

Our Kings Second Coming is Coming

December 31,
2023



First Sunday after
Christmas

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.

TODAY'S FOCUS: There are two great miracles in Christmas: the one that God has become man for us and for our salvation, and that he in grace reveals the first miracle even to me and blesses me with all its benefits.

MORNING PRAYER: Almighty God, in mercy you sent your one and only Son to take upon himself our human nature. By his gracious coming deliver us from the corruption of our sin and transform us into the likeness of his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

ORDER FOR TODAY'S SERVICE: SERVICE OF THE WORD AND SACRAMENT— CW, p.26

The "Service of Word and Sacrament" is a version of the historic liturgy of the Christian church.



OPENING HYMN:

#80

ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY

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



1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er
2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your
3 Ma - gi, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; Brigh - ter vi - sions
4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, Watch - ing long in



all the earth; Once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry;
flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing—
beam a - far. Seek the great de - sire of na - tions;
hope and fear, Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,



Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
Yon - der shines the in - fant light. Come and wor - ship,
You have seen the Sav - ior's star.
In his tem - ple shall ap - pear.



come and wor - ship, Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, abr., alt.

Tune: REGENT SQUARE (87 87 87) Henry T. Smart, 1813–79.

The grace of our Lord (†) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also, with you.

(2 Corinthians 13:14)

CONFESSION OF SINS

God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

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.

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.

Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

KYRIE

For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.



For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.



For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

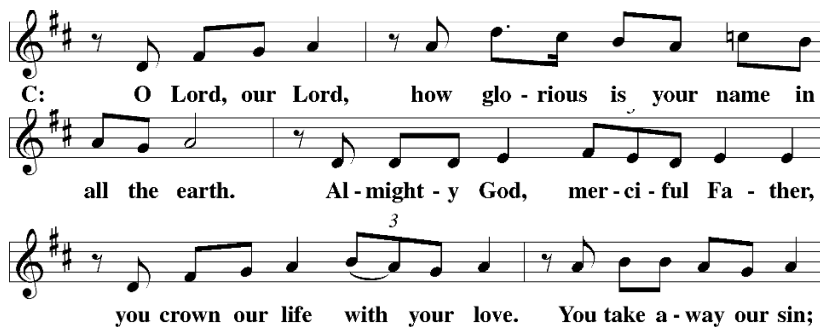


Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:



The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise. (*Psalm 145:3*)

O LORD, OUR LORD



you com - fort our spir - it; you make us pure and
ho - ly in your sight. You did not spare your on - ly Son,
but gave him up for us all. O Lord, our Lord,
how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.
O Son of God, e - ter - nal Word of the Fa - ther,
you came to live with us; you made your Fa - ther known;
you washed us from our sins in your own blood. You are the
King of glo - ry; you are the Lord! O Lord, our Lord,
how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, in mercy you sent your one and only Son to take upon himself our human nature. By his gracious coming deliver us from the corruption of our sin and transform us into the likeness of his glory; through 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 45: 20 - 25**


Already those who do not know the real miracle of Christmas are putting away its tinsel and other trappings. They have passed by the peasant couple and their Child. But to us the real miracle has been revealed. To us God has made known his salvation in this little Child of Bethlehem. In him and in none other God will accomplish our salvation and the redemption of the world.

Gather! Come! Draw near together, you survivors from the nations. They have no knowledge—those who are lifting up their idols of wood and praying to a god that cannot save. Make an announcement and come close. Let them consult together. Who made this known ahead of time? From time past who announced it? Was it not I, the Lord? There is no god except me, a righteous God and Savior. There is no one except me. Turn to me and be saved, all you ends of the earth, because I am God, and there is no other. I have sworn by myself.


From my mouth a righteous word has gone out, and it will not return unfulfilled. Indeed, to me every knee will bow, and every tongue will swear allegiance. “Only in the Lord,” they will say of me, “Only in the Lord is there true righteousness and strength.” To him they will come and be ashamed—all those who are angry at him. In the Lord, all the descendants of Israel will be justified. They will be praised by him.

PSALM OF THE DAY:**PSALM 111**

Refrain




Sing to the Lord a new song, for



he has done mar - vel - ous things.

Psalm tone



*

Refrain

Great are the works of the LORD;*
they are pondered by all who delight in them.
Glorious and majestic are his deeds,*
and his righteousness endures forever.
He has caused his wonders to be remembered;*
the LORD is gracious and compassionate.



Refrain

The works of his hands are faithful and just;*
all his precepts are trustworthy.
He provided redemption for his people;*
he ordained his covenant forever.
The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;*
all who follow his precepts have good understanding.
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

COLOSSIANS 3: 12 – 17

The noise of the world's Christmas is passing away. The joy of our Christmas is just beginning. For God without any prompting from us or merit in us has chosen us to be the bearers of his Son in the world.

Therefore, as God's elect, holy and loved, clothe yourselves with heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Bear with one another and forgive each other if anyone has a complaint against anyone else. Forgive, just as Christ forgave you. And, in addition to all these things, put on love, which ties things together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ control your hearts, to which you were also called, in one body. And be thankful.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, with gratitude in your hearts to God. And everything you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts. Alleluia. (Colossians 3:15a)

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

****Please Stand****

GOSPEL

LUKE 2: 25 – 40

Not everyone realized who had come to the temple that day. Most just passed by a peasant couple carrying a baby. But God for reasons of his own revealed himself to Simeon and Anna. They saw that the Child who had come to the temple was in fact The Temple, God's true and everlasting dwelling place with men.

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, waiting for the comfort of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. Moved by the Spirit he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary according to the law, Simeon took him into his arms and praised God. He said,

Lord, you now dismiss your servant in peace, according to your word, because my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.

Joseph and the child's mother were amazed at the things that were spoken about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Listen carefully, this child is appointed for the falling and rising of many in Israel and for a sign that is spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

Anna, a prophetess, was there. She was a daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old. She had lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, and then she was

a widow of eighty-four years. She did not leave the temple complex, since she was worshipping with fasting and prayers night and day. Standing nearby at that very hour, she gave thanks to the Lord. She kept speaking about the child to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had accomplished everything according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town, Nazareth. The child grew and became strong. He was filled with wisdom, and God's favor was on him.



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY:

#41

LET ALL TOGETHER PRAISE OUR GOD



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God Be - fore his
2 He leaves his heav'n - ly Fa - ther's throne, Is born an
3 He veils in flesh his pow'r di - vine A ser - vant's
4 A won - drous change which he does make: He takes our
5 He serves that I a lord may be - A great ex -



high - est throne; To - day he o - pens heav'n a - gain And
in - fant small, And in a man - ger, poor and lone, Lies
form to take; In want and low - li - ness must die Who
flesh and blood, And he con - ceals for sin - ners' sake His
change in - deed! Could Je - sus' love do more for me To



gives us his own Son, And gives us his own Son.
in a hum - ble stall, Lies in a hum - ble stall.
heav'n and earth did make, Who heav'n and earth did make.
maj - es - ty as God, His maj - es - ty as God.
help me in my need, To help me in my need?

6 For us he opens wide the door
Of paradise today.
The angel guards the gate no more;
To God our thanks we pay,
To God our thanks we pay.

Text: Nikolaus Herman, c. 1480–1561, abr.; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.
Tune: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN (86 866) Nikolaus Herman, c. 1480–1561.

*****Please Stand*****

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*****

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.

NEW YEAR’S EVE PRAYER

I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever.

Every day I will praise you and extol your name.

It is fitting, O Lord, in the final hours of this year, to express our gratitude for the countless gifts of grace we have received from you.

You have been faithful to your promises and loving toward all you have made.

You clothe your creation with beauty; you feed even the birds and tell us that we are much more valuable than they.

You know what we need, and you give us all good things.

Clothing and food, safety and health, possessions and money, even life itself—all these come to us from your generous hand.

We thank you for these blessings, and we ask that you continue to grant them to us.

We thank you especially for your Word and Holy Supper, which strengthen our faith, shield us from temptation, and equip us for service.

Increase our commitments to these precious gifts, so that we may continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

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

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, you have been gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, and rich in love. As you led your people Israel with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night, so lead us by the light of your Word that we may live our lives to your glory and be prepared to die in your peace.

We ask these things in the name of Jesus. In his name we began this year; in his name we bring it to a close. Amen.

THE 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.

THE SACRAMENT

The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts.



C: We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. Through his holy prophets, he promised a King to bring light to those living in darkness and in the shadow of death. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

SANCTUS

C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.

The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.

I will give you thanks, for you have be - come my sal -

va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.

The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

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.



****Please Be Seated****

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

O LIGHT OF GENTILE NATIONS

#78

1 O Light of Gen - tile na - tions, O
2 Dear Lord, your ser - vants meet you In
3 Lord, when life's trou - bles touch us, You
4 Let us, O Lord, be faith - ful Like

Sav - ior from a - bove, Drawn by your Spir - it's
ev - 'ry ho - ly place Where your true Word has
seem to hide your face, And through our tears we
Sim - eon to the end So that his prayer ex -

lead - ing, We come with joy and love In -
prom - ised That we should see your face. To -
of - ten Can scarce - ly sense your grace. Then
ul - tant May from our hearts as - cend: "O

to day your ho - ly tem - ple And wait with
day you still al - low us Who gath - er
be our joy and bright - ness, Our cheer in
Lord, now let your ser - vant De - part in

rev - 'rent mind As Sim - eon once had
round you here As In arms of faith to
pain and loss, Our sun in dark - est
peace, I pray, Since I have seen my



wait - ed His God and Lord to find.
hold you As did that a - ged seer.
ter - ror, The glo - ry round our cross.
Sav - ior And here be - held his day."

Text: Johann Franck, 1618–77, abr., adapt.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Tune: MUNICH (76 76 D) *Neu-vermehrtes . . . Gesangbuch*, 3rd ed., Meiningen, 1693, alt.

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****

THANK THE LORD



C: Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud - ly bear his name.



He re-news his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

CLOSING PRAYER

Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - - men.

BLESSING

Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

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:

#608

I FALL ASLEEP IN JESUS' WOUNDS

1 I fall a - sleep in Je - sus' wounds; There par - don for my
 2 In peace and joy I now de - part; God's child I am with
 sin a - bounds. Yea, Je - sus' blood and right - eous - ness
 all my heart. I thank you, death, for lead - ing me
 My beau - ty are, my glo - rious dress. In these be - fore
 To that true life, where I would be. So cleansed by Christ,
 my God I'll stand When I shall reach the heav'n - ly land.
 I fear not death. Lord Je - sus, strength - en now my faith.

Text: attr. Paul Eber, 1511–69; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
 Tune: VATER UNSER IM HIMMELREICH, DER DU (88 88 88) attr. Martin Luther, 1483–1546.

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.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday Morning Bible Study – For January, we will continue our study of the book of Acts. If you have questions or topics you desire to consider, please email them 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. Thank you to everyone who has sent him cards and letters; it means a lot to the seminarians.

Council Members Needed – Beginning in May, we offer an additional 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 can serve one more term; however, Greg has asked to step down from his position. Please consider serving; your church needs you; we need someone to assist with the church's financial matters and monthly council meeting—which you could attend via Zoom.

Council Meeting – Our council will meet on Friday, January 5, at Gene Baldwin's home. Please contact the council members if you have any concerns you need to have addressed.

Home Mission Convention – From January 28 to February 1, Pastor Emmons will attend the ELS Home Mission Convention in Dallas, TX. Should you have any emergency concerns, please contact Elder – Gene Baldwin at 541-610-9978.

Calendars – January calendars are available in the back of the church. Pastor Emmons emailed them yesterday; if you did not receive them as an email, contact Pastor Emmons

Midweek Bible Study – Tuesday Bible Studies will resume on January 9; we will continue studying Romans. We will meet at Pastor Emmons' home at 4384 SW 36th ST, Redmond, OR, or you can join us from the comfort of your home on Zoom. The meeting ID and password are below.

Zoom Meeting ID: 850 328 6057

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