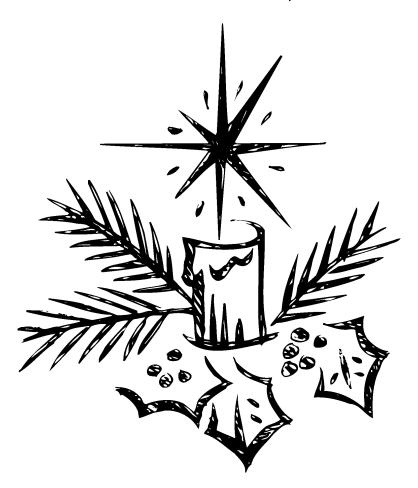
# Grace Lutheran Worship Folder

December 10 & 11, 2022



Watch worship online - connect through www.gracelutheran-alpena.org

Liturgies from Sundays and Seasons, Copyright 202, Augsburg Fortress and Sundays and Seasons.com.

Permission to reprint/stream liturgies obtained from Augsburg Fortress Lic. #SAS103307. All rights reserved.

# Grace Lutheran's Purpose Statement

"We share God's love by welcoming all and making a Christ-like difference in our community and world."

#### **GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

#### WELCOME

#### **PRELUDE**

(the assembly stands as they are able)

(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.)

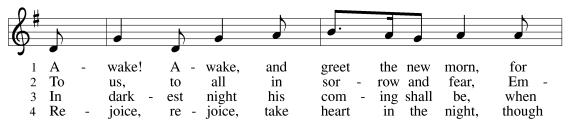
- P: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.
- C: Blessed be God's name forever. Amen.
- P: Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep. Let us confront our sins, and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

Silence is kept for reflection.

- P: God of new beginnings,
- C: we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign. We have strayed from your paths. We prepare for war instead of peace. We dishonor one another and your creation. Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love, that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us. Amen.
- P: People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign. By water and the Spirit, we are joined to this wonder. We have put on + Christ, and our sins have been washed away. Rejoice in the way of the Lord.
- C: Amen.

**GATHERING HYMN** "Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn"

**R242** 





Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen
Text and music © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
All rights reserved. Used by permission. Permission to reprint/stream this music obtained from OneLicense #A-708784.

#### ADVENT CANDLE "He Came Down" (two times through)

**R253** 



4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



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

Text: Cameroon traditional

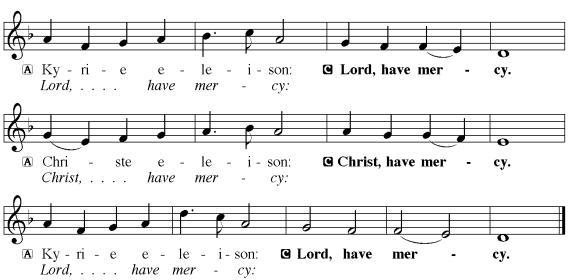
Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional

Arr. John L. Bell © 1986 Iona Community. Permission to reprint/stream this music obtained from OneLicense #A-708784.

#### **GREETING**

- P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C: And also with you.

#### **KYRIE**



#### **HYMN OF PRAISE**







P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

#### **SPECIAL MUSIC** Bell Choir "In the Bleak Midwinter"

Arr. Douglas Wagner © 1990 Hope Publishing Company.
Permission to stream this music obtained from OneLicense #4-708784.

#### **WORD**

God speaks to us in scripture, preaching and song.

#### **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

#### Isaiah 35:1-10

The prophet describes the return from the Babylonian captivity as a joyous procession to Zion. God's coming reign will bring a renewal of creation in which health and wholeness will be restored. There is no need for fear, for God is coming to save.

<sup>1</sup>The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus <sup>2</sup>it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. 3Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. <sup>4</sup>Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." <sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; <sup>6</sup>then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; 'the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. <sup>8</sup>A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. <sup>9</sup>No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. <sup>10</sup>And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

**L:** The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

#### Psalm 146:5-10

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down. (Ps. 146:8)

<sup>5</sup>Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the LORD their God;

# <sup>6</sup>who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps promises forever;

<sup>7</sup>who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger. The LORD sets the captive free.

# <sup>8</sup>The Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

#### the LORD loves the righteous.

<sup>9</sup>The Lord cares for the stranger;

the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

<sup>10</sup>The LORD shall reign forever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

#### James 5:7-10

In anticipation of the Lord's coming, Christians are called upon to cultivate patience rather than discontent.

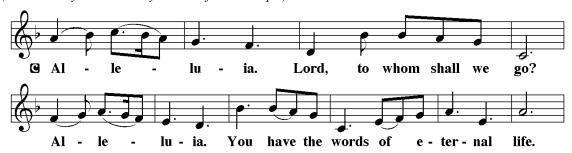
<sup>7</sup>Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup>You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. <sup>9</sup>Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! <sup>10</sup>As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

#### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

(The assembly stands as they are able for the Gospel)





P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

#### **Matthew 11:2-11**

John the Baptist expects the Messiah to bring God's judgment upon the earth (Matt. 3:11-12). From a prison cell, he wonders whether Jesus is the one who will do this. Jesus' response indicates that God's reign is indeed being fulfilled already through healing and restoration.

<sup>2</sup>When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup>and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" <sup>4</sup>Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup>And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." <sup>7</sup>As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup>What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' <sup>11</sup>Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

**P:** The Gospel of Our Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

#### **HOMILY**

(continued on next page)

(The assembly stands as they are able)



Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953 Permission to reprint/stream this music obtained from OneLicense #A-708784. Music: TEMPLE OF PEACE, William P. Rowan, b. 1951

Text © 2002 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Music © 2000 William P. Rowan, admin. GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

#### **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 power of 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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.

#### **INTERCESSORY PRAYERS**

(Response after each petition)

P: Lord in your mercy...

C: hear our prayer.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Christ.

#### **OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** (the assembly stands as they are able and sings as the gifts are brought forward)



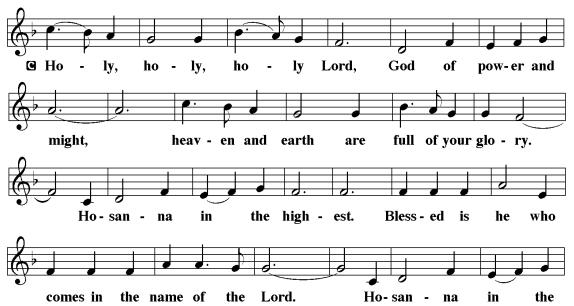
Gath- er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we



P: Let us pray... Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior. Amen.

#### **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 our God.
- C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.
- P: It is indeed our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...(concluding)...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:





#### **EUCHARISTIC PRAYER/WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

P: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; 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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, that by this Holy Communion we may know the unity we share with all your people in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

#### C: Amen

#### 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.

#### **HOLY COMMUNION**

P: Be strong, do not fear! Here is our God, who has come to save us.

(All who desire to receive Christ's presence in bread and wine are welcome to participate in the Eucharist)



Text: Adam M. L. Tice, b. 1979 Permission to reprint/stream this music obtained from OneLicense #A-708784. Music: ALL CREATION NEW, Anthony Giamanco, b. 1958 Text © 2009 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved. Music © 2018 Augsburg Fortress 14

(the assembly stands as they are able)

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

#### C: Amen.

P: Let us pray... Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

#### **BLESSING**

**P:** God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, + bless you now and forever. **Amen.** 



Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

P: Go in peace. Christ is near.

C: Thanks be to God.



#### **POSTLUDE**



#### WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT GRACE LUTHERAN A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

We are glad to have you here worshiping with us. For visitors, we would be glad to tell you more about Grace Lutheran and how we share God's love. Please leave the best way to contact you on the visitor sheets in the Sanctuary Narthex or the Office Lobby or use the bulletin and give it to an usher.

#### **COFFEE HOUR AFTER SUNDAY WORSHIP**

Join us for a time of fellowship with coffee/tea/juice and treats in the Fellowship Hall off the Office Lobby after our Sunday worship.

#### IN OUR PRAYERS

Harry Kautz, Lisa Wooll, Kristin Berles, Don Barnard, Rich McTaggart, Meredith Smith, Robert Larsen, Vicki Piontkowski, Elaine Hatch, Scott Lancaster, Gerald Lancaster, Dorothy Hansen, Larry Nelson, Michele Amelotte, Joanne Nicholls, Deb Nitchman's Family, Diane Prevost, Jim Malaski, Emma Nelson, Kathy Rettell -- Laura Fettes (Don Cross' granddaughter), Arlie Prevost, Jan & Walt Soltysiak, Ted Durany (Karen Gould's father), Jack Thompson, Candee and Neviah Fetty, Matthew & Rebecca, Tracy Hall (Alane Wills' daughter), Margaret Cousineau (Jobson's daughter), Pastor Mike Schaedig, Al Smolinski, Donna Kendziorski, Geraldine Rhoads, James Marculewicz, Herb Schiller, Ann Haske, Gary Rich, Carl Ball, Joanne Coughlin, Sylvia Rouech, Jimmy Lappan, Donna Hatch, Jordyn, Maggie, Laura Bleau, Becky, Jodi Kennedy Dinnan, Maria Shelton, Emily Cross, Liz, Lucas David, and Joseph Hansen.

Our prayer list is redone each month. If you, or a family member, would like to continue on the prayer list, please call the office (354-2640).

#### PRAYERS - PEOPLE TO ADD

Forms for adding people to our prayer list are located at each entrance to the sanctuary. Give completed forms to the ushers for inclusion in the prayers during the service. Please be sure that you have the person(s)' permission to have their name read during public worship. And also remember that our worship and bulletin are available online so that it will be widely disseminated. Thank you. Names are on the list for the calendar month.

#### PRAYER PARTNERS

From the LARCC (Lutheran, Anglican, Roman Catholic and Congregational UCC) parishes of Alpena, this weekend we pray for the Sunday School Program at Grace Lutheran Church. Our Synod Prayer Partner for this week: Augustana Lutheran Church/Tustin, Rev. Sharon Van Dam, Supply, and Bishop Craig Satterlee and Synod Staff.

### ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION - DECEMBER 18TH Apologies and Reconciliation

In July, Pope Francis offered apologies to Indigenous People of Canada for the church-run boarding schools in that country. The U.S. also had Indian boarding schools, government run and church-run, that attempted stripe away native language and culture from Native children involuntarily removed from families. This gives us the opportunity to talk about apologizing, forgiveness and reconciliation in both our personal lives and in our society. Join us at 11 in the Lounge for the class. See Pastor Tom if you are not getting the materials prior to class.

#### CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR LOVING CARE MEMBERS

Please be sure to sign the Christmas Cards (in the Fellowship Hall) for our Loving Care Members during coffee hour following our Sunday worship service.

#### CHRISTMAS WISH LIST REMINDER

Just a reminder that all gifts need to be back to the church no later than Sunday, December 11th.

#### **CHRISTMAS CAROLING**

You are invited to join in Christmas caroling around the community! There will be lunch provided after church on **Sunday**, **December 11 at 11:00** am and caroling will begin at 12:00pm. A sign up sheet will be posted. We will be going to assisted living homes as well as homes of some of our members. Please join in the fun!

#### RUTH CIRCLE MEETS THIS WEEK

The Ruth Circle will meet this week (a week earlier than usual) on Wednesday, December 14. This month's meeting will be a potluck and we will eat at 1:00 pm. All women are invited to join us.

#### CHRISTMAS FLOWERS/DECORATIONS

This year we are again asking for donations for Christmas flowers/decorations for the church in lieu of individual poinsettias. They can be made in honor or memory of someone. Several larger poinsettias will be ordered and greenery or other decorations needed will be purchased with the money. This will alleviate throwing away so many poinsettias. Forms are available in the Office Lobby and on our website at www.gracelutheran-alpena.org and may be placed in the offering plate or turned in to the church office no later than December 16.

#### **BAKE SALE UPDATE**

Thanks to everyone who helped, baked and donated items. It made our bake sale a great success! With God's blessing and many hands, we made \$1,313.00. Thanks to everyone. -- Ruth Circle

## WORSHIP SERVICES CHRISTMAS EVE THROUGH NEW YEAR'S DAY With Christmas Day and New Year's Day Sundays, we have set this schedule:

- \* Christmas Eve at 5 & 7:30 PM
- \* Sunday Christmas Day at 9:30 AM our traditional Lessons and Carols Service with Communion in-person
- \* Saturday December 31st no service
- \* Sunday January 1<sup>st</sup> at 9:30 AM North/West Lower Michigan Synod Lessons and Carols Service. Livestreamed and also shown in our sanctuary for any who want to view in person.

#### PLEASE CHECK DOORS WHEN ENTERING/EXITING BUILDING

If you are the last one leaving the building, please check to make sure that doors are locked AND LATCHED behind you. If you are entering or exiting the building and doors are already locked, please be sure that the doors latch behind you. Just letting the door swing back as you enter or exit **DOES NOT** ensure that the door will completely close and latch. Thank you.

#### OPERATION TOYS FOR KIDS/OPERATION HOLIDAYS DONATIONS

The Vietnam Vets of America 583 is continuing their 30 year tradition of providing help to children and families at this time of year. All their work is funded by donations. Any help you can give goes directly to the gifts for the kids. If you want to drop off money contributions that can be dropped off at their center in the Thunder Bay Shopping Center, down from Nieman's old location. They are there most days from 8 am to 8 pm. Or bring your contribution to church and we will get it to them. Their effort takes nearly \$100,000 each year. Thanks to these vets. Lets support them.

#### LITTLE FOOD PANTRY - THANK YOU!

A big thank you goes out to Century 21 for their donation to the Little Food Pantry. Dawn Anderson and her crew brought in so many items that help those in need. We are so blessed to help others, especially at this time in year.

Besser School's donation last week was tremendous. Thanks to all who made it happen. Check out photos on the *LIFE OF GRACE* display in the Office Lobby.

We also have donations from many people in our community who just drop off items and we need to say "thank you". It is through this generosity that we fulfill our mission. Our volunteers fill almost every day.

#### LITTLE FOOD PANTRY NEEDS HELP

Do you have some time to help stock the LFP? Mondays and Saturdays need someone to bring things up to fill the inside shelves and outside box. Takes just a bit of time. Interested? Call Mary Lappan for more info. 989.255.7511

#### SUNDAY WORSHIP LIVESTREAMED AND RECORDED

Our Sunday worship service is livestreamed, shown on the internet, as it is happening and recorded for viewing online later. People in the sanctuary attending the Sunday service may be seen as part of the livestream and recording.

#### **COVID TEST KITS FOR AT-HOME USE**

COVID test kits continue to be available in the church office. Just stop by or give us a call.

#### PLEASE RECYCLE BULLETINS

You can place your bulletin in the recycle bin by the elevator as you leave the sanctuary.

A list of December birthdays & anniversaries can be found on the "news" page of our website at www.gracelutheran-alpena.org

Large print worship folders & hearing assistance devices are available from ushers

#### **HAPPENING THIS WEEK!**

Sunday - 11th	
8:50 am	Choir Practice
9:00 am	Sunday School
9:30 am	Worship
11:00 am	Christmas caroling
	lunch followed by
	caroling at noon.
4:00 pm	Fellowship Hall
	Reserved - Remembering
	Our Children

#### Monday - 12th

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

#### Tuesday - 13th

8am-noon	Church Office Open
9:00 am	Sewing/Quilting
6:00 pm	Council

#### Wednesday - 14th

8am-noon	Church Office Open
9:00 am	Weekly Bulletin
	Announcements Due
1:00 pm	Ruch Circle - Potluck
6:00 pm	Bell Choir Practice

#### Thursday - 15th

8am-noon	Church Office Open
4:00 pm	Fellowship Hall &
•	Kitchen Reserved
4:00 pm	Lounge Reserved

#### Friday - 16th

8am-noon Church Office Open

#### Saturday - 17th

5:00 pm Worship

#### **SERVING DECEMBER 10/11**

Ministers	God's People	
Pastor	Rev. Tom Orth	
<b>Music Director</b>	Claire Schreiber	
Accompanist	Amy Truth	
Lector	Corinne Fraley	
Communion		
Assistants V	Wayne & Chris Christopherson	
Ushers	Matt, Everett & Olivia Haske	
	Steve & Janie Hansen (Sat.)	
Greeters	Joe & Dawn Gentry	
	Gentry Family	
Livestream Tea	m Dawn Anderson, Jan	
Charter, Don Barnard, Don LaBarre		
	Clarence & Bonnie Cross	
Coffee Hour	Ruby Haske & Family	

#### **SERVING DECEMBER 17/18**

#### GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

119 W. Dunbar St., Alpena, MI 49707 Phone: Office 989-354-2640 Web Site: www.gracelutheran-alpena.org

Pastor: Rev. Thomas W. Orth
Pastor's Home 989-356-8729 Pastor's Cell Phone 989-916-8759

#### E-mail:

pastor@gracelutheran-alpena.org officemanager@gracelutheran-alpena.org

Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/gracelutheranalpena