



"In the fullness of
time..."

PREPARE FOR JESUS' COMING
by rejoicing in the future.



Third Sunday in Advent
December 11, 2022



Grace Lutheran Church

Yorba Linda, California

Gathering around Grace
Growing in Grace
Going with Grace

**December 11,
2022
Advent 3**



WHEN THE TIME HAD FULLY COME...



November 27: Understanding the Present

December 4: Reflecting on the Past

Today: Rejoicing in the Future

December 18: Praying O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

The Season of Advent (Latin for “coming”) focuses on God’s perfect timing by helping us prepare for Jesus coming. The roots of Advent go back all the way to the 400s in France and Italy. The length of Advent was fixed at four weeks by about 600 AD.

Today – we focus on the Past Promises of God and his call to repentance.

May our Lord richly bless you as you prepare to greet Jesus this Christmas.

gracelutheran.church

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Vicar: Hugo Ugalde-Bemer

Accompanist: Margie Erickson



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

Amen.

Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life.

(Revelation 22:17)

John prepared people for the coming of our Lord by preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of our sins. As baptized children of God, we confess:



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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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray.

Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

GOD'S WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 35

Faith in Christ leads us through the wilderness of this life knowing gladness and joy will overtake our sorrows.

The desert and the parched land will be glad;
the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.
Like the crocus, ²it will burst into bloom;
it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.
The glory of Lebanon will be given to it,
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;
they will see the glory of the LORD,
the splendor of our God.

³Strengthen the feeble hands,
steady the knees that give way;

⁴say to those with fearful hearts,

“Be strong, do not fear;
your God will come,
he will come with vengeance;
with divine retribution
he will come to save you.”

⁵Then will the eyes of the blind be opened
and the ears of the deaf unstopped.

⁶Then will the lame leap like a deer,
and the mute tongue shout for joy.
Water will gush forth in the wilderness
and streams in the desert.



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⁷The burning sand will become a pool,
the thirsty ground bubbling springs.
In the haunts where jackals once lay,
grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.

⁸And a highway will be there;
it will be called the Way of Holiness;
it will be for those who walk on that Way.
The unclean will not journey on it;
wicked fools will not go about on it.

⁹No lion will be there,
nor any ravenous beast;
they will not be found there.
But only the redeemed will walk there,
¹⁰ and those the LORD has rescued will return.
They will enter Zion with singing;
everlasting joy will crown their heads.
Gladness and joy will overtake them,
and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING

MATTHEW 11:2-11

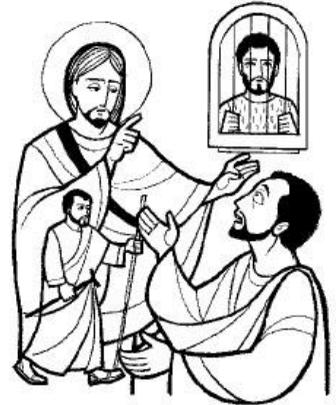
²When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples ³to ask him, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?”

⁴Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see:⁵The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. ⁶Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.”

⁷As John’s disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? ⁸If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings’ palaces.⁹Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written:

“I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.” [Malachi 3:1]

¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.





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This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Arise, O Christian People” (CW 310)

SERMON READING

James 5:7-11

⁷ Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord’s coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. ⁸ You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near. ⁹ Don’t grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

¹⁰ Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹ As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job’s perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

DEAL WITH THE PRESENT BY FOCUSING ON THE FUTURE

The Lord is near and The Lord IS Near.

APOSTLES CREED

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church - the communion of saints;



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**the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs, saying, Let us pray to the Lord: **Come, Lord Jesus, come.***

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.

CLOSING PRAYER

BLESSING

2 Corinthians 13:11; Romans 12:16; Psalm 100:2; Numbers 6:24-26

- L:** 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.
- C:** Amen.

CLOSING STANZA

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers (#493:4)

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ADVENT WORSHIP

A meditation to help you prepare for Christmas will be posted online on the Wednesdays of Advent. Vicar and Pastor are sharing songs of the Old Testament under the theme; "SING TO THE LORD A NEW SONG." Thank you to Eric Erickson for editing and posting them.

#1: Psalm 24 – Sing that the King of Glory May Come

#2: Psalm 130 – Sing a song while you wait

This week: Psalm 8 – Sing His Name in all the Earth

ADVENT DEVOTION

Pastor Sievert ordered copies of *The Word Made Flesh: The Historical Reality of Christmas* as a gift for you. This booklet provides a devotion for each day of December leading up to Christmas. Copies are still available in the back of church. Advent is just ½ over. There still is time!

THANK YOU – To all who served today / Margie / Rene / Karen/Ursala for Flowers /
You for being here today!



ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT Thank you to all who participated. Twenty-eight ladies joined together around God's Word to prepare for the coming of the Lord.



Set up and decorating

Thank you to all who helped with decorating last week. Please feel free to bring a poinsettia or two to help prepare the altar area, or even our entryway, for Christmas.



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THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Today: 10:50 PM Choir rehearsal - Christmas
4:00 PM Cal Lutheran High School Christmas Concert – Of the Father's Love

Monday: 9:30 AM – Little Lambs and moms

Wednesday: PM - Advent Midweek Meditation online – *a link will be sent to our email list*

Thursday: 10:00 AM – Grace Group Bible Study – in-person or on Zoom
3:30 PM - Confirmation
7:00 PM – Grace Group Bible Study – in-person or on Zoom

Friday: 10:00 AM – Fun and 55 Christmas Luncheon at Kappy's
Broadway Knights is here.

Saturday: 9:30-11:30 AM – Christmas for Kids (see the note below for supplies)

SUNDAY: 8:30 AM Bible Hour – Fruits of the Spirit
9:30 AM Worship (with communion) 4th Sunday in Advent – O Come Emmanuel

Christmas Eve – 7:00 PM
Christmas Day – 9:30 AM

CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS - Would you be willing to help with supplies for our Christmas for Kids on Saturday?

We need craft supplies: Little things to place in clear ornament balls –
Examples: little pom poms / sequins / glitter / small bells / cut
up Christmas ribbon / or ????

As well as some hay or straw or something that looks like it?

We also need snacks.

FINNEAS BADER is the two-year-old son of Pastor Noah and his wife Missy of Thousand Oaks. He has been battling serious brain and spinal tumors and the prognosis is uncertain and difficult. One thing we do know is that the Lord Jesus holds this precious little lamb of his flock safely in his care. Through the waters of baptism, the Lord placed his own name on little Finneas, and he belongs to his Savior now and in eternity. God grant his mom and dad, brother and sister, family and church family patience, peace and hope in Christ. If you would like to support the Baters, you could send your gift directly to Prince of Peace in Thousand Oaks or give through this link: https://www.gofundme.com/f/love-for-the-bater-8family?utm_campaign=p_cf+share-flow-1&utm_medium=email&utm_source=customer

"Be patient, then, until the Lord's coming, for we count as blessed, those who have persevered." (James 5:11)