GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

1200 River Road, Teaneck, NJ 07666 (201) 836-0994 THE REV. MARGARET NIEDERER – PASTOR (201) 403-4341 + pegniederer@gmail.com CAROL WEBER – CANTOR

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 1, 2024 10 AM



Advent is about the "coming days." God's people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a "righteous Branch to spring up for David." The Thessalonians awaited "the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints." Jesus' contemporaries hoped for the time "to stand before the Son of Man." With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in Word and Supper.

TOGETHER IN CHRIST

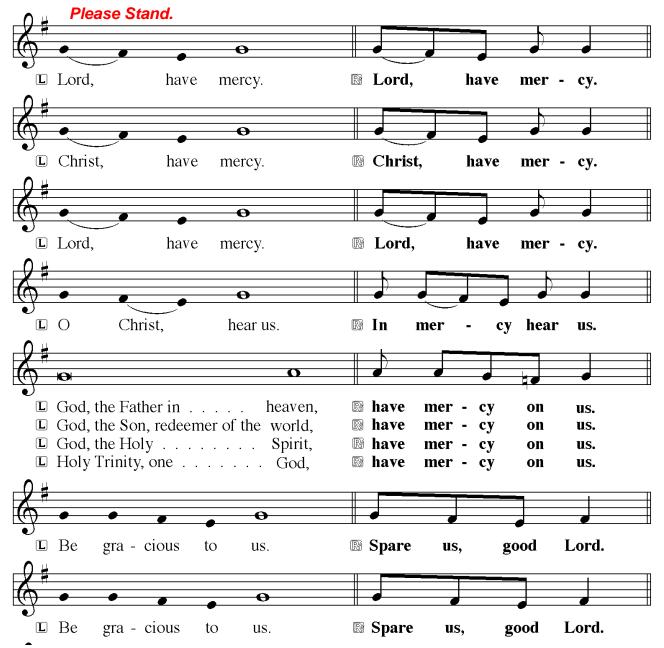
VISIT US AT:
WWW.GRACELUTHERANTEANECK.ORG
and on
Facebook

Welcome to worship!

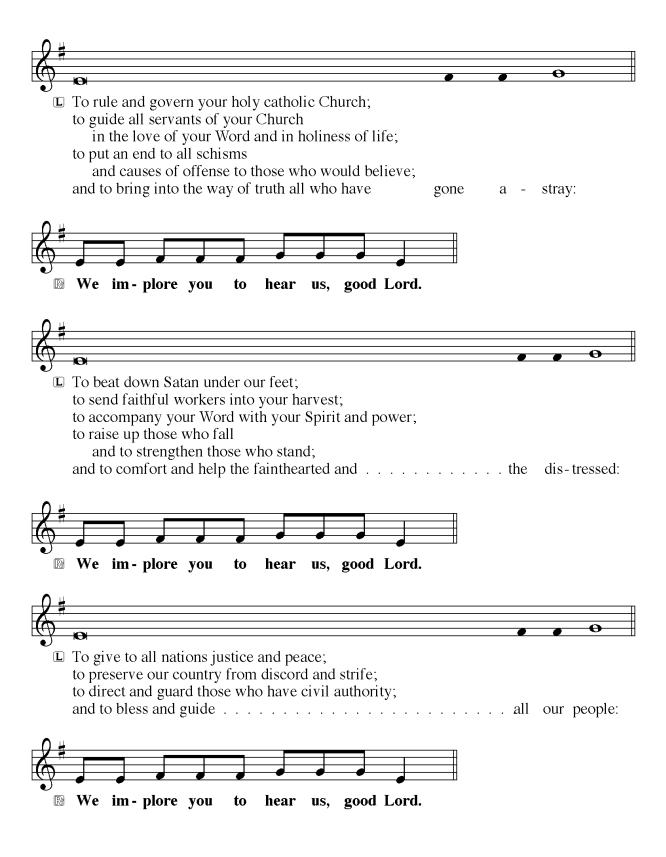
Masking is optional but recommended while indoors.

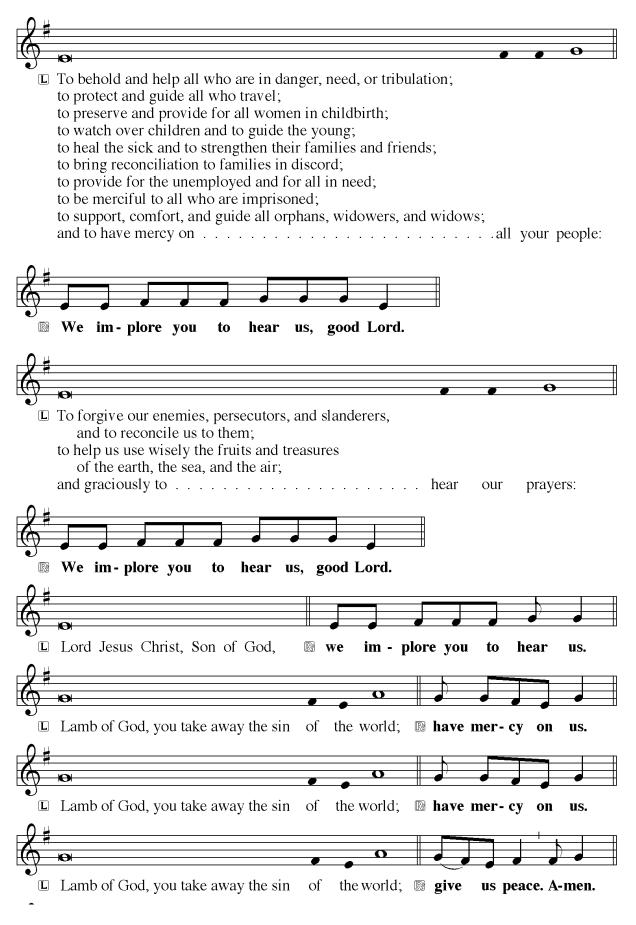
The Great Litany used the 1st Sunday of Advent is an intercessory prayer including various petitions that are said or sung by the leader with fixed responses by the congregation. It was used as early as the fifth century in Rome led by a deacon with the collects led by a bishop or priest. The Litany was the first English language rite prepared by Archbishop Thomas Cranmer. It was first published in 1544.

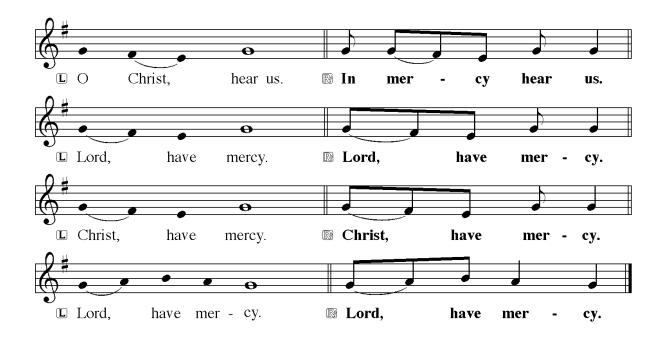
THE GREAT LITANY











PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P. The Lord be with you.
- C. And also with you.

P. Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C. Amen.

He

He

Lift

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH



lead

them

of

be

home-ward.

glo - ry.

shin - ing!

shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly

your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King

com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights



BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

P. We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the first candle on this wreath, rouse us from our sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels. Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

C. Amen.

Please be seated.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16

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.

A. A reading from Jeremiah, chapter 33.

¹⁴ The 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. ¹⁵ In 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. ¹⁶ In 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."

- A. The Word of God. The Word of life.
- C. Thanks be to God.

PSALM 25:1-10

Sung responsively to the following tone:



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress. May be reproduced by permission for local use only.

- ¹ To I you, O LORD, I lift I up my soul.
- ² My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph | over me.
- ³ Let none who look to you be ¹ put to shame; rather let those be put to shame ¹ who are treacherous.
- ⁴ Show me your | ways, O LORD, and teach | me your paths.
- ⁵ Lead me in your ^I truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all ^I the day long.
- ⁶ Remember, O LORD, your compas- I sion and love, for they are from I everlasting.
- ⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth and ^I my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your good- ^I ness, O LORD.
- 8 You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners | in your way.
- ⁹ You lead the low- I ly in justice and teach the low- I ly your way.
- ¹⁰ All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast | love and faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your | testimonies.

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.

A. A reading from 1st Thessalonians, chapter 3.

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

¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹² And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³ And 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.

- A. The Word of God. The Word of life.
- C. Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ALL SING)

Michael Krentz



Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, J. Walter, Geistliche Gesangbüchlein, 1524

Al - le - lu- ia, Al-le - lu - ia.

Verse (Choir)

Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation. (Ps. 85:7)

ALL REPEAT THE ALLELUIAS.

GOSPEL Luke 21:25-36

God will fulfill God's purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption.

P. The Holy Gospel According to Luke, chapter 21. C. Glory to you, O Lord.

[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. ²⁶ People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

²⁹ Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³ Heaven 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, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be 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."

P. The Gospel of the Lord.

C. Praise to you, O Christ

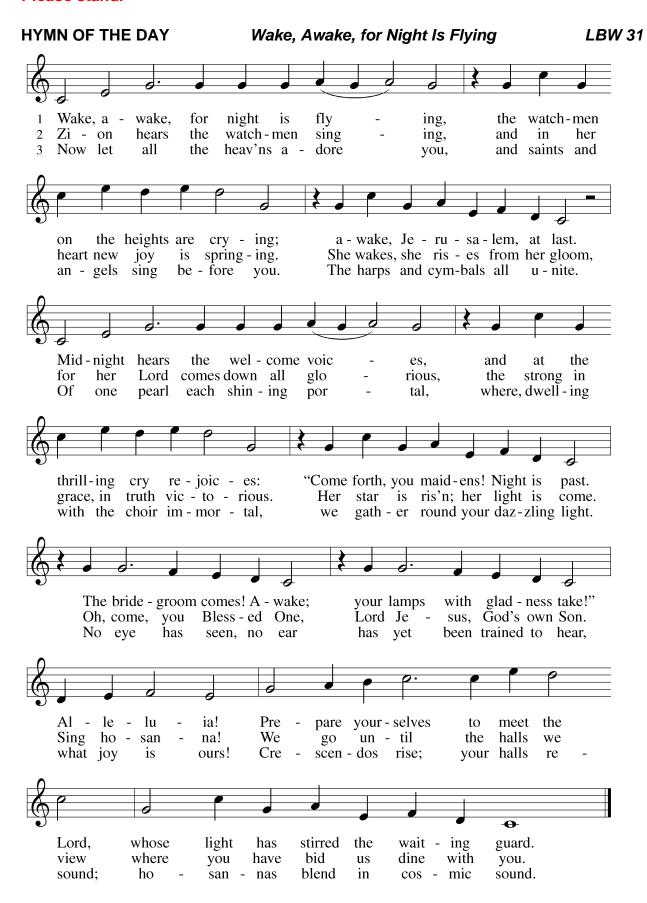
ALL REPEAT THE ALLELUIAS.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Peggy Niederer

Silence for Meditation



Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829 4878, alt. Music: WACHET AUF, Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608



NICENE CREED

A. Let us confess our faith with Christians throughout the world by using the 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 truly 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 with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Zulema Suarez

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. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of community, we pray for our partners in ministry here in Teaneck, in the Meadowlands Cluster, the Northern Mission District, the New Jersey Synod, Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the wider Christian Community, our friends from the Light and Peace Mission in Haiti, and people of faith everywhere, as they live out their calling to serve. 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, including those we pray for in silence or aloud (*pause*). 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.**

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

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

PEACE Please stay at your seat as you share a sign of peace.

- P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C. And also with you.

OFFERING

Please place your offering in the plate located on the table at the back of the sanctuary before or after Worship.

Please be seated.

OFFERTORY HYMN The King Shall Come LBW 33

- 1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri um-phant breaks,
- 2 Not as of old a lit-tle child, to bear and fight and die,
- 3 Oh, bright er than the ris ing morn when Christ, vic to rious, rose
- 4 Oh, bright er than that glo rious morn shall dawn up on our race
- 5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau ty brings.



when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes. but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky. and left the lone-some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes. the day when Christ in splen-dor comes, and we shall see his face. Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick-ly, King of kings.

Text: John Brownlie, 1859-1925

Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, Kentucky Harmony, 1816



Please stand.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A. Let us pray.

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.

C. Amen.

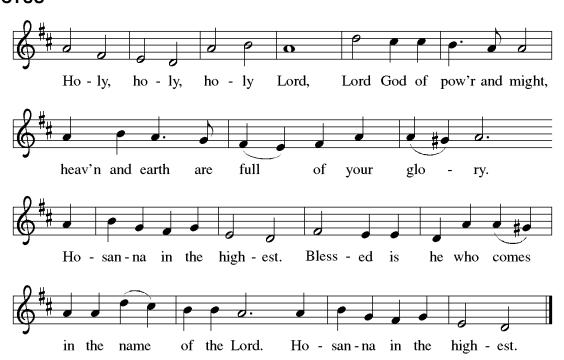
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

- P. The Lord be with you.
- C. And also with you.
- P. Lift up your hearts.
- C. We lift them to the Lord.
- P. Let us give thanks to the Lord.
- C. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THE PREFACE

P. It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Please kneel or sit.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P. Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,

The Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, Gave thanks, blessed and broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat. This is my body given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

And gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

Shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

C. Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P. With this bread and cup

We remember your Word dwelling among us,

full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

C. Come, Lord Jesus.

P. Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

C. Come, Holy Spirit.

P. All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God now and forever.

C. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

- P. Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we say the prayer that Jesus taught us:
- C. Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is 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,

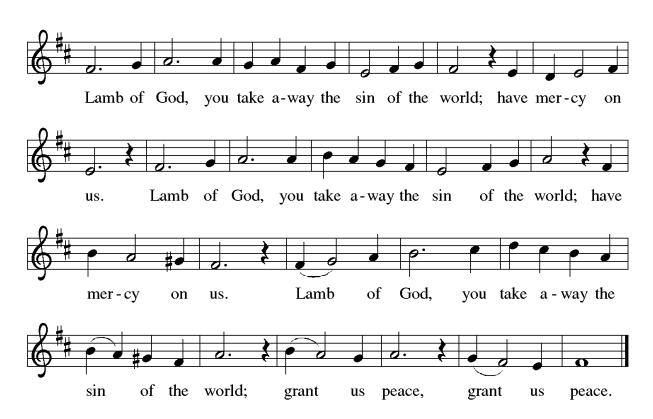
Now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. God feeds us with tender mercy.

Come to the table where all are welcome.

AGNUS DEI





CONTINUOUS COMMUNION

Please come forward for Communion following the Cantor/Choir, beginning with those in the back pews, from alternating sides, leaving adequate space between you and the person in front of you.

Masking is optional but recommended as you come forward to receive the wafer & cup until you step away from the communion tray.

A tray with individual cups is located in front of each pew section.

The center contains purple grape juice.

White wine is in the remainder of the tray.

After use, please deposit cup in receptacle at the end of pew section.

Baptized Christians who recognize the presence of Christ in the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins and eternal life are welcome to receive communion. If you have not yet been baptized or have never before received Holy Communion, you may come forward to receive a blessing. Fold your arms across your chest to let the Pastor know you wish to receive a blessing.

Please stand.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING:

- P. May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- C. Amen.



POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A. Let us pray:

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.

C. Amen.

BLESSING

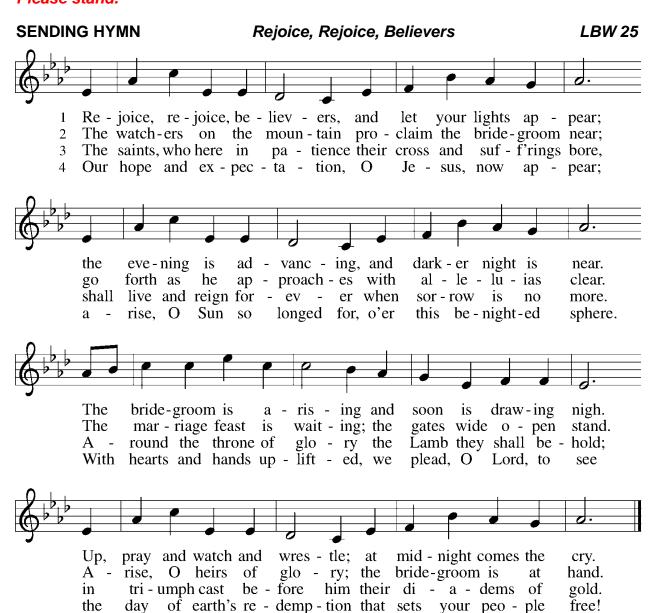
P. God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey, + bless and keep you now and forever.

C. Amen.

Please be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand.



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

DISMISSAL

- A. Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.
- C. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

Robert Hobby

OUR SPECIAL THANKS TODAY TO

Janet Thalmann, Greeter
Jack Martinez - Crucifer
Julie Buckingham, Liturgical Cantor
Sue Papera, Liturgist & Reader
Zulema Suarez, Prayers of Intercession
Sue Papera and Erika Ilgenfritz, Altar Guild

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS DEVOTIONALS & RESOURCES

Available on the round table near the entrance to the church.

POINSETTIA ORDERS DUE BY SUNDAY, DEC 8th

Order forms are available on the bulletin table.



After Mass Today

Coffee and Conversation

Bishop's Challenge

"God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and replentish it..."

Genesis 1:28

In care of God's creation:

We invite you to take your bulletin home for meditation and to remember those on our prayer list. If you choose not to, please place the bulletin on the table at the back of the church or place it in the large plastic bin on the floor near the mailboxes after Mass.

All cardboard and paper are recycled from those locations.

A recycle receptacle for plastic and glass is in the Memorial / Coffee Room



At Grace in Memorial Room Wednesday, December 4, at 1:30 PM



Thursday, December 5, at Noon Via Zoom "Preparing the Way"

Connection Link & Readings will be emailed.



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING PART 1 IN-PERSON AFTER MASS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2024

Included in the Agenda:

- 1. 2025 Proposed Budget
- 2. Election of Church Council
- 3. Grace's Voting Member(s) to the NJ Synod Assembly, which will be held Thursday through Saturday, June 5-7, 2025 at the Hilton, 3 Tower Center Blvd. East Brunswick, NJ
- 4. Copy of Proposed Amended Congregation's Constitution



WORSHIP ON WEDNESDAYS AT 12 NOON Dec 4, 11, 18

A Shared Advent Worship Series

"Restore Our Hope"
Held Each Week In-Person
Trinity Lutheran Church - 167 Palisade Ave, Bogota
Masking Optional.

SOUP & SANDWICHES FOLLOWING WORSHIP

Preachers:

December 4th Pastor Danielle McCleary – St Matthew, Secauscus December 11th Pastor Peggy Niederer – Grace, Teaneck December 18th Pastor Lisa Holliday – Trinity, Bogota



DECORATE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

Sunday, December 22nd after Mass



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24th

9:30 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Mass

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25th

11 AM Christmas Day Mass NOTE: 11 AM time is for Christmas Day only.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29th - 10 AM



Grace's Collection Chest is across from the baptismal font.

We will be collecting Non Perishable Food
Throughout Nov and Dec.
Collected items will be given to
Christ Church Food Pantry for Distribution.

Check to be sure the items are not near the expiration date.

No glass containers are accepted.

On behalf of those who receive these items: Thank you for your caring heart and sharing!

Requested items are:

Canned vegetables

Peanut butter

Jelly

Canned fruit

Boxes of pasta

Pasta sauce

Canned pasta (like Chef Boyardee)

Tuna

Mac & cheese

Rice (2 lb. bags preferred)

Pancake mix

Syrup

Cereal

Bottles of juice (especially apple juice)

Soup

Canned beans (especially black beans)

Canned meat (i.e. Spam, Hormel)

Boxed (shelf-stable) milk



PRAYERS

Joan Costello (Jackie's mother-in-law & Kaitlin's & Lindsay's grandmother); Carol Weber; Carol's family: Doris Baumann, Darla Lambson (leukemia); Brad Gohmann (cancer); Zulema's friends and family: **Donald Lazlear** and his family, **Katie and Surella** Borowski; Rose Davis (cancer); Marc & Bella Yaffe and Leslyn Cooke; Susan Bethke (Lynn's cousin undergoing chemo and other treatment for a brain tumor); Marion Soohoo (Will's Mother-in-law recovering from surgery); Sue Papera's friends and family: Arlene Rizzo (cancer) and Arlene's family; Chris Palmer (health concerns); Caleb (mental health issues); Jenny L. (health issues); Carol Mulvaney (breast cancer); Michael Mulvaney (prostate cancer); Edward Foley (back surgery); Janet's family and friends: Jason and Paul Thalmann; Beverly Philip (severe dementia), Kathy O'Brien, Bert Maltz (health concerns), Michele Rusciano; Al & Mark Crovatto; Anita & Harold Bontekoe (health concerns), Mary Ellen's family and friends: Susan Beever; Dominick Capalba (6 year old with brain cancer); Patty Fitzgerald (terminal lung cancer); Kay Roseen's family: Jessica and Casey O'Neil (Kay Roseen's daughter and son-in-law who work for the State Department); Marcia & Chuck Hendron (Kay's parents – memory care); John Steffen (Lorli's brother with health concerns); Tammy (Lorli's niece with an immune disorder); James Ilgenfritz (Erika's son); Peter Schelbli (Erika's nephew with cancer); Friends of the congregation: Kevin (cancer), Doris Feirer, Arouss Darpinian (health concerns); Chris Niederer (Pastor's son with immune system disorder); Dennis Keohane (Catherine's uncle); Willi Lewis' Aunt Kelly (health concerns); Donna Maxwell, James Mingo (Donna's grandson - health concerns); Hana Kim (health concerns); Mary Sue Kaplow (health concerns); (baby) Hannah Muñiz (a hospice patient where Jack works); Chris & Sara (parents-to-be) and Dominick (Donna Gentile's unborn great-nephew); Chris (Ruth DiCicco's daughter) & Bob Wheeler; (Paul Whelan, Evan Gershkovich, and Alsu Kurmasheva (recovering after release from Russian Prisons); the hostages in Gaza; Christians under persecution and all experiencing violence, captivity, or war: the people of Israel, Gaza, Palestine, Syria, Lebanon, Ukraine, Russia, Afghanistan, Sudan and organizations and individuals who are providing resources and care for refugees; front line workers, medical researchers; health care workers; national and regional relief workers and firefighters and all affected by natural disasters and wildfires.

Let Lynn or Pastor know of changes needed on the prayer list.



Upcoming Commemorations

Francis Xavier, missionary to Asia, died 1552 Tuesday, December 3, 2024

A native of the Basque region of Spain, Xavier became a missionary to India, Southeast Asia, Japan, and the Philippines. He also helped to found the Society of Jesus (Jesuits).

John of Damascus, theologian and hymnwriter, died around 749 Wednesday, December 4, 2024

A monk in an abbey near Jerusalem, John wrote many hymns as well as theological works. One of his works, The Fount of Wisdom, remained influential for centuries.

Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, died around 342 Friday, December 6, 2024

Little is known about Nicholas, except that he was a bishop in what is present-day Turkey. According to legend, he was famous for his giving to the poor, and so has become a symbol of anonymous gift-giving.

Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, died 397 Saturday, December 7, 2024

While a governor of northern Italy, Ambrose was elected bishop of Milan on the same day he was baptized. He was a famous preacher, a writer of hymns we still sing today, and helped lead St. Augustine to faith.

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