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*Fourth Sunday of Advent
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Jackson Center, Ohio
December 22, 2024
Traditional Service
8:00 am*

Welcome to
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 22, 2024 ~ 8:00 A.M.

Welcome to Our Guests

Mary and Elizabeth supported each other during the uncertainty and joy of pregnancy. May we who worship together also support one another through life's ups and downs. We believe God has a purpose for you being with us today and our desire is to be an instrument in helping you discover and fulfill that purpose. You are always invited to come and worship with us. Please let us know if the pastor or we may be of service to you in any way.

As We Gather

People of faith discard feelings, favoring instead, the promises of God, whether it feels true or not. God is present with us, even when he seems hidden. But only faith can apprehend this mystery. Doing things—from sacrifices to other forms of piety—are not good for controlling these feelings of hopelessness. Only faith in the promised one of old, the one who has come to do God's will, who died for our sin, will do. He is the blessed fruit of Mary's womb, the one who makes our souls to sing.

Gathering

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

** Indicates times during which the congregation stands.*

The Prelude

Lighting of the Candles

Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Marc & Abby Copeland Family

L: Last Sunday we lit the candle of Hope, Peace and Joy, three gifts that make us ready as we wait for Christ. Today we light the fourth candle of Advent, the candle of Love.

(Light all four Blue Candles.)

L.: In the fullness of time, God came among us in the flesh, humbly and happily, as a bundle of love, a newborn babe. In 1 John 4:18, we read: "There is no fear in love, for perfect love casts out fear." God created this world in love and this world will end in the love of God. God's love pervades all aspects of this life. From birth to death, pain to delight, strangers to friends, God's love is present. We light this candle in Love.

C: On this day, we remember how much Jesus our Christ, Immanuel, God with us, loved this world. We remember the great love He showed in dying on the Cross for our sins, and His promise to return for His church. And we pray: Come, Lord Jesus!"

*Opening Hymn: **"Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel"** LBW # 34

The Confession and Forgiveness

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

C: Amen.

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart, and confess our sin to God our Father, imploring him, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C: Who made heaven and earth.

P: I said I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.

C: And you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

(Silence for personal confession of sin)

P: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to you, that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. Therefore we flee for refuge to your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring your grace, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Most merciful God, you have given your only Son to die for us. Have mercy on us, and for his sake grant us remission of all our sins. By your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of you and of your will, and true obedience to your word, so that by your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. The Almighty and merciful God grant unto you that are penitent, pardon and remission of all your sins, time for amendment of life, and the grace and comfort of his Holy Spirit.

Amen.

*Prayer of the Day

Pastor: Let us pray,

All: Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. With your great might, give us your help, that whatever is hindered by our sins may be speedily accomplished by your grace; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Choir Anthem

“While Shepherd’s Watched”

Adult Choir

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

First Lesson: Micah 5:2-5a

ESV pg # 779

Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 80:1-7 (read responsively)

80 Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock. You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

2 Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh, stir up your might and come to save us!

3 Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved!

4 O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

5 You have fed them with the bread of tears and given them tears to drink in full measure.

6 You make us an object of contention for our neighbors, and our enemies laugh among themselves.

7 Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved!

Praise the LORD!

Second Lesson: Hebrews 10:5-10

ESV pg # 1006

Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (sung)

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

*Holy Gospel: Luke 1:39-45

ESV pg # 856

Glory to you, O Lord (sung)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ. (sung)

Time for Young Disciples

Pastor Shelly

Sermon Prayer

P: May the Spirit of the Lord be in my heart and on my lips so that I may sincerely and humbly, courageously and effectively proclaim the Good News.

C: And may the Spirit of the Lord touch our ears that we may listen carefully. Touch our minds that we may understand correctly and touch our hearts that we may respond to that message courageously.

P: In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Sermon

“Pregnant with Possibility”

Pastor Shelly

*Nicene Creed (stand)

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; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He 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

*The Prayers of the Church (stand)

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

Adult Sunday Morning Sunday School at 9:15

As you have read through the New Testament Gospels, or listened to them in worship, have you noticed that each one begins with the story of Jesus? But each one is quite different. You may wonder if each author is talking about the same person. The month of December we will be studying the beginning of Jesus' life from the view of the four different Gospel authors. And we will be asking questions of the authors – Who is Jesus? Who is the audience? What is the author's purpose?

December 1 Matthew 1

December 8 Mark 1

December 15 Luke 1-2

December 22 John 1

Grace Christmas Schedule

Christmas Eve Candlelight

7:00 PM with Communion.

10:30 PM with Communion & Choir.

Christmas Morning Worship

9:00 AM with Communion.

