

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
(Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS
December 13, 2017

THE ORDER OF EVENING PRAYER
FOR THE WEEK OF THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

PRAYER UPON ENTERING THE CHURCH

Lord Jesus Christ, You humbly and obediently did the will of Your Father and through Your suffering and death You have redeemed me from sin, death and the evil one, giving to me forgiveness of sins and everlasting life. Empower me by Your Holy Spirit to live for You who lived and died for me. Grant that I bear witness of Your great love and mercy to others who may not know that You came to bear our sins and be our Savior. I pray this in Your holy name. Amen

WELCOME

This is a busy time of year. It is good that you have chosen to take this time to be here this evening. There are many things for us to do in this season and there does not seem to be enough time to do them. Use this time to be strengthened by God's Word, refreshed by the Gospel which is the power to salvation. If you are visiting with us and have any questions about Grace Congregation, please speak with our Pastor. We invite you to come and worship with us again.

AS WE GATHER

Advent has long been a time of preparation, preparation for the celebration of Christmas, our Lord's first coming, and for recognizing that He will come again in power and glory to judge the living and the dead.

Just as many of us may wish to take a closer look at our genealogies, only to find that some of those in our family tree might better be kept away in a closet, so too we may wonder about some of those found on Christ's family tree. In particular there are five women found in Matthew's genealogy of Jesus. There has been much speculation as to why they are included. One interpretation is that "God can use even the humble and despised to accomplish His purpose." This evening we consider Ruth. "Ruth was steadfast in her love for Naomi, her mother-in-law. She sacrificed a life that she knew for a life of uncertainty. Naomi couldn't promise Ruth a comfortable future with a husband or financial security. But still, Ruth went with her. She remained faithful to Naomi, and pledged her faithfulness to the Lord."

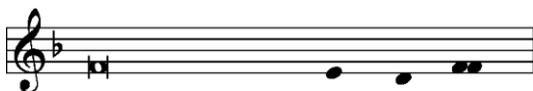
Prelude

Ringing of the Church Bell

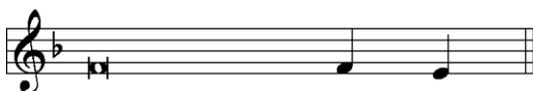
Service of Light

Stand

Versicles



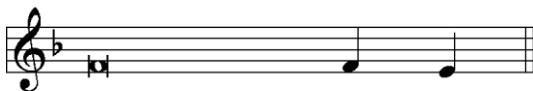
L The Spirit and the Church cry out:



G Come, Lord Je - sus.



L All those who await His ap - pear - ance pray:



G Come, Lord Je - sus.



L The whole cre - a - tion pleads:



G Come, Lord Je - sus.



1 O Light whose splen - dor thrills and glad - dens
2 As twi - light hov - ers near at sun - set,
3 In all life's bril - liant time - less mo - ments,



With ra - diance bright - er than the sun,
And lamps are lit, and chil - dren nod,
Let faith - ful voic - es sing Your praise,



Pure gleam of God's un - end - ing glo - ry,
In eve - ning hymns we lift our voic - es
O Son of God, our Life - be - stow - er,



O Je - sus, blest A - noint - ed One;
To Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son: one God.
Whose glo - ry light - ens end - less days.

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Thanksgiving For Light

P Blessed are You, O Lord, our God, king of the universe, who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ; may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for You are merciful, and You love Your whole creation and we, Your creatures, glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C Amen

Psalmody

Psalm

Psalm 85:1–13

- P** LORD, you were favorable to your land;
C **you restored the fortunes of Jacob.**
- P** You forgave the iniquity of your people;
C **you covered all their sin.**
- P** You withdrew all your wrath;
C **you turned from your hot anger.**
- P** Restore us again, O God of our salvation,
C **and put away your indignation toward us!**
- P** Will you be angry with us forever?
C **Will you prolong your anger to all generations?**
- P** Will you not revive us again,
C **that your people may rejoice in you?**
- P** Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,
C **and grant us your salvation.**
- P** Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,
C **for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints;
but let them not turn back to folly.**
- P** Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,
C **that glory may dwell in our land.**
- P** Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;
C **righteousness and peace kiss each other.**
- P** Faithfulness springs up from the ground,
C **and righteousness looks down from the sky.**
- P** Yes, the LORD will give what is good,
C **and our land will yield its increase.**
- P** Righteousness will go before him
C **and make his footsteps a way.**
- C** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen**

Readings

Old Testament Reading

Ruth 4:1–22

Now Boaz had gone up to the gate and sat down there. And behold, the redeemer, of whom Boaz had spoken, came by. So Boaz said, “Turn aside, friend; sit down here.” And he turned aside and sat down. And he took ten men of the elders of the city and said, “Sit down here.” So they sat down. Then he said to the redeemer, “Naomi, who has come back from the country of Moab, is selling the parcel of land that belonged to our relative Elimelech. So I thought I would tell you of it and say, ‘Buy it in the presence of those sitting here and in the presence of the elders of my people.’ If you will redeem it, redeem it. But if you will not, tell me, that I may know, for there is no one besides you to redeem it, and I come after you.” And he said, “I will redeem it.” Then Boaz said, “The day you buy the field from the hand of Naomi, you also acquire Ruth the Moabite, the widow of the dead, in order to perpetuate the name of the dead in his inheritance.” Then the redeemer said, “I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I impair my own inheritance. Take my right of redemption yourself, for I cannot redeem it.”

Now this was the custom in former times in Israel concerning redeeming and exchanging: to confirm a transaction, the one drew off his sandal and gave it to the other, and this was the manner of attesting in Israel. So when the redeemer said to Boaz, “Buy it for yourself,” he drew off his sandal. Then Boaz said to the elders and all the people, “You are witnesses this day that I have bought from the hand of Naomi all that belonged to Elimelech and all that belonged to Chilion and to Mahlon. Also Ruth the Moabite, the widow of Mahlon, I have bought to be my wife, to perpetuate the name of the dead in his inheritance, that the name of the dead may not be cut off from among his brothers and from the gate of his native place. You are witnesses this day.” Then all the people who were at the gate and the elders said, “We are witnesses. May the LORD make the woman, who is coming into your house, like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the house of Israel. May you act worthily in Ephrathah and be renowned in Bethlehem, and may your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah, because of the offspring that the LORD will give you by this young woman.”

So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife. And he went in to her, and the LORD gave her conception, and she bore a son. Then the women said to Naomi, “Blessed be the LORD, who has not left you this day without a redeemer, and may his name be renowned in Israel! He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age, for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has given birth to him.” Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her lap and became his nurse. And the women of the neighborhood gave him a name, saying, “A son has been born to Naomi.” They named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.

Now these are the generations of Perez: Perez fathered Hezron, Hezron fathered Ram, Ram fathered Amminadab, Amminadab fathered Nahshon, Nahshon fathered Salmon, Salmon fathered Boaz, Boaz fathered Obed, Obed fathered Jesse, and Jesse fathered David.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 1:1–6a

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Sit

Sermon Hymn: Creator of the Stars of Night

LSB 351

Service Note: *Stanzas 1 & 2 will be sung by soloist and choir*



1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night,
2 Thou, griev - ing that the an - cient curse
3 Thou cam'st the Bride - groom of the bride,
4 At whose dread name, ma - jes - tic now,



Thy peo - ple's ev - er - last - ing Light:
Should doom to death a u - ni - verse,
As drew the world to e - ven - tide,
All knees must bend, all hearts must bow;



O Christ, Re - deem - er, save us all
Hast found the heal - ing, full of grace,
The spot - less Vic - tim all di - vine
All things ce - les - tial Thee shall own,



And hear Thy ser - vants when they call.
To cure and save our ru - ined race.
Pro - ceed - ing from a vir - gin shrine.
And things ter - res - trial, Lord a - lone. A - men.

5 O Thou, whose coming is with dread
To judge the living and the dead,
Preserve us from the ancient foe
While still we dwell on earth below.

6 △ To God the Father and the Son
And Holy Spirit, Three in One,
Praise, honor, might, and glory be
From age to age eternally. Amen.

Sit

Sermon

Matthew 1:5b- 6a

*“An Interesting ‘Christ’mas Tree”
Ruth*

Stand

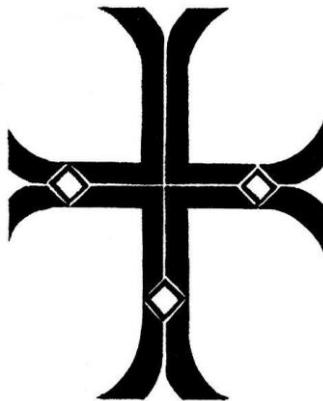
Catechism: The Second Commandment

- P** *What is the second commandment?*
- C** **You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.**

- P** *What does this mean?*
- C** **We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.**

Sit

Offering



Canticle

Magnificat: My Soul Rejoices

LSB 933



1 My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es— Sing the
 2 His arm now bar - ing, His strength de - clar - ing— Sing the



great - ness of the Lord! For God my Sav - ior Has shown me
 great - ness of the Lord! The proud He scat - ters, Their rule He



fa - vor— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! With praise and
 shat - ters— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! Op - pres - sion



bles - sing, Join in con - fess - ing God, who is sole - ly Might - y and
 halt - ed; The meek ex - alt - ed. Full are the hun - gry; Emp - ty, the



ho - ly— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! His mer - cy
 wealth - y— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! Here is the



sure - ly Shall rest se - cure - ly On all who fear Him,
 to - ken All that was spo - ken To A - br'ham's off - spring



Love and re - vere Him— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!
 God is ful - fill - ing— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!

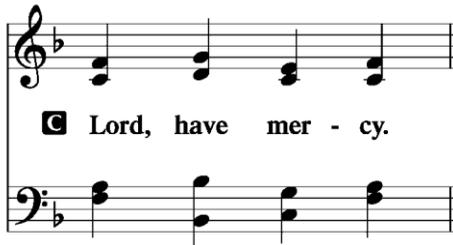
Prayer

Litany

Service Note: *The congregation's response may begin just as the leader's petition ends so that the word "Lord" is sung simultaneously by both leader and congregation.*



L In peace let us pray to the Lord:



C Lord, have mer - cy.

- P** For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For Matthew, our Synodical President, and Roger, our District President, for all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For our President, for all public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

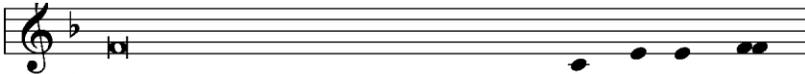
P For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For . . . [*additional bids for prayer may be inserted here*] . . . let us pray to the Lord:

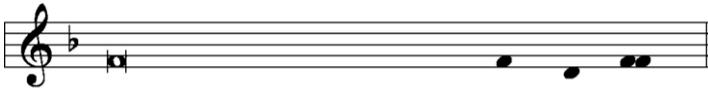
C Lord, have mercy.

The prayers then continue:



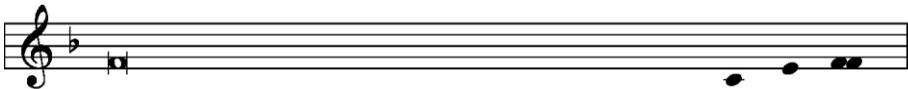
L For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:

Common: **C** Al - le - lu - ia.
Lent: **C** Thanks be to God.



L Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.

Silence for individual prayer may follow.



L Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord:

C To You, O Lord.

Collect For Peace

- P** O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Luther's Evening Prayer

- C** I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9–13

- P** Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

- 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

Benedicamus

[Psalm 103:1]



L Let us bless the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.

Benediction



P The almighty and merciful Lord,
the Father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and pre - serve you.



C A - men.

Closing Hymn: Now Rest beneath Night's Shadow

Printed on the next page

Postlude



Acknowledgments

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Closing Hymn: Now Rest beneath Night's Shadow

LSB 880



1 Now rest be - neath night's shad - ow The wood - land,
 2 The ra - diant sun has van - ished, Its gold - en
 3 Now all the heav'n - ly splen - dor Breaks forth in
 4 Lord Je - sus, since You love me, Now spread Your



field, and mead - ow; The world in slum - ber lies.
 rays are ban - ished From dark - 'ning skies of night;
 star - light ten - der From myr - iad worlds un - known;
 wings a - bove me And shield me from a - harm.



But you, my heart, a - wak - ing And prayer and mu - sic
 But Christ, the Sun of glad - ness, Dis - pel - ling all our
 And we, this mar - vel see - ing, For - get our self - ish
 Though Sa - tan would de - vour me, Let an - gel guards sing



mak - ing, Let praise to your Cre - a - tor rise.
 sad - ness, Shines down on us in warm - est light.
 be - ing For joy of beau - ty not our own.
 o'er me: This child of God shall meet no harm.

5 My loved ones, rest securely,
 For God this night will surely
 From peril guard your heads.
 Sweet slumbers may He send you
 And bid His hosts attend you
 And through the night watch o'er your beds.

THOSE WHO SERVE

Pastor:	Rev. James C. Walter
Organist:	Charles Russell
Acolyte:	Heidi Litwa
Choir:	Adult Choir Handbell Choir
Soloist:	Sammye Sue Harrill
Greeter:	Debbie Penny
Ushers:	Shaun Baker, Ron Krueger Tim Sweeney, Greg Waren
Altar Guild:	Suzanne Raddle and Wilma Richter
Nursery Attendant:	Mary Ann Dyer

Our thanks to JOY Club for serving our Advent dinner this evening.