



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 22, 2024

10:00 A.M.

OAK GROVE LUTHERAN CHURCH
7045 LYNDAL AVE. 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

Prepare a Place

Messenger

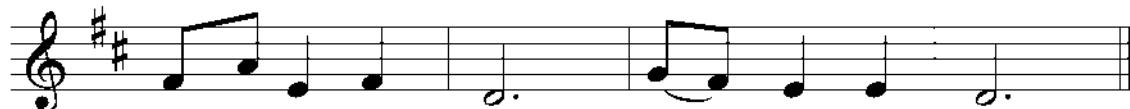
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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):

Come, O come,

O come, Emmanuel

Come with us on earth here to dwell.

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: Little Family

The first three candles we lit were for **hope, peace and joy**. Today we light the fourth candle the candle of **LOVE**. With this flame we signify the love of God that surrounds and fills us at all times, but that we recognize in a special way in the Christmas story. There is no greater power than **LOVE**. It is stronger than rulers and empires, stronger than grief or despair, stronger than even death. We love, because **God LOVES us**. Let us pray,

Loving God, we open ourselves to you this Advent and Christmas season. Light our lives with your imagination. Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared. Magnify your love within us. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.

Know that God is always coming into the world. See Good not in a long ago stable or ancient manger, but in the people we meet and in the depths of our own hearts. May the blessing of Christmas make us a blessing to others!

+ GATHERING SONG

Messiah

Messenger

Someone's shouting from the desert.

Someone's shouting from the sea.

Someone's shouting from the mountain.

Someone's shouting from the valley.

Messiah, come and be our King. Messiah, come and be our King.

Someone's shouting from the city, I am young – I am cold.

Someone's shouting from the country, I am lonely – I am old.

Messiah, come and be our King...

Someone's shouting I am broken.

Someone's shouting make me whole.

Someone's shouting come and change me.

Someone's shouting save my soul.

Messiah, come and be our King...

+ GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE

He Came Down

Messenger

- 1 He came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
hallelujah forevermore.

- 2 He came down that we may have light;
he came down that we may have light;
he came down that we may have light;
hallelujah forevermore.

- 3 He came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have peace;
hallelujah forevermore.

- 4 He came down that we may have joy;
he came down that we may have joy;
he came down that we may have joy;
hallelujah forevermore.

+ *Please stand as you are able.*

PSALM Luke 1:46b-55

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

OLD TESTAMENT READING Micah 5:2-5a

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
 who are one of the little clans of Judah,
 from you shall come forth for me
 one who is to rule in Israel,
 whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.
Therefore he shall give them up until the time
 when she who is in labor has brought forth;
 then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.
And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
 in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
 to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

+ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -
- le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -
lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in the key of D major (one sharp). It consists of three systems of music. The first system has two lines of lyrics. The second system has two lines of lyrics, with the second line starting with a lower vocal line. The third system has two lines of lyrics. The music features various rhythmic values including quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, as well as rests and ties.

+ GOSPEL Luke 1:39-45

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you

among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

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

SERMON

Christmas Through the Eyes of Mary

Breath of Heaven

Lisa Hoyne

SONG OF THE DAY

My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness Lord

Messenger

**1 My soul proclaims your greatness, Lord;
I sing my Savior's praise!
You looked upon my lowliness,
and I am full of grace.
Now ev'ry land and ev'ry age
this blessing shall proclaim—
great wonders you have done for me,
and holy is your name.**

**2 To all who live in holy fear
your mercy ever flows.
With mighty arm you dash the proud,
their scheming hearts expose.
The ruthless you have cast aside,
the lowly throned instead;
the hungry filled with all good things,
the rich sent off unfed.**

3 To Israel, your servant blest,
your help is ever sure;
the promise to our parents made
their children will secure.
Sing glory to the Holy One,
give honor to the Word,
and praise the Pow'r
of the Most High,
one God, by all adored.

+ 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

I Heard the Bells

Messenger

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.

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



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

Light of the World

Messenger

Come, to Be Our Hope, O Jesus

Messenger

**Come to be our hope, O Jesus; come to set our people free.
From oppression come, release us; let us turn to life in thee.
Come, release from ev'ry prison those who suffer in our land.
In your love we find the reason still to live and understand.**

**Come to build your new creation through the road of servanthood;
Give new life to ev'ry nation, changing evil into good.**

**Come and open our tomorrow for a Kingdom, now so near.
Take away all human sorrow, give us hope against our fear.**

Come to Be Our Hope, O Jesus text and music Jaci Maraschin © 1978 Jaci Maraschin.
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+ 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,
‡ bless and keep you now and forever.

Amen.

+ SENDING FORTH SONG

Joy to the World

Messenger

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as,
far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations
prove, the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

+ 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

Call Committee—Interest Form Due Date Extended to December 24th

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. *(continued)*

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. **The interest form due date has been extended to December 24th.** Call Committee will be named in mid-January following the church council meeting. Any questions, please ask Julie Tvette or Pastor Lee.

2025 Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for 2025 are available for pick-up in the narthex. The envelope numbers remain unchanged from last year and the boxes are labeled. If you wish to start using envelopes, but have not used them previously, please sign-up on the pad next to the envelopes and a box will be available for you next week.

Rebirth of the Property Commission

As you know, our beloved engineer Scott is retiring in January. We have been looking at ways to get the things at Oak Grove done that Scott has been doing. We will hire a part-time cleaning service but there are many other things Scott does that we think a Property Commission could help with. Some things would only occasionally need to be done (small paint jobs, change lightbulbs, test AED and replace batteries as needed...). Others would be on a more regular basis (mow the lawn, shovel the sidewalks...). And there would be other things as needed. If you are interested, please contact JulieTvette (612-750-2589) or at church on Sunday.

We need your help!

We have been thinking of things that need doing after Scott retires in January. Do any of these things sound of interest to you or are there things that need doing that you think you could help with?? Here are just a few:

- Change paraments and banners according to the liturgical calendar
- Wash laundry from the kitchen (there is a washer at church)
- Set up seasonal decorations
- Kill weeds on sidewalk and in the parking lots
- Weed flower gardens
- Trim bushes and shrubs
- And many other jobs as well, of course

If any of this sounds of interest or if you need more information, please contact Julie Tvette (612-750-2589) or at church on Sundays. Your help with this will greatly help Oak Grove!!

End of Year Contributions

There is still time to give offerings for 2024! You may contribute by dropping it off in the Oak Grove office by 2 pm on December 31, mailing it (with a postmark) by December 31, or by submitting an online payment by December 31. Your contributions are important to the financial stability of Oak Grove.

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.

OAK GROVE EVENTS THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 22

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

Monday, December 23

Tuesday, December 24—Christmas Eve

- 9 am -12 pm Office Hours
- 4:00 pm Candlelight Service
- 10:00 pm Candlelight Service

Wednesday, December 25—Christmas Day

Offices Closed for Holiday

Thursday, December 26

Friday, December 27

Offices Closed

Saturday, December 28

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, December 29 Carol Sing Worship with Meditations, 10 am

Sunday, January 26 Congregational Annual Meeting, 11 am

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Thank you to all who ordered poinsettias.

Plants may be picked up following Christmas Eve Services
or in the church office.

Given by:

In Honor or In Memory of:

Carol Athey

In Memory of my husband Adrian Athey
and my son-in-law Tim Godfrey

Deb Athey Godfrey

In Memory of my husband, Tim
and my dad, Adrian

Carolyn and Mark Aura

In Memory of Helen Stanley

Lloyd and JoAnn Beggs

In Memory of our parents

Carol Benson

In Memory of Jerry Benson and other loved ones

John and Beverly Bjostad

In Honor of our parents

Bruce and Deidre Boyea Family

In Memory of Wayne E. Gruben

Josh, Kayla and Emily Brehmer

In Memory of
Grandfathers Herm Albrecht and Floyd Brehmer
and Great Grandparents Kay and Jay Katzenmeyer

Dorla Dagner

In Memory of Herman Dagner

Les and Becky Hanson

In Memory of our parents

Mike and Muriel Hanson

In Memory of our parents

Bev and Randy Hummel

In Memory of our parents
and Diana Hummel (Randy's sister)

Vivian Jacobson

In Memory of Lori Bekkum (daughter),
Wallace Bekkum (late husband), and Paul Kaiser (special friend)

Karen Levisen

In Memory of my parents, Earl and Maurine Levisen

Melissa and Benjamin Little

In Memory of Marc Little and Carlos McKee

Bobbie Martin

In Honor of my daughter who treasures and shares
the gifts of Christmas joy

Given by:

In Honor or In Memory of:

Carol Martin	In Memory of my parents Ev and Dick Martin, and my sister, Linda Martin
Jim and Lisa Martin Rennie	In Honor of our beloved family and our wedding this year
Beverly Moe	In Memory of Jim Moe and Patricia Sandberg Moe
Scott and Barb Olson	In Memory of Roger and Ann Lundberg
Mark and Quynh Panning	In Memory of our parents
The Penz Family	In Memory of Edward and Joan Penz
Jane Peterson	In Memory of my parents
Lilah Rasmussen	In Memory of my parents, Judith and Peter; brother Paul; nephew Eric; and niece Maisa
Lee Schaefer and Joyce Morseth Suzki	In Memory of Harris Morseth and In Honor of Leverage Morseth
Tom and Mary Schermerhorn	In Memory of John Schermerhorn
John Schroeder	In Memory of my parents, Jim and Gerry
Brad Sveum	In Memory of parents Leland and June Sveum
Mark and Margaret Swanson	In Memory of our Son, Charles
Carol Swenson	In Memory of Jim Moe
Carol and Mike Tveite	In Honor of Eleanor and Vera
John and Nickie Wigdahl	In Memory of our parents

Worship Leaders for Sunday, December 22

Assisting Minister: Mike Tveite

Scripture Reader: Becky Hanson

Communion Servers: Carol Tveite and Carolyn Aura

Worship Leaders for next Sunday, December 29

Assisting Minister: –

Scripture Reader: Julie Tvetve

Communion Servers: Margaret Olson and Jan Philibert

Media - Facebook Live: Les & Becky Hanson, Julie, Curt and Elisa Tvetve,
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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Richard Jefferson, *Librarian*

Music Staff

Morva Klein, *Organist*

Carol Swenson, *Chorale*

Julie Tvette and Elisa Tvette, *Bell Choirs*



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