

Grace Lutheran Church

3010 52nd St. Des Moines, Iowa 50310

“The child to be born
will be holy; he will be
called Son of God.”



Luke 1:35, NRSV

The Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 18, 2011

8:15 a.m.

Holy Communion Services

The Mission of Grace Lutheran Church is to bring the good news of God's saving grace, through Jesus Christ's life, death and resurrection to all to be free to be the people of God.

then, however, the people of Israel remembered this promise and continued to hope for a king, the messiah, the Lord's anointed.

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent."

³Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you." ⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle.

⁷Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" ⁸Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a

Entonces el rey le dijo al profeta Natán: —Como puedes ver, yo habito en un palacio de cedro, mientras que el arca de Dios se encuentra bajo el toldo de una tienda de campaña.

³ —Bien —respondió Natán—.

Haga Su Majestad lo que su *corazón le dicte, pues el SEÑOR está con usted.

⁴ Pero aquella misma noche la palabra del SEÑOR vino a Natán y le dijo: ⁵ «Ve y dile a mi siervo David que así dice el SEÑOR: "¿Serás tú acaso quien me construya una casa para que yo la habite?"⁶ Desde el día en que saqué a los israelitas de Egipto, y hasta el día de hoy, no he habitado en casa alguna, sino que he andado de acá para allá, en una tienda de campaña a manera de santuario.⁷

Todo el tiempo que anduve con los israelitas, cuando mandé a sus gobernantes que pastorearan a mi pueblo Israel, ¿acaso le reclamé a alguno de ellos el no haberme construido una casa de cedro?"

⁸ »Pues bien, dile a mi siervo David que así dice el SEÑOR *Todopoderoso: "Yo te saqué del redil para que, en vez de cuidar ovejas, gobernaras a mi pueblo Israel."⁹ Yo he estado contigo por dondequiera que has ido, y por ti he aniquilado a todos tus enemigos. Y ahora voy a hacerte tan famoso como los más grandes de la tierra.¹⁰ También voy a designar un lugar para mi pueblo

great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

Israel, y allí los plantaré para que puedan vivir sin sobresaltos. Sus malvados enemigos no volverán a humillarlos como lo han hecho desde el principio,¹¹ desde el día en que nombré gobernantes sobre mi pueblo Israel. Y a ti te daré descanso de todos tus enemigos."

»Pero ahora el SEÑOR te hace saber que será él quien te construya una casa.

L: the Word of the Lord
C: Thanks be to God

Psalm

R: 

You, Lord, have lift-ed up the low - ly.

Psalm Luke 1:46b–55

^{46b}My soul proclaims the greatness | of the Lord,
⁴⁷my spirit rejoices in | God my Savior,
⁴⁸**for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your | lowly servant.**
From this day all generations will | call me blessed;
⁴⁹you, the Almighty, have done great | things for me, and holy | is your name.
⁵⁰**You have mercy on | those who fear you, from generation to | generation. R**
⁵¹You have shown strength | with your arm; and scattered the proud in | their conceit,
⁵²**casting down the mighty | from their thrones and lifting | up the lowly.**

⁵³You have filled the hungry¹ with good things, and sent the rich¹ away empty.

⁵⁴**You have come to the aid of your¹ servant Israel, to remember the prom-¹ise of mercy,**

⁵⁵the promise made¹ to our forebears, to Abraham and his chil-¹dren forever. **R**

8:15 Anthem

"The Angel Gabriel" Chancel Choir women

Second Lesson:

Romans 16:25–27

Paul closes his letter to the Romans by praising God because in the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ God has revealed the promised, divine plan of salvation for all humanity. Paul proclaims this gospel of Christ in order to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations.

²⁵Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages²⁶ but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith —²⁷ to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

Segundo Lectura:

Romanos 16:25-27

²⁵⁻²⁶ El Dios eterno ocultó su *misterio durante largos siglos, pero ahora lo ha revelado por medio de los escritos proféticos, según su propio mandato, para que todas las *naciones obedezcan a la fe.^[a] ¡Al que puede fortalecerlos a ustedes conforme a mi *evangelio y a la predicación acerca de Jesucristo,²⁷ al único sabio Dios, sea la gloria para siempre por medio de Jesucristo! Amén.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.



Please stand as you are able

Gospel Acclamation

#257

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” *verses 7-8*

O come, O King of nations, come, O cornerstone that binds in one:
refresh the hearts that long for you; restore the broken, make us new.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O 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.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the First Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Luke 1:26–38

In this annunciation, Luke makes clear that God comes with good news for ordinary people (Mary) from little known places (Nazareth). This king will not be born to royalty in a palace, but to common folk in a stall. Here Luke highlights the role of the Spirit, a special emphasis in his gospel.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And

el Evangelio: Lucas 1:26-38

Anuncio del nacimiento de Jesús

²⁶ A los seis meses, Dios envió al ángel Gabriel a Nazaret, pueblo de Galilea,²⁷ a visitar a una joven virgen comprometida para casarse con un hombre que se llamaba José, descendiente de David. La virgen se llamaba María.²⁸ El ángel se acercó a ella y le dijo:

—¡Te saludo,^[a] tú que has recibido el favor de Dios! El Señor está contigo.

²⁹ Ante estas palabras, María se perturbó, y se preguntaba qué podría significar este saludo.

³⁰ —No tengas miedo, María; Dios te ha concedido su favor —le dijo el ángel—. ³¹ Quedarás encinta y darás a luz un hijo, y le pondrás por nombre Jesús. ³² Él será un gran hombre, y lo llamarán Hijo del Altísimo. Dios el Señor le dará el trono de su padre David,³³ y

now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

reinará sobre el pueblo de Jacob para siempre. Su reinado no tendrá fin.

³⁴ —¿Cómo podrá suceder esto — le preguntó María al ángel—, puesto que soy virgen?^[b]

³⁵ —El Espíritu Santo vendrá sobre ti, y el poder del Altísimo te cubrirá con su sombra. Así que al santo niño que va a nacer lo llamarán Hijo de Dios.³⁶ También tu parienta Elisabet va a tener un hijo en su vejez; de hecho, la que decían que era estéril ya está en el sexto mes de embarazo.³⁷ Porque para Dios no hay nada imposible.

³⁸ —Aquí tienes a la sierva del Señor —contestó María—. Que él haga conmigo como me has dicho. Con esto, el ángel la dejó.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

Sermon

Please stand as you are able

Hymn of the Day "All Earth is Hopeful"

#266



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 to the dead.**

**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

P: Hear us, O God,

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your steadfast love and faithfulness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

All:

God of love, pour out your unifying Spirit upon us. We give you thanks for the blessing of this community of faith. Continue to awaken your gifts in us so we can faithfully build up the body of Christ. Strengthen us to answer the call to the work of your ministry here at Grace. In Jesus' holy name, Amen.

Passing of the Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you all,

C: And also with you!

Please be seated
Announcements

The Offering

Offertory “Comfort, Comfort Now My People”

Manz

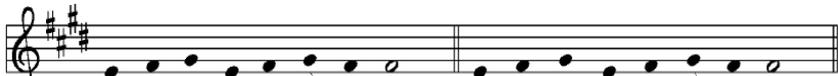
Please stand as you are able

Offering Prayer

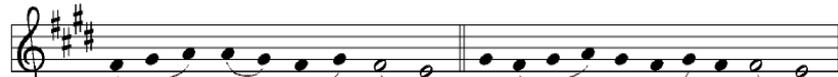
God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Great Thanksgiving



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



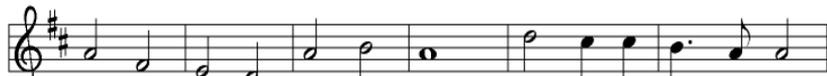
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



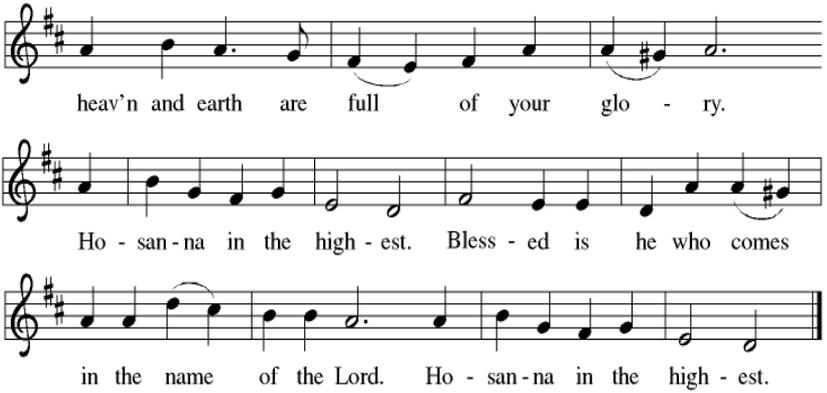
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Eucharistic Prayer

P: 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.

For as often we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim our Lord's death until he comes.

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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**

Invitation to Communion

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Come to Christ, who comes to us in this holy supper.

Please be seated

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Distribution Hymns: #256, #439, #262

Please stand as you are able

Prayer after Communion

P: Lord God, we give you thanks that you have fed us even now with the banquet that is yet to come. Keep us alert for signs of your presence in the world around us. Send us as healing oil and sheltering comfort to those in need, and make us bold in testifying to the light of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

Blessing

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you

peace, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen.

Sending Hymn

“Joy to the World”

#267

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“Rejoice, Rejoice Believers”

Manz

Good Morning and Welcome to Grace!

Please sign the Attendance Registrations sheets which are found in each pew. Visitors, please also sign the guest book at the Welcome Center, and please join us for coffee and education hour activities between services.

Large print bulletins are available from the ushers.

A nursery is available if your children become restless during the service. Heather Nelson or another daycare staff member will be the attendant each Sunday morning (*exception: December 25 and January 1st*). If you don't see anyone in the nursery, check in the daycare office. The service is always broadcast in the Gathering Hall if you prefer to take your child there.

If you are not able to come forward to take communion, please notify an usher before the service. Then try to sit by the aisle and the pastors will commune you in your pew.

Communion – We welcome all people to the Lord's table to receive Holy Communion. Children not instructed are invited to come forward for a blessing.

When by intinction: Receive the host (wafer), then dip the host into the chalice (cup) to receive wine (red) or grape juice (clear); depart by the side aisle. Gluten free wafers and a separate glass chalice are available by request on the pulpit side (left when facing altar).

When by pouring chalice: Receive a cup. Receive and eat the bread. Proceed to the wine or grape juice. If you would prefer to have grape juice, take a rose colored glass from the inner ring of the

tray; grape juice will be in the outer most chalice on both sides.
Communion bread is gluten free.

In our prayers: Norma Black, Norman Buihner, Frances Engquist, Vivian Feilmann, Joe Honsey, Tom Russell, Stuart Turner, Sarah Williamson, Zelma Wilson, and the others we name before you...

Quarters placed in the offering plate this morning, and every third Sunday, are for Food Pantry.

A Stephen Minister is available in the upper room between services for people who need a listening ear, encouragement and prayer support.
Please note there will not be a Stephen Minister in the upper room on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Education Opportunities

Sunday School classes and **Adult Forum** meet at 9:30 after coffee time.

Dec. 18 Adult Forum – Time of Fellowship with coffee and donuts.

Dec 25 – Time of Fellowship with coffee in the Gathering Hall

Jan 1 – Time of Fellowship with coffee in the Gathering Hall

Adult Bible Study, Text Study, and Wednesday Evening activities will resume the first week of January! See you in the New Year!

Bible Study meets Tuesday mornings, from 8:45–10:15a.m. in Grace Hall, or Tuesday evenings at 6 p.m. in Esperanza Cafe.

Text Study on Wednesday evenings from 6:00-7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room.

Wednesday Evening activities begin with supper in Grace Hall I between 5:00-6:00 p.m. and continues with Kids activities, book club, English/Spanish class, bell choir, choir, confirmation... don't miss out!

The next New Member Class will meet January 8, from 1-2 p.m. in the Gathering Hall with Pastor Mike.





Happy Birthday to the following people this week!

Helen Fanning, Paul Weaver, Payton Lawson, Katja Rahjes, Richard Naney, Shirley Shiffler, Nathan Bickel, John Rudisill, Chris Janson, Donald Moon, Harold Mann, Quinci Chapman, Elizabeth Lewis, Wayne Curry, Piper Hutton, Jon Rutter, Stuart Mitchell, Nicole Nelson



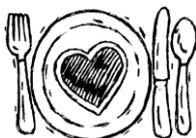
THANK YOU for filling the Wednesday Night Supper Calendar! Thank you to all who signed up to serve coffee through January!

There are just a few soup supper dates left – better hurry if you would like to sign up!



Altar Flowers Thank you to those who gave generously so that flowers were placed on the altar each Sunday during 2011. All the Sundays on the flower chart were reserved by members of the congregation so that budget dollars could be saved. Thank you! The 2012 calendar is hanging in the Gathering Hall on the brick wall. Please consider signing up so that flowers

can continue to adorn the altar. Many Sundays in January are available. Cost is \$38.00 each Sunday.



Congregational meal today! Join us at noon as the Youth Education Team and the Fellowship Team hosts a congregational meal in Grace Hall. Please do come even if you forgot to sign up!

Christmas Eve Special Music Deadline today: Please contact Pastor Mike TODAY so we can add your selection to the program.



Community Christmas Tree: The Community Christmas Trees in Grace Hall are festive and beautiful with the ornaments and lights. Thank you to all who have shared so far. You are invited to continue to share ornaments from home to decorate and by Christmas we will have trees that show the diversity and traditions of this community of faith.



DMARC Announcement:

From a recent letter from DMARC:

The Great Recession has arrived and settled in our community, which is something you must already know...something you may not know, is that DMARC congregations currently represent nearly 67,000 faith congregants. Of this group, about 13,000 of DMARC's own who are in need of assistance are likely to be among the 30,000 clients we help this year.

DMARC's reserves have been severely strained. Please consider a contribution to the ministry of DMARC. Checks can be sent to DMARC at 3816 36th St. Suite 202, Des Moines, IA 50310 or you may donate online at www.dmreligious.org



Poinsettia deliveries to homebound members: There are several members of the Grace family who cannot make it to church but would greatly appreciate a visit and a gift of Christmas cheer. A sign-up sheet for delivering poinsettias is located at Volunteer Central. Please consider

bringing a plant to one or more of the people on the list. You may pick up your poinsettia(s) for delivery anytime after the Christmas Day worship service. The building will be open Tuesday through Friday of the week between Christmas and New Year's Day. Thank you!



2011 Offerings

All 2011 offerings should be turned into the office by noon on December 29. Thank You!



Welcome to Grace!

Ministers – The People of God

Pastor - Michael Schmidt

Director of Laity Ministries - Stephanie Johnson

Grace Kids Care Director - Heather Nelson

Office Administrator - Jackie Holmes

Building/Grounds - Luis Reaza

Receptionist - Diana Johnson

Office Assistant - Michelle Voelker

Interim Organist - Rich Snyder

Ushers – 8:15 Linda Biegger, Dee Hummel, Tiim Nelson

10:45 Mark Stumme, Tom McCleary, Jay Wangerin

Liturgist - 8:15 Doug Johnson 10:45 Joyce Lewis

Lighting the Advent Wreaths – 8:15 - Delores Larsen

10:45 – Rissman Family

Lector – 8:15 – Carol Woodruff 10:45 Nely Ruiz

Communion Assistants – 8:15 Karen Taylor, Alex Davik, Kevin Krause

Acolytes - 8:15 – Cooper Mortenson

10:45 – Sarah Voelker, Sierra Carney

Altar Guild - Sue Anderson, Gail Peterson, Carol Woodruff

Counters – 8:15 Mike Carney, Jeff Farrell

10:45 Tom McCleary, Jon Rissman

Coffee Servers – Beth Flannery and Kristin Medhurst

Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Michael Schmidt

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