

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 8, 2024

10:00 A.M.

OAK GROVE LUTHERAN CHURCH
7045 LYNDALE AVENUE SOUTH, RICHFIELD, MINNESOTA

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT OAK GROVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Mission Statement


*To Put the Love of Jesus Into Action,
As We Welcome, Serve and Love All People.*

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING *Lead Us to Your Light*

Refrain:



Lead us to your light, lead us out of dark-ness.
Lead us to your light. Come, Je - sus, come.

Verse (sung by cantor):

Lord, we await
your coming to our world;
bring us the gift
of salvation

Refrain

Lead Us to Your Light Words and music by Carol Browning. Copyright © 2001 by GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission under OneLicense #A-704117.

LITANY

Leaders: Olson Family

The prophet Malachi calls us to watch for the messenger God will send us, a messenger who burns with passion for God's coming salvation.

"For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness." (Malachi 3:2b-3)

In a world driven by a passion to maintain the status quo, we choose to live with a passion for God's peace, to listen to those who call us to righteousness, and to submit ourselves to God's grace, that we might be refined and purified until we reflect God's love through the earth.

Today, along with the candle of Hope, we light the candle of Peace as a sign of our commitment to passionately pursue the work of making peace in our hearts, our families, our communities, and throughout the earth until God's kin-dom comes on earth as it is in heaven.

Let us pray, Loving God,
in this time of preparation and planning, we thank you for the Hope and Peace you unfailingly offer us. Show us the creative power of Hope. Teach us the Peace that comes from justice. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.

- 1 O Lord, how shall I meet you,
how welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet you,
my hope, my heart's delight!
Oh, kindle, Lord most holy,
your lamp within my breast
to do in spirit lowly
all that may please you best.

- 3 Love caused your incarnation;
love brought you down to me.
Your thirst for my salvation
procured my liberty.
Oh, love beyond all telling,
that led you to embrace
in love, all love excelling,
our lost and fallen race.

- 4 Rejoice, then, you sad-hearted,
who sit in deepest gloom,
who mourn your joys departed
and tremble at your doom.
All hail the Lord's appearing!
O glorious Sun, now come,
send forth your beams so cheering
and guide us safely home.

+ 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.

Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. **By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

Amen.

PSALM Luke 1:68-79

Read responsively by verse.

“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.

He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David,
as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,
that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant,

the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us

that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear,

in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins.

By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us,

to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

NEW TESTAMENT READING Philippians 1:3-11

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.

It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus.

And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

+ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

+ GOSPEL Luke 3:1-6

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the third chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of

the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

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

SERMON

We Share a Grace-Full Gift

HYMN OF THE DAY

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist Cry
vss. 1, 3 & 5

ELW 249

+ CONFESSIO OF FAITH

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 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

Each petition ends with:

Lord in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

+ SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the risen Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

Creator God,

you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us.

We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

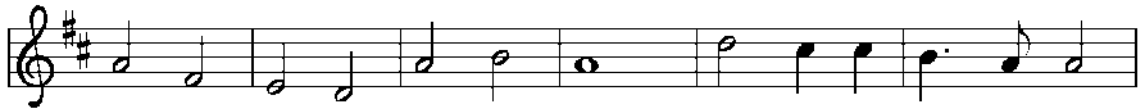
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

Holy, Holy, Holy

ELW p. 153



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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

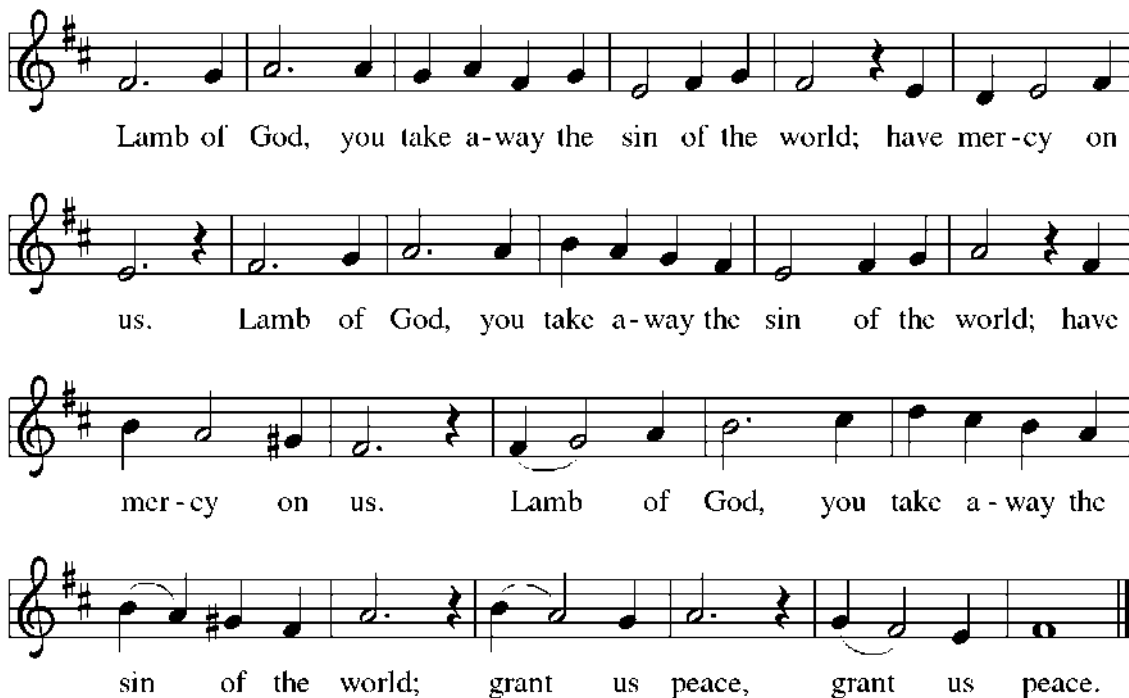
For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours, now and forever.

Amen.

LAMB OF GOD

ELW p. 154



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.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

DISTRIBUTION

Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus

ELW 254

+ PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Generous God,
we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name.

Amen.

+ BENEDICTION

God of endings and beginnings,
God in the darkness and the light,
God, our hope for the journey,
✠ and keep you now and forever.
Amen.

+ SENDING FORTH HYMN

Prepare the Royal Highway
vss. 1, 2 & 4

ELW 264

+ DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Thanks to Pastor Mark Wegener for leading worship today
while Pastor Lee is away!

Oak Grove Core Values Statement

Love one another with compassion and care, just as Christ loves us.

Welcome all people into fellowship with hospitality.

Accept others as they are, treating each person with respect and dignity.

Worship God through music and ministry, reflecting our Lutheran heritage while embracing new ways of worship.

Grow in faith rooted in the Gospel, both as individuals
and as a faith community.

Serve the Lord by generously sharing our faith, time, talents, and resources with
the community and the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Transition Team Update

In January, Pastor Lee joined us at Oak Grove as Interim Pastor. With two pastors leaving within a year, after being at Oak Grove for 30+ years and other things happening at Oak Grove we were grieving. Pastor Lee did a session allowing us to grieve. He called this phase of our transition “Accept the Ending” - a time of letting go of the past and honoring and grieving the ending but also accepting it. The next stage Pastor Lee talked about was the Neutral Zone. He described the neutral zone as “the no-man’s land between the old reality and the new. It is a time when the old way is gone and the new does not feel comfortable yet.” This Neutral Zone is where the transition team has been living and hopefully with our monthly updates you too have been there with us. The transition team is coming to the end of our tasks, needing to complete several forms that must go to the synod.

We are at a point at Oak Grove when we can begin to think about “new beginnings” as Pastor Lee labeled it. He noted that “people get to the new beginnings only if they first make an ending and have spent some time in the neutral zone.” The first task in this New Beginnings phase is to begin the process of forming the Call Committee. The call committee will consist of six Oak Grove members and the President of the congregation – Julie Tvette. We ask that if you are interested, if you would fill out the form titled “Call Committee Interest Form” which you can find in the office on the counter or you can get a form from Julie Tvette.

Forms can be turned into the envelope on the counter in the office or directly to Julie. Forms MUST be turned in no later than December 21st. Call committee will be named in mid-January following the church council meeting.

Any questions, please ask Julie Tvette or Pastor Lee.

Contributor Statements

Contributor statements are available in the narthex today, December 8. Any that are not picked up will be mailed out on Monday, December 9.

Calling All Woodworkers!

The season of Lent begins on Wednesday, March 5, 2025. The theme for Oak Grove's mid-week Lenten services this year is *CROSS PIECE/PEACE*. We need crosses made for this series. If several woodworkers can help, please see Pastor Lee for more information and a look at a model cross that we will make for each family.

Prayer Shawl Knitters Needed

Are you a knitter or have you always wanted to learn? The Prayer Shawl Ministry is going strong at Oak Grove and we'd love to have more shawls on hand for Pastor Lee to gift to those in need of comfort. We have enough yarn on hand for 4 shawls that may be used. If you are interested in knitting a shawl or donating supplies, please get in touch with Kathie Curry or Amy Hanson in the office.

Stewardship

There is still time to return your Statement of Intent to Oak Grove Lutheran. Pledge cards may be placed in the offering basket or dropped off in the office. If you're interested in the Vanco Simply Giving program, an automatic electronic way to give, please pick up an enrollment form in the office.

Communion Feedback

Thank you for your feedback about how we receive communion at Oak Grove! After much discussion, the Council decided that we will do "file by" communion going forward.

Christmas Festival Concert – *Healing: of the Nations*

Join the National Lutheran Choir at the beautiful Basilica of Saint Mary in Minneapolis for the Christmas Festival tradition. This year's program, *Healing: of the Nations*, seeks to bring a beacon of hope to all who open their hearts and listen. Concerts will be held on December 13 & 14. Tickets at NLCA.com.

OAK GROVE EVENTS THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 8

- 9:00 am Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall
- 10:00 am Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 11:00 am Sunday School, South Lawn, SS Rooms

Monday, December 9

- 6:30 pm Transition Team, Library

Tuesday, December 10

- 9:30 am Staff Meeting, Library
- 10:00 am Care Club, Fellowship Hall
- 1:00 pm Bible Study, Fireside Room
- 7:00 pm Council Meeting, Fireside Room

Wednesday, December 11

- 9:30 am Bible Study, Fireside Room
- 6:30 pm Confirmation, Fireside Room, SS Room
- 7:00 pm Chorale, Sanctuary

Thursday, December 12

Friday, December 13

Offices Closed

Saturday, December 14

- 8:00 am Men's Bible Study, Library
- 9:00 am Joy Bells Practice, Sanctuary
- 10:00 am Sunday School Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sunday, Dec 15** Sunday School Program in Worship, 10 am
- Wednesday, Dec 24** Christmas Eve Candlelight Services, 4 pm and 10 pm
- Sunday, Dec 29** Service of Lessons and Carols, 10 am

Worship Leaders for Sunday, December 8

Assisting Minister: —

Cantor: Nickie Wigdahl

Scripture Reader: Randy Hummel

Communion Servers: Bev Hummel and Kelli Olson

Worship Leaders for next Sunday, December 15

(Sunday School Christmas Program)

Media - Facebook Live: Les & Becky Hanson, Julie, Curt and Elisa Tvete,
Pam Krause, and Kathie Curry

*Oak Grove Lutheran Church sits on traditional lands of the Dakota people.
We acknowledge, with gratitude, the many blessings we receive from this land.*

*Children are always welcome in worship. Activity bags are available
in the library or ask an usher for help in locating them.*

Restrooms: *Located downstairs near the fellowship lounge.*

Hearing devices: *Personal hearing devices are available through the ushers.*



If you're done with this bulletin, please leave it in the pew. It will be recycled.

Lead Us to Your Light Words and music by Carol Browning. Copyright © 2001 by GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission under OneLicense #A-704117.

Bulletin liturgy and hymnody reprinted under CCLI license #76710, One License #A-704117,
and Sundays and Seasons.

Oak Grove Lutheran Church

Staff

Rev. Lee Hallstrom, *Interim Pastor*

pastorlee@oakgrovelutheran.org

Kelli Olson, *Education Coordinator*

kelli@oakgrovelutheran.org

Jeanne Hanson, *Financial Manager*

jeanne@oakgrovelutheran.org

Amy Hanson, *Office Manager*

amy@oakgrovelutheran.org

Scott Olson, *Custodian*

runhomescott@msn.com

Erin Draeger, *Day Care Director*

Richard Jefferson, *Librarian*

Music Staff

Morva Klein, *Organist*

Carol Swenson, *Chorale*

Julie Tvette and Elisa Tvette, *Bell Choirs*



7045 Lyndale Ave S, Richfield, MN 55423

(612) 869-4917 | oakgrovelutheran.org