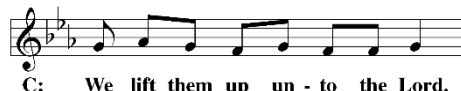
****Please Stand****

THE SACRAMENT



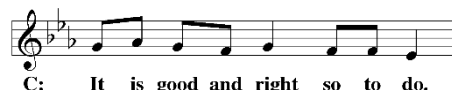
C: And al - so with you.

The Lord be with you.



C: We lift them up un - to the Lord.

Lift up your hearts.



C: It is good and right so to do.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and host in heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -

na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -

na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my (†) body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my (†) blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

C: A - men.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

AGNUS DEI

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;

have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,

you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION – Please come forward at the direction of our usher. We do practice close communion according to Paul’s guidance in 1 Corinthians 11:27: “For if anyone eats and drinks in an unworthy manner because he does not recognize the Lord’s body, he eats and drinks judgment upon himself.” Therefore, if you are not a member of the ELS or WELS, please talk to Pastor Emmons before communing. Thank you for respecting our practices.

****Please Stand****

SONG OF SIMEON



CLOSING PRAYER

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it, you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

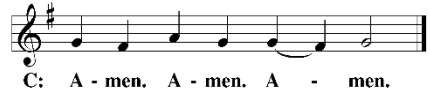


BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord, make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (†) give you peace.



****Please Be Seated****

CLOSING HYMN:

#508

GRACIOUS SAVIOR, GENTLE SHEPHERD



1 Gra - cious Sav - ior, gen - tle Shep - herd, Chil - dren all are
 2 Ten - der Shep - herd, nev - er leave them, Nev - er let them
 3 By your ho - ly Word in - struct them; Fill their minds with
 4 Taught to love the ho - ly prais - es Which on earth your



dear to you; May your lov - ing arms en - fold them
 go a - stray; By your warn - ing love di - rect - ed,
 heav'n - ly light. By your pow'r - ful grace con - vince them
 chil - dren sing, With their lips and hearts, sin - cere - ly,



In your care their whole life through. Gent - ly tend and
 May they walk the nar - row way. Thus di - rect them,
 Al - ways to ap - prove what's right. Let them feel your
 Glad thank - of - f'ings may they bring, Then with all the



safe - ly keep them In your mer - cy strong and true.
 thus de - fend them Lest they fall an eas - y prey.
 yoke is eas - y; Let them find your bur - den light.
 saints in glo - ry Join to praise their Lord and King.

Text: Jane E. Leeson, 1809–81, abr., adapt., alt.

Tune: SIEH, HIER BIN ICH, EHRENKÖNIG (87 87 87) *Geistreiches Gesang-Buch*, Darmstadt, 1698.

WHAT WE BELIEVE:

- Every word of the Bible is inspired, inerrant, and the only source of absolute truth.
- The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit form the triune God and is the only true God.
- All humans are born dead in sin and deserve eternal condemnation.
- Jesus Christ is the true God; he was conceived in Mary's womb by the Holy Spirit, adding a human nature to His divine nature.
- Only through His perfect work of redemption, which includes His perfect life, and innocent death, are all sins for all people forgiven and given credit for His perfect life.
- Only those whom the Holy Spirit, through Word and Baptism, blesses with faith in Jesus' redemptive work receive the benefit of it.
- The day is drawing near when Jesus will return to take all believers to heaven, condemn all unbelievers to eternal torment and destroy this present world.

The Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version® (EHV®) copyright © 2017 The Wartburg Project. All rights reserved. www.wartburgproject.org
Refrain Tune: From The Psalmody for the Day, Series C. © 1976 Fortress Press. All rights reserved. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress.
Lectionary listings from Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal © 1993 Northwestern Publishing House. All rights reserved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Advent Services – Our focus of our Advent Services “The Father’s plan of salvation is sending His Son; His Son comes as...” We will consider:

December 13 – Isaiah 9 “The light overcomes the darkness.”

Christmas Eve – Jeremiah 23 “Our shepherd leads us”

Christmas Day (10:30) – John 1 “The Word has come”

Our midweek will have a soup supper prior to the service at 6 pm; with the service at 7 pm. Christmas Eve services will also be at 7 pm with cookies and treats afterwards.

Christmas Service Schedule – We will have our Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 pm. Our Christmas day service will be 10:30 am with no Bible study or Sunday School on Christmas day. Since we have only two children in our congregation, it is time to be a child again, and overcome all the fears you had of presenting the Christmas story, or maybe you did not get to be in the program as a child. Here is your opportunity to bless our congregation, Pastor Emmons is looking for readers to volunteer to read (you don’t even have to memorize this time.)

Sunday Morning Bible Study –For the Month of December we are going to return our attention to where we left off in the book of Acts. Email any questions or topics to Pastor Emmons. Please feel free to come and go as you like; all reading is voluntary.

Adopt a Seminarian – Please keep our adopted Seminarian, Peter Estrem, in your prayers; You can also mail him cards and letters of encouragement to 6 Browns Court, Mankato, MN 56001. We hope to connect this student with our congregation.

Council Members needed – In May you have an opportunity to serve our congregation. We will be holding elections for the Vice-president and Treasurer. These are 3-year terms currently held by Mike Hanson and Greg Port (respectively.) Mike is eligible to serve one more term and Greg has asked to step down from his position. Please consider serving, your church needs you.

Pastor: Roger Emmons

Email: Roger.emmons@graceredmond.com

Web Site: <https://graceredmond.com>

Church Phone: 541-844-7100

Cell Phone: 541-699-7643

Address: 945 SW Glacier Ave
Redmond, OR 97756

Mailing Address: PO Box 2396
Redmond, OR 97756