



The Gifts of Christmas

Ours to Receive

Grace Lutheran Church
Yorba Linda, California

December 20, 2020
4th Sunday in Advent

The Gifts of Christmas

Gifts! Amazon Prime has delivered them. You have ordered them. Or daringly went shopping for them. Perhaps there are some last minute gifts that you still have to find or some that still need to be wrapped. But finally it's time to give them and receive them.

God has provided us with the perfect gift, the gift we cannot do without. **Today: We prepare to receive that gift – the gift of our Savior.**



Advent 1:

Jesus Comes – through the Gift of Baptism

Advent 2:

Jesus Comes – through the Gift of Preaching

Advent 3:

Jesus Comes – with Gifts that are Priceless

Today:

Jesus Comes – with Gifts to Receive

Christmas Eve -

Jesus – the Perfect Gift



Gathering around Grace – Growing in Grace – Going with Grace

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L: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.



CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

Silence for reflection

M: Holy and merciful Father,

C: 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.

M: 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.

C. Amen.

John 20:21-23

M: "Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me."

C: "Amen. Come, Lord Jesus." (Revelation 22:12,20)

M: We light four Advent candles, remembering Jesus, the Son of God and Son of Mary. He came to share our humanity.

C: We remember Jesus, whose name means Savior. He came to save his people from their sins.

M: We hear his call to give him a place in our hearts.

C: We light four Advent candles as a sign of our joy and hope.

M: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

C: Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.

After four advent candles are lit we sing this hymn.



The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came (CW#24)

Text: Basque carol,
paraphrase Sabine
Baring-Gould, 1834–
1924, alt.

- 1 The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
“All hail,” said he to meek and lowly Mary,
“Most highly favored maiden.” Gloria!
- 2 “I come from heav’n to tell the Lord’s decree:
A blessed virgin mother you shall be.
Your Son shall be Immanuel, by seers foretold,
Most highly favored maiden.” Gloria!
- 3 Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;
“To me be as it pleases God,” she said.
“My soul shall praise and magnify his holy name.”
Most highly favored maiden, Gloria!
- 4 Of her Immanuel, the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say,
“Most highly favored maiden.” Gloria!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Here's how to receive the Gift: to find time to be quiet, to be alone with Him, to marvel at the Christmas mystery again – who came for you.

GIFTS TO RECEIVE



FIRST READING

Romans 16:25-27

²⁵ Now to him who is able to establish you in accordance with my gospel, the message I proclaim about Jesus Christ, in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, ²⁶ but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all the Gentiles might come to the obedience that comes from faith— ²⁷ to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.



GOSPEL READING

LUKE 1:26-38

²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

³⁴ "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called^[a] the Son of God. ³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³⁷ For no word from God will ever fail."

³⁸ "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

✠ The Sacrament ✠

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: **It is good and right so to do.**

M: 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.

Hosannah in the highest.

C: **Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION

M: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: **His mercy endures forever.**

M: Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup.

C: **we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

M: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

C: **Through this gift may our souls be blessed.**

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.

Today's closing comes from *The Great O Antiphons of Advent* which have been cherished for centuries by Christian worshippers. Each one consists of a title given to Christ in the Old Testament and a petition asking him to come and fulfill the scriptural promise or prophecy. Traditionally there were seven verses, one for each of the days leading up to Christmas.

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Offerings are part of our worship life and our life in the church. During this time of social distancing, your offering may be left at the door or mailed or you may give online at www.gracelutheran.church.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

The Great Antiphons of Advent

- M: O Emmanuel, our King and our Lord, the anointed of the nations and their Savior, come and save us, O Lord our God.
- C: **Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**
- M: O Root of Jesse, standing as an ensign before the peoples, before whom all kings are mute, to whom the nations will do homage, come quickly to deliver us.
- C: **Oh, come, O Rod of Jesse's stem. From every foe deliver them That trust your mighty pow'r to save: Bring them in victory through the grave. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**
- M: O Dayspring, splendor of light everlasting, come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death.
- C: **Oh, come, O Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by your drawing nigh; Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**
- M: O Key of David and scepter of the house of Israel, you open and no one can close; you close and no one can open; come and rescue the prisoners who are in darkness and the shadow of death.
- C: **Oh, come, O Key of David, come, and open wide our heav'nly home. Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**

Special petitions may follow.

BLESSING

- M: 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.
- C: **Amen.**

PRAYERS

Annette's sister – hospitalized for the last eight weeks

CALENDAR

Tuesday – recording of services

Thursday – Christmas Eve Worship – online at your convenience
or

in the “heated” breezeway at 4:00 PM

FRIDAY – Look for a meditation by email to read and use at home for
Christmas Day.

SUNDAY – Worship – online or 9:30 AM in the breezeway

Would you like our Facebook advertisement, please?



The Perfect Gift

God has provided us with the perfect gift that we cannot do without, that is perfect now and forever.

Join us online for a Christmas Eve meditation that reflects on Jesus, the perfect gift.

Our Christmas Celebration will be posted on December 24th at www.gracelutheran.church

Your friends at Grace Lutheran in Orange County, CA
6550 Fairmont Blvd
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The Perfect Gift

Join us online for a Christmas Eve meditation that reflects on Jesus, the perfect gift.

December 24
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