GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

918 Garfield Avenue, Albert Lea, Minnesota
www.gracealbertlea.org • Facebook.com/GraceAlbertLea

First Sunday of Advent **November 29, 2026**

**Denotes to stand if able.*

Prelude: Intermezzo in A major, Op. 118, No. 2 ..... **Johannes Brahms**

Welcome and Announcements

Advent Candle Liturgy

L: In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again? Where do we start?

A: Let us begin with the good news.
Let us begin by trusting that we are a blessing, loved by a gracious God.
Let us begin with music and singing! Let us begin with warmth and welcome.
Let us begin with hope.

L: Yes, let us begin with hope. Today we light the candle of hope to shine a light in a worn and weary world.

A: May this be our foundation.
May this be our fresh start.
May this be our new beginning.

L: May hope flow forth from here.

***Gathering Hymn:** Fling Wide the Door..... **ELW 259**

*Confession and Forgiveness

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who calls out to the weary,
whose word endures forever.

A: Amen.

L: A voice cries out in the wilderness,
"Make straight the way of the Lord!"
We are called to confess our sin
and turn back toward God's love.

Comforting God,

A: we are your people,
but we have neglected to call on your name.
We are your people,
but we have not remembered your ways.
We are your people,
but we have forgotten your hold on us.
We are your people,
but now we fade like a leaf,
and our sins, like the wind, take us away.
Restore us as your people.
Cleanse us from our sin,
and clothe us in your righteousness.
Amen.

L: "Comfort, comfort my people!" says your God,
who has clothed you with the garments of salvation
and wrapped you in the robe of righteousness.

God has given you a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
In the name of ☩ Christ, your sins are forgiven:
Rejoice in the Lord!
Rejoice in the Lord!

A: Amen.

***Greeting**

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

A: And also with you

***Prayer of the Day**

L: Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.

A: By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9

1 O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
2 as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
3 When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence.
4 From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
5 You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
6 We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
7 There is no one who calls on your name
or attempts to take hold of you,
for you have hidden your face from us
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
8 Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
9 Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

L: The word of the Lord

A: Thanks be to God

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

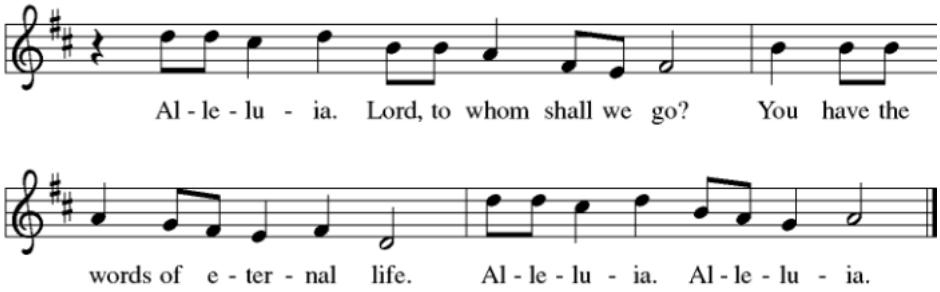
L: [1] Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock!
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth
A: [2] before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.
Stir up your might,
and come to save us!
L: [3] Restore us, O God;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.
A: [4] O Lord God of hosts,
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?
L: [5] You have fed them with the bread of tears
and given them tears to drink in full measure.
A: [6] You make us the scorn of our neighbors;
our enemies laugh among themselves.
L: [7] Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.
A: [17] But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one whom you made strong for yourself.
L: [18] Then we will never turn back from you;
give us life, and we will call on your name.
A: [19] Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

[3] Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
[4] I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, [5] for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—[6] just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—[7] so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. [8] He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. [9] God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

L: The word of the Lord
A: Thanks be to God

***Gospel Acclamation**



L: The Gospel according to Mark.
A: Glory to you, O Lord!

Gospel: Mark 13:24-37

24 "But in those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
25 and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
26 "Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. 27 Then he will send out the angels and gather the elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

28 "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. 29 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. 30 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. 31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

32 "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. 34 It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch.

35 Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, 36 or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. 37 And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

L: The gospel of the Lord!
A: Praise to you, O Christ!

Children's Message: Pastor Shane Koepke

Sermon: Deacon Jessie Camp

***Hymn of the Day:** Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending..... **ELW 435**

***Apostles Creed**

A: 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 life everlasting. Amen

***Prayers of Intercession**

Each petition ends with the words:

L: Merciful God,

A: receive our prayer.

***Sharing Peace**

L: The peace of Christ be with you always.

A: And also with you.

Offering

Music: Prelude in E-flat major, Op. 31, No. 1 ..... Reinhold Glière

***Offertory Song:** God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending (verse 1)..... **ELW 678**

God, whose giving knows no ending,
from your rich and endless store:
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom,
costly cross, grave's shattered door,
gifted by you, we turn to you,
off'ring up ourselves in praise;
thankful song shall rise forever,
gracious donor of our days.

***Offering Prayer**

L: Let us pray. Holy Creator,

A: we are the clay and you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. Receive these gifts shape them and our lives for your purpose, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Holy Communion**

***The Great Thanksgiving**

L: The Lord be with you.

A: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

A: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

A: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***Words of Institution**

***Lord's Prayer**

A: 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.

Distribution

Hymns: Bread of Life, Our Host and Meal ..... **ELW 464**
O Lord, How Shall I Meet You ..... **ELW 241**

***Prayer after Communion**

L: Let us pray. Providing God,

A: you feed your flock like a shepherd and gather your people in your arms. We praise you for the care and sustenance you give at this meal and always. As we leave your table, carry us near your heart, and send us with confidence in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

***Blessing**

L: God our provider, God our feast, God our companion, ☩ bless you now and forever.

A: Amen.

***Sending Hymn:** People, Look East ..... **ELW 248**

***Sending**

L: Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.

A: Thanks be to God.

Postlude: Finale from Piano Sonata in D major, Hob. XVI:37 ..... **Joseph Haydn**

THANK YOU for joining in worship at Grace Lutheran!

Welcome to all members and visitors! May God bless this time of worship with joy and peace. If you're seeking a church home, we invite you to join the Grace family—please speak with the pastor or deacon for more information.

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

WORSHIP LEADERS: Pastor Shane Koepke and Deacon Jessie Camp
MUSIC: Aaron Bartz
SCRIPTURE READER: Jess Hatland
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: Gary & Jeanne Schindler