

**PRAYER SERVICE FOR DECEMBER 12, 2021**  
**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Grey Scale Print = Leader    **Bold Print = Congregation**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

God loves you all the time.  
**All the time God loves you.**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

Joy-Giving One,  
Thank you for the ways you accept and  
celebrate all of who we are.  
Thank you for the many, many ways  
you live among us.  
Teach us to recognize you  
and to share our joy.

**Amen.**

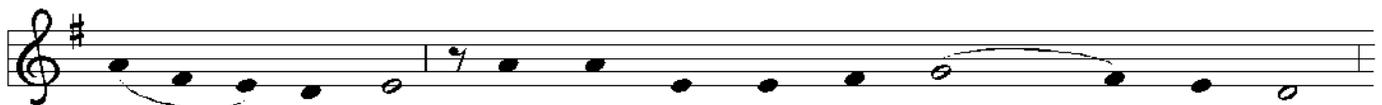


*The third candle is lit.*

**O Come, O Come Emmanuel** ELW 257 v 5, 6



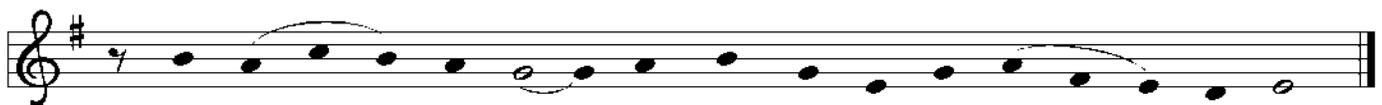
5 O come, O Key of Da- vid, come, and op- en wide our  
6 O come, O Day- spring, come and cheer, O Son of jus- tice,



heav'nly home; make safe the way that le- ads on high,  
now draw near. Dis- perse the gloo- my clouds of night,



and close the path to mis- er- y  
and death's dark sha- dow put to flight. **Re-joice! Re-joice!**



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
who alone does wonders,  
who lifts up the lowly,  
who fills the hungry with good things.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God for whom we wait,

**in the presence of one another,**

**we confess our sin before you.**

**We fail in believing that your good news is for us.**

**We falter in our call to tend your creation.**

**We find our sense of self in material wealth.**

**We fear those different from ourselves.**

**We forget that we are your children and turn away from your love.**

**Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace.**

**Amen.**

God, in Christ Jesus,

has looked with favor upon you!

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, ✝ your sins are forgiven.

You are children of the Most High,

inheritors of the eternal promise,

and recipients of divine mercy.

God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

**Amen.**



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for  
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -  
 3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when  
 4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for  
 man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is  
 all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so  
 dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.  
 qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;  
 qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.  
 crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -  
 mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -  
 Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in  
 Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and  
 kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to  
 won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and  
 sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.  
 shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.  
 weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.  
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

## **GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

In the beginning was the Word,

**And the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

In the Word was life,

**and the life was the light of all people.**

The Word became flesh and lived among us,

**and we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**



## FIRST READING: Zephaniah 3:14-20

<sup>14</sup>Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;  
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter Jerusalem!

<sup>15</sup>The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,  
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;  
you shall fear disaster no more.

<sup>16</sup>On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
Do not fear, O Zion;  
do not let your hands grow weak.

<sup>17</sup>The LORD, your God, is in your midst,  
a warrior who gives victory;  
he will rejoice over you with gladness,  
he will renew you in his love;  
he will exult over you with loud singing  
<sup>18</sup>as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,  
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

<sup>19</sup>I will deal with all your oppressors  
at that time.

And I will save the lame  
and gather the outcast,  
and I will change their shame into praise  
and renown in all the earth.

<sup>20</sup>At that time I will bring you home,  
at the time when I gather you;  
for I will make you renowned and praised  
among all the peoples of the earth,  
when I restore your fortunes  
before your eyes, says the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM: Isaiah 12:2-6

<sup>2</sup>Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid,  
for the LORD God is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation.

<sup>3</sup>**With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.**

<sup>4</sup>And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on God's name;  
make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations;  
proclaim that this name is exalted.

<sup>5</sup>**Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;  
let this be known in all the earth.**

<sup>6</sup>Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,  
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

## SECOND READING: Philippians 4:4-7

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

## **GOSPEL: Luke 3-7-18**

The holy gospel of Luke the third chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>7</sup>John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup>Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

<sup>10</sup>And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" <sup>11</sup>In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." <sup>12</sup>Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" <sup>13</sup>He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." <sup>14</sup>Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

<sup>15</sup>As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup>John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

<sup>18</sup>So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The Gospel of the Lord  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

## **CHILDRENS MESSAGE**

**MESSAGE**

**Pastor Tara Magoon**

**PEACE**

The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

HYMN

*He Came Down*

ELW 253

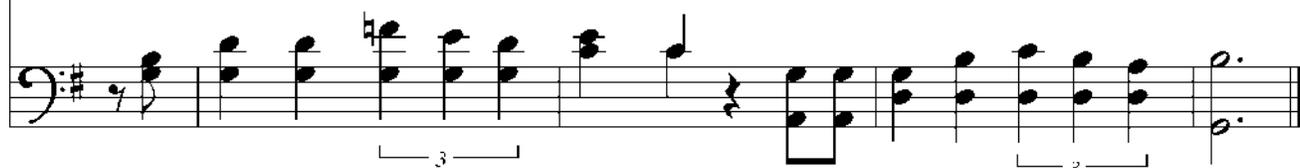
*Please stand as you are able at the last verse.*



- 1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
- 2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
- 3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
- 4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have light; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.  
he came down that we may have peace;  
he came down that we may have joy;



## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**he ascended into heaven,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

**And he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the holy catholic Church,**

**the communion of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body,**

**and the life everlasting. Amen**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

*A brief silence.*

Holy God, renew your church and raise up leaders who announce your good news. Grant peace to congregations and seminarians in the midst of transition. Guide the work of candidacy and call committees. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, your Spirit brought forth the earth and all that is in it. Breathe life into us, that we are inspired to live in harmony with one another and the planet. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Shepherding God, you lead your people in paths of righteousness. Raise up prophets in our own day who warn against captivity to greed and point us to the freedom found in generosity. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Nurturing God, you come near in times of worry and need. Cradle us in your arms, that we trust you and are not afraid. Attend to any who are hungry, imprisoned, or ill this day (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Rejoicing God, you exult over us in singing. Enliven the song of this assembly and bless the ministry of church musicians (*especially*). With instruments and dance, join our voices to the song of all creation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We give you thanks for your servants who showed us your goodness and grace (*especially*). By the power of your Spirit, keep us steadfast in faith until we make our home with you. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

**Amen.**

## OFFERING PRAYER

God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people.

Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.

**Amen.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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 when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

**Holy one, the beginning and the end, the giver of life....**

...let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

With this cup and bread we remember your Word dwelling among us...

...we look with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit..

...bring the gift of peace on earth.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours,

Holy One of Israel,

Word of God incarnate,

Power of the Most High,

One God now and forever.

**Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as 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

Come to Christ's banquet.

Feast on God's gift of grace.

*(please be seated)*

## COMMUNION

*Communion will be received at the head of the Sanctuary. Starting with the section closest to the sound room and worshippers may make their way to Pastor at the head of the Sanctuary and receive the communion elements. Elements at in-person worship are wine and juice made with grapes. Please let Pastor know if you require gluten-free bread.*

*After the elements have been consumed, please replace your face mask.*



# HYMN DURING COMMUNION

## *O Bread of Life from Heaven* ELW 480

1 O bread of life from heav - en, O food to pil - grims  
2 O fount of grace re - deem - ing, O riv - er ev - er  
3 We love you, Je - sus, ten - der, in all your hid - den

giv - en, O man - na from a - bove: feed  
stream - ing from Je - sus' wound - ed side: come  
splen - dor with - in these means of grace. Oh,

with the bless - ed sweet - ness of your di - vine com -  
now, your love be - stow - ing on thirst - ing souls, and  
let the veil be riv - en, and our clear eye in

plete - ness the souls that want and need your love.  
flow - ing till all are ful - ly sat - is - fied.  
heav - en be - hold your glo - ry face to face.

## **COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen.**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Most High God,

you have come among us at this table.

By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word,

sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all,

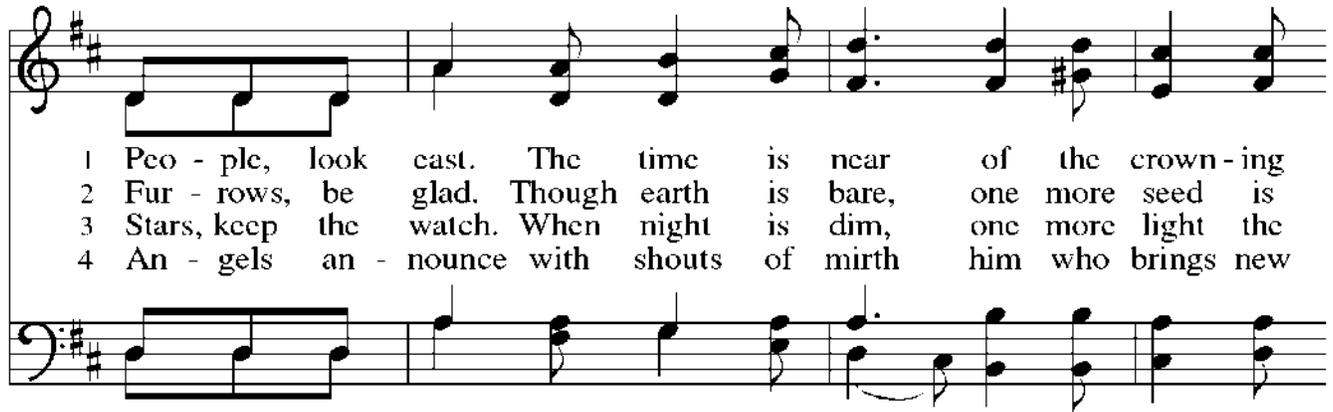
through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.

**Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.

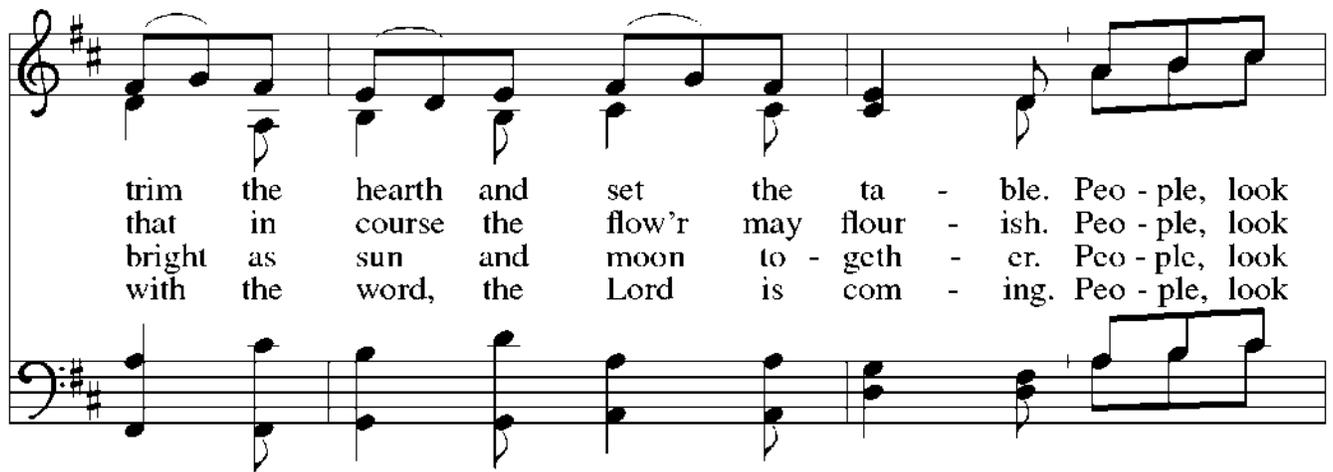
**Amen.**



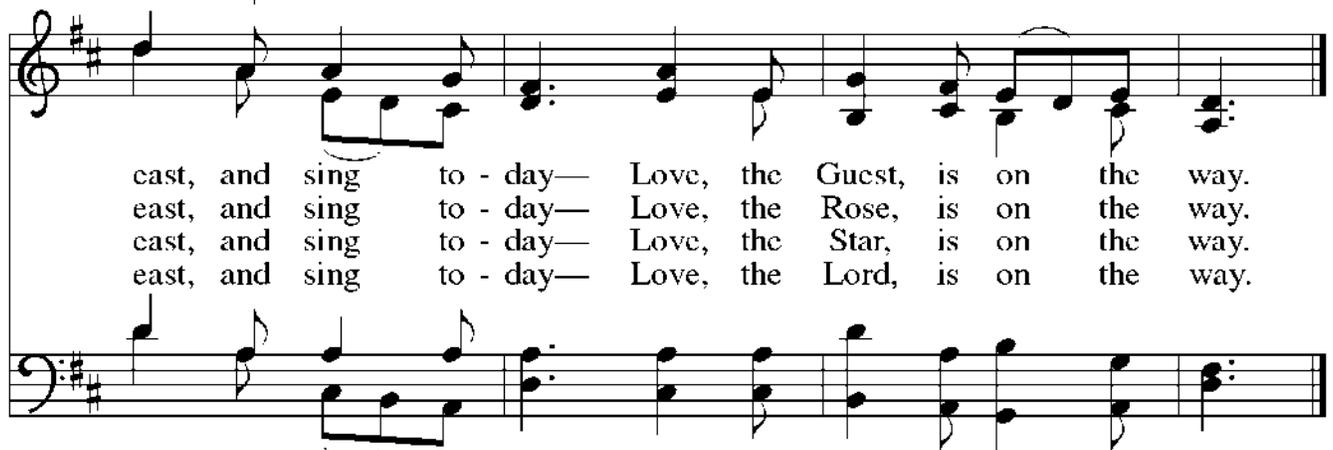
1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing  
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is  
 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the  
 4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,  
 plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,  
 bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,  
 life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look  
 that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look  
 bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look  
 with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



cast, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.  
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
 cast, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.  
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

## SENDING

Go in peace. Christ is near.  
**Thanks be to God.**



### GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

2033 Graves Road, Hockessin, Delaware 19707  
(302) 239-6481

*A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

The Rev. Tara Magoon, Pastor  
Jordan Irazabal, director of music  
Susan Wells Allen, office manager  
Louis Jones, custodian

#### 8:30AM

**Assisting Minister:** Mandy Munson  
**Greeter:** Diane Frederick  
**Usher:** Tom Frederick  
**Reader:** Bill Brizendine  
**Nursery:** Kris McMahan  
Gage McMahan  
**Sound:** Jeremy Magoon

#### 11:00AM

**Assisting Minister:** Beth Fenner  
**Greeter:** Sandy Betley  
**Usher:** Walt Lumley  
**Reader:** Kathy Lumley  
**Sound:** Rolf Eriksen  
**Counters:** Jim Foskett, Sue Eriksen