

**HOPE  
PEACE  
JOY  
LOVE**



*Midweek Advent Worship*

# “Ground Floor Grace”

**ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH**

First Week of Advent: Hope  
Wednesday, December 3, 2025

**THE ADVENT WREATH** *developed a few centuries ago as a sign of the waiting and hopeful expectation of the return in glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. The wreath, a circle, came to represent the eternal victory over death through Jesus Christ. The evergreens were a sign of the faithfulness of God to God’s people, even in death, and the lighted candles were a reminder of the light of Christ brought into the world—shining brightly with hope, peace, joy, and love.*

## WELCOME

L: God is good! C: **All the time!**

L: All the time! C: **God is good! All are welcome here!**

## ADVENT CALL TO WORSHIP - HOPE

Leader 1: We gather in the season of Advent, waiting and watching for the One who comes not in splendor, but in humility. The God of the universe has changed addresses—leaving heaven’s throne to dwell among us in a manger. This is grace: not earned, not expected, but freely given.

Leader 2: We light the candle of Hope, trusting that the God who moved into our neighborhood, who does not pretend to be one of us, but really is one of us, brings light to our darkest places.

**All: Emmanuel, God with us, you chose a manger over a palace. Let your presence fill our longing hearts with hope.**

## WE LIGHT THE CANDLE OF HOPE

### +ADVENT WREATH SONG GROUND FLOOR GRACE

*To the tune of “Away in a Manger”*

#### Verse 1 – HOPE

A candle is burning, its flickering light,  
Proclaims that our Hope has pierced through the night.  
The God of creation came close to our pain,  
And dwells in the dust, where our sorrows remain.

**+PRAYER: O Prince of Peace, in our busyness settle our hearts and minds. Slow us down to see all that you give us. Let your peace reign in our hearts and minds. Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE** Matthew 24:36-44

**Children's Bible** #164 "Someday, God will send us the Messiah"

### **PRAYER OF HOPE**

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. You, O God, work through grace-filled beginnings. Open our eyes to your truth and lead us to your grace. In all things, help us to know that your grace is for us, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **REFLECTION**

#### **+PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*Each petition concludes:* God of hope, **Receive our prayer.**

### **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.**

### **BLESSING**

May God who comes down to meet us where we are,  
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,  
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,  
and good news to share today and always.  
**Amen.**

## SONG—ELW #244 "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"

### DISMISSAL

Even as we wait, God is with us. **Thanks be to God.**

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*Taken from "Advent 2025 Worship Resources based on 'Ground Floor Grace' by John Stevens" Western North Dakota Synod of the ELCA 2024*



## 2025

- **Advent Sundays** November 30, December 7, 14 & 21 at 9:00 a.m.
- **Mid-Week Advent** We are having our midweek Advent services this year *at 6:30 p.m.* on Wednesdays, December 3, 10 & 17
- **The Choir Festival** is Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, at our regular 9:00 a.m. We will be worshipping with Our Savior, Max.
- **The Children's Christmas Program** will be during worship on December 21<sup>st</sup>.
- **The Blue Christmas Service** will be Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 3PM at St. Paul. The holidays can be challenging times for anyone who has suffered loss or hurt. A service of comfort is a way we can recognize the depth of the season and help process those negative feelings that might be held within during the holidays. By doing so, we can all celebrate more fully, knowing we have acknowledged those who are no longer with us or what we might have left behind.
- **Christmas Eve** Two Christmas Eve Communion Candlelight services will be available at 2:30 and 4:30 p.m.
- **Christmas Day** No Christmas Day service will be held in person. **However, a virtual pre-taped service will be available by the staff @ 9:00am. It will be on our Web site.**
- **Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup>** A Lessons and Carols Service will be celebrated!  
*Bring your leftover goodies for Fellowship!*  
**Please join us in celebrating Jesus' birth during these services!**

- **Advent Devotionals are available in the Gathering Area/Narthex**