

Tuesday Tidings of Grace



This Tuesday is December 17, 2024

This past Sunday was:

3rd Sunday in Advent

[Sunday Worship on YouTube](#)

[Sunday Sermon on Website](#)

This past Sunday we rejoiced. We lit the rose colored candle and we heard St. Paul's words to the Philippians about how the "peace of God ... guards our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus." We have such a comfort and certainty in the work of Jesus, died and risen for us, that no matter what comes in this world, we can find true joy in Him.

Next Sunday, December 22 is:

4th Sunday in Advent

This coming Sunday is the final Sunday of the Advent season before we move on to Christmas. The fourth and final candle to be lit is the love candle. We will hear this week of Elizabeth's visit with Mary and this tender moment with two mothers and their special babies.

The readings are:

[Micah 5:2-5a](#)

[Hebrews 10:5-10](#)

[Luke 1:39-56](#)

The Hymn of the Day is:

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" - LSB #357

Grace Events This Week

Wed 12/18 (11a, 7p) - Advent Midweek Worship

Wed 12/18 (12p) - Advent Lunch

Mon 12/23 (7p) - Monday Night Worship

Tue 12/24 (4p, 7p) - Christmas Eve Worship

Wed 12/25 (10a) - Christmas Day Worship

Daily Bible Readings

<https://bit.ly/gracedailybible>

The 4th Sunday in Advent

December 22, 2024

Psalm: Psalm 80:1-7

First Reading: Micah 5:2-5a

The prophet Micah shares good news for the people of Bethlehem, that from that small town will come “one who is to be ruler in Israel.” Micah is the one prophet who prophesies the birth of the Messiah coming to that little town of David. Included with this prophecy of Bethlehem is the promise that “they shall dwell secure” and “he shall be their peace.” These are wonderful words fulfilled in Jesus and reminders of what great gifts His work and His life have brought to us all.

Epistle Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

This passage continues the theme of the whole book of Hebrews that Jesus is the fulfillment of the Old Testament. The writer reminds us that the offerings and sacrifices of the Old Testament system were always a means to an end. They served one great purpose of pointing to the work of the Messiah. Now that Jesus has come to do the will of the Father, and He has come in the flesh to offer up that same flesh as sacrifice for all mankind, our true hope, our true joy is found in Him.

Gospel Reading: Luke 1:39-56

The Scriptures are full of incredible accounts of unexpectant mothers. Our Lord God continues to show that He can provide in the most unexpected of places. Elizabeth was barren in the womb and old in age and yet God caused her to conceive the baby John. Mary was still a virgin and God caused her to conceive the baby Jesus. Luke 1 describes the tender moment of meeting between these two cousins Elizabeth and Mary, and the amazing interaction of the babies in their wombs. That the baby John would leap in the womb of his mother reminds us of the incredible gift and wonder, even while still in the womb, these new lives are. Elizabeth’s words of faith also fill our hearts as she proclaims “Why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me?” It is a beautiful humility and faith in the baby of Mary’s womb.

Advent & the Communion of Saints

Included in the December 15, 2024 Worship Folder

In this Advent season we consider our sins and turn in repentance towards the mercy of our Savior Jesus. This is all part of our preparation and anticipation of Jesus' 2nd Coming. It is also practical to say, we spend a lot of time in this season thinking about Christmas and the holiday celebrations. On one hand, it is a great blessing to gather and celebrate and share gifts and big meals. So many opportunities for joy! On the other hand, this season can come across with so much difficulty for those dealing with the stresses of all the change and expectation. This season also brings to the forefront so much loss and grief when we struggle to handle the absence of loved ones.



What are we to do with this all? I would commend to you the Communion of Saints. We confess this weekly in the Apostles Creed. We confess that we believe as saints in Christ we are bound together, one to another, as the body of Christ. I believe this is an especially wonderful teaching for us to remember in a season like this when we are missing so many of the absent saints. It is wonderful because it reminds us of the singular thing on this earth, right here, right now, that can bring us closer to those saints we miss so dearly.

Every time you approach the Lord's Table for Holy Communion I want you to think of the Communion of Saints. I want you to see the earthly saints with your own two eyes and know that they are one with you as we partake of the body and blood of Christ. I would also have you envision that at the same time in heaven all of the beloved saints are also in Communion with us. You can almost picture the Communion rail that we kneel at extending through time and space into heaven, and the saints in white robes in heaven are also at that rail with us. We commune together as we receive the body and blood of Christ. That brings us as close as we'll ever be in what remains of this life. Don't forget it! Rejoice in it! It's wonderful.