

Big Grove Crow River Grace Parish

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December 1, 2024

First Sunday of Advent

Welcome in Jesus' name.

We extend a special welcome to guests and visitors.



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Prelude/Procession/Bell

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of Advent Candle

L: Watch and wait for Christ's coming!

Light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love,
remembering the promises of God with prayer.

We light this candle in hope. (Light the first candle)

Hear God's promise of hope from Jeremiah 33:14-16:

"The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise, I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Let us pray:

Faithful God, out of death you bring life. Renew us in hope, that we may be alert to the burgeoning of Christ's advent among us. **God of promise, God of hope, into our darkness come. Amen.**

Hymn: "He Came Down" ELW #253 v.1 (sing twice)

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.

Text: Cameroon traditional

***Confession and Forgiveness:**

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

L: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

L: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

L: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

***Gathering Hymn:** "How Majestic is Your Name"

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth.

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth.

O Lord, we praise Your name.

O Lord, we magnify Your name:

Prince of Peace, mighty God; O Lord God Almighty.

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***Apostolic 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.**

***Kyrie:**

Setting 4, ELW, page 147-148

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church
And for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and
Praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

***Hymn of Praise:** "This is the Feast" Setting 4, ELW, page 149-150

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us
free to be people of God. Power and riches and wisdom and
strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his.**

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

**Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all
creation: Blessing and honor and glory and might be to
God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was
slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

***The Prayer of the Day:**

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.**

Scripture Reading:**Jeremiah 33:14-16**

¹⁴ The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise, I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Psalm Reading:**Psalm 25:1-10**

L: You have been gracious to your land, O LORD; you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

C: You have forgiven the iniquity of your people and blotted out all their sins.

L: I will listen to what the LORD God is saying; for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.

C: Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you, that your glory may dwell in our land.

L: Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

C: Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

L: The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, and our land will yield its increase.

C: Righteousness shall go before the LORD and shall prepare for God a pathway.

Scripture Reading:**1 Thessalonians 3:9-13**

⁹ How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰ Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. ¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹² 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. ¹³ 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.

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Children's Sermon

***Gospel Acclamation:** "Alleluia" ELW, Setting 4, Page 151

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

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***Holy Gospel:**

Luke 21:25-36

L: The Holy Gospel according to the Book of Luke.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said: ²⁵ "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. ²⁶ People will faint from fear and fear of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." ²⁹ Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly I tell you; this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³⁴ "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, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ 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."

L: The Gospel of our Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

***Sermon**

***Hymn:** "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"

ELW #244

- 1 Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear;
the evening is advancing, and darker night is near.
The bridegroom is arising and soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle; at midnight comes the cry.
- 2 The watchers on the mountain proclaim the bridegroom near;
go forth as he approaches with alleluias clear.
The marriage feast is waiting; the gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory; the bridegroom is at hand.
- 3 The saints, who here in patience their cross and suff'rings bore,
shall live and reign forever when sorrow is no more.
Around the throne of glory the Lamb they shall behold;
in triumph cast before him their diadems of gold.
- 4 Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;
arise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see
the day of earth's redemption that sets your people free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660-1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823-1907

***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 the People:**

L: Lord, in your mercy, **C:** receive our prayer.

***Peace:**

L: The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also, with you.**

***Offertory Hymn:** "We are an Offering"

ELW #692

We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering. Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our lives, they are yours: we are an offering. All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you. We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering, we are an offering.

***Offertory Prayer:**

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

***Great Thanksgiving:**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

***Holy, Holy, Holy:**

ELW Setting 4, Page 153

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest,

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord,

Hosanna in the highest.

***Words of Institution**

***The 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.

Distribution of Holy Communion

Communion Hymns:

"Emmanuel"

Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
His name is called Emmanuel;
God with us, revealed in us;
His name is called Emmanuel.

"What Feast of Love"

ELW #487

- 1 What feast of love is offered here, what banquet come from heaven?
What food of everlasting life, what gracious gift is given?
This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heaven.
Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the manna given!
- 2 What light of truth is offered here, what covenant from heaven?
What hope of everlasting life, what wondrous word is given?
This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heaven.
Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is given!
- 3 What wine of love is offered here, what crimson drink from heaven?
What stream of everlasting life, what precious blood is given?
This, this is Christ the king, the sweetest wine of heaven.
Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is given!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

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“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

ELW #807

- 1 Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory fills my heart with joy and love,
teach me ever to adore thee; may I still thy goodness prove.

- 2 Here I raise my Ebenezer: "Hither by thy help I've come";
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wand'ring from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

- 3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be;
let that grace now like a fetter bind my wand'ring heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735-1790, alt.

***Communion Blessing**

***Communion Prayer:**

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 Hymn:** “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”
ELW #257 (vs 1, 2, 4)

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

2 O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh:
in strength and beauty come and stay; teach us your will and guide our
way. *Refrain*

4 O come, O Branch of Jesse, free your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save, and give them vict'ry o'er the
grave. *Refrain*

Text: *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite
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***Dismissal:**

L: Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

C: Thanks be to God.