



God Is With Us Today

Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2023

KING OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH | *Golden Valley, Minnesota*

Welcome to God's divine service among his saints in his house this morning. If you experience any kind of barrier to worship, please speak with an usher. There is a hearing assistance system available, and there are activity bags and a cry room for small children just beside the front door.

Christmas Program

HYMN

Thy Little Ones, Dear Lord, Are We | #144: v.1-3

INVOCATION

P: Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

C: Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

P: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,

**C: And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.**

HYMN

Gloria Patri



Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son
and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be - gin-ning,
is now, and ev - er shall be, for - ev - er-more. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: O Lord God, Gracious Father, who in the fullness of time made your Son to become a little child and our brother: Thank you for the gift of him our Savior from sin, death, and hell. Keep us in the true faith in him so that we might ever rejoice in his birth and finally see him with you and the Holy Spirit in all his glory forever and ever. Amen.

SERMON

John 1:6–8, 19–28

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

¹⁹ Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. ²⁰ He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Messiah."

²¹ They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?"

He said, "I am not."

"Are you the Prophet?"

He answered, "No."

²² Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

²³ John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.' "

²⁴ Now the Pharisees who had been sent ²⁵ questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"

²⁶ "I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know. ²⁷ He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie."

²⁸ This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

HYMN

A Great and Mighty Wonder | #113

OFFERING

I. The Savior Is a Child

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

P: Who is Christ?

C: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God (John 1:1).

P: Where was this little child born?

C: But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times (Micah 5:2).

P: Who was his mother?

C: Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel (Isaiah 7:14).

P: Where was Mary's home?

C: In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary (Luke 1:26–27).

P: Who was this child's earthly father?

C: But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit (Matthew 1:20).

HYMN

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus | #87

CHRISTMAS GOSPEL

Luke 2:1–7

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

P: What is the name of this child?

C: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him “Immanuel” — which means “God with us” (Matthew 1:23).

C: She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins (Matthew 1:21).

C: The holy one to be born will be called the Son of God (Luke 1:35).

C: For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost (Luke 19:10).

HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel | #110: v. 1, 4–6

II. The Child Is a Savior

CHRISTMAS GOSPEL

Luke 2:8–14

HYMN

Let Us All With Gladsome Voice | #134: v.1–3

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

P: Who is this Christ-child?

C: For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form (Colossians 2:9).

C: For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all people (1 Timothy 2:5–6).

C: But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law (Galatians 4:4–5).

C: Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever (Hebrews 13:8).

P: What has this Christ-child done for us?

C: This is how God showed his love among us: he sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him (1 John 4:9).

C: Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners (1 Timothy 1:15).

C: For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich (2 Corinthians 8:9).

P: Why has God redeemed us?

C: In order that I might be his own, live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness.

P: How do we know this?

C: Even as he is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

HYMN

I Am So Glad When Christmas Comes | #127

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

**C: 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.**

Service of the Sacrament

The members of King of Grace invite members of other ELS or WELS congregations to commune with us. We ask everyone else to please visit with our pastors before our next communion service.

CONSECRATION, DISTRIBUTION, AND RECEPTION

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples saying: "Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also he took the cup after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying: "Drink of it all of you; this cup is the New Testament in my blood, which is shed for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

When Sinners See Their Lost Condition | #111

PRAYER

P: Let us give thanks and pray: We thank you, Lord God Almighty, that you have refreshed us with these your life-giving gifts. We ask you—out of your mercy—to strengthen us through them in faith toward you and in eager love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

HYMN

Thy Little Ones, Dear Lord, Are We | #144: v.4–8

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

C: 
A - men, a - men, a - men.

Preacher.....Pastor Aaron Ferkenstad | **Liturgist**.....Pastor Bernt Tweit
OrganistKaren Merseth

Christmas Eve serviceSun., 12/24 3:00 pm & 4:30 pm
Christmas Communion service.....Mon., 12/25.....10:00 am



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Member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod
Pastors Aaron Ferkenstad & Bernt Tweit | Principal Allen Labitzky