



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 1, 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, you are hope
and healing for our world;
come, now, and bring us
your good news

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: Vik Family

Advent is a time to wait.

We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.

During Advent we wait for light in the darkness.

We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.

During Advent we wait for freedom from captivity.

We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.

During Advent we wait for comfort in sorrow.

We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.

During Advent we wait for power in weakness.

We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.

This morning, we light the first candle. The first candle reminds us that, as we wait upon the Lord, God's light never ceases to shine. God's will never ceases to unfold, and God's grace never ceases to be felt. As we begin the journey of Advent, may we learn to wait upon the Lord with hopeful expectation by celebrating all God has done and anticipating all God will do.

Let us pray, God in heaven,

as we begin this season of Advent, we pray that you will teach us to wait with patience, endurance and trust. Holding to the eternal promises revealed to us through the power of your Word, we ask that you remind us of your everlasting presence. Amen.

+ GATHERING HYMN

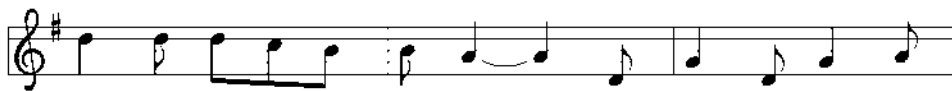
Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

ELW 242

vss. 1, 2 & 4



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
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
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;
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 -
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
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.
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

+ Please stand as you are able.

+ 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 your power, Lord Christ, and come.

By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

PSALM Psalm 25:1-10

Read responsively by verse.

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.

Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O Lord!

Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

NEW TESTAMENT READING 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

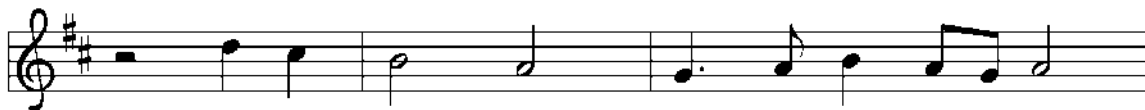
ANTHEM

O, Come to Us Emmanuel

Chorale

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

+ 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 21:25-36

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-first chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves.

People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place and to stand before the Son of Man.”

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

SERMON

A Sermon for the Anxious

HYMN OF THE DAY

He Came Down

ELW 253

+ CONFESSION 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

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Nickie Wigdahl

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, 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.

LAMB OF GOD

ELW p. 154



+ PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We praise you, O God, for this abundance we have shared at your table. Let all creation taste your goodness, and let our lives bear witness that no one is excluded from your love. May the kindness we have known here spread a sabbath mood over the week to come. You are so good to us, holy and almighty God.

Amen.

+ BENEDICTION

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

Amen.

+ SENDING FORTH HYMN

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers
vss. 1 & 4

ELW 244

+ DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

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.

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.

Poinsettia Orders

It is time to begin preparing for our celebration of Christ's birth! We will work together to prepare the sanctuary by ordering Christmas poinsettias. Please use the enclosed form to place your order and submit payment by **tomorrow, Monday, December 2**, indicating that the payment is for "Christmas Poinsettias".

OAK GROVE EVENTS THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 1

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

Monday, December 2

Tuesday, December 3

- 9:30 am Staff Meeting, Library
- 10:00 am Care Club, Fellowship Hall
- 1:00 pm Bible Study, Fireside Room
- 6:30 pm Lydia-Ruth Circle Meeting, Fireside Room

Wednesday, December 4

- 6:30 pm Confirmation, Fireside Room, SS Room
- 7:00 pm Chorale, Sanctuary

Thursday, December 5

Friday, December 6

Offices Closed

Saturday, December 7

- 8:00 am Men's Bible Study, Library
- 9:00 am Joy Bells Practice, Sanctuary

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 next Sunday, December 1

Assisting Minister: Carol Swenson

Scripture Reader: Bev Hummel

Communion Servers: Matt Cutter and Murt Hanson

Worship Leaders for next Sunday, December 8

Assisting Minister: —

Scripture Reader: Randy Hummel

Communion Servers: Bev Hummel and OPEN

Media - Facebook Live: Les & Becky Hanson, Julie, Curt and Elisa Tvette,
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.

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Oak Grove Lutheran Church

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Morva Klein, *Organist*

Carol Swenson, *Chorale*

Julie Tvette and Elisa Tvette, *Bell Choirs*



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