

Midweek Advent



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Tucson, AZ

December 20, 2017

With Longing Eyes

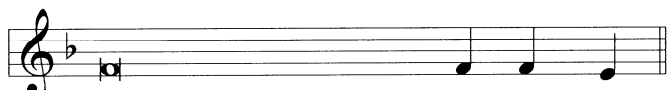
WELCOME

Please stand

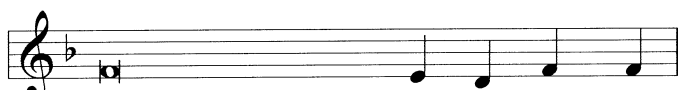
M: Minister C: Congregation



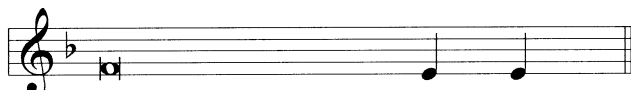
M: Jesus Christ is the light of the world,



C: the light no darkness can o - ver - come.



M: Stay with us, Lord, for it is eve - ning,



C: and the day is almost o - ver.



M: Be our light and scat - ter the dark - ness,



C: and hear our evening hymn of praise.



1 O gra - cious Light, Lord Je - sus Christ, In you the
2 Now sun - set comes, but light shines forth; The lamps are
3 Wor - thy are you of end - less praise, O Son of



Fa - ther's glo - ry shone. Im - mor - tal, ho - ly, blest is he,
lit to pierce the night. Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it: God
God, life - giv - ing Lord; Where - fore you are through all the earth



And blest are you, his on - ly Son.
Who dwells in the e - ter - nal light.
And in the high - est heav'n a - dored.

M: Lord God, we thank you for this day of grace now drawing to a close. Stay with us and warm our hearts with your forgiving love in Christ. May your Word keep our faith burning brightly that we may walk in the light of your presence through the darkness of this world. Come and bless us as we worship you: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Please be seated

LET MY PRAYER RISE BEFORE YOU *Psalm 141*

C: Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense,
the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.
O Lord, I call to you come to me quick - ly; hear my voice when I cry to you.
Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense,
the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

M: Let our prayers be acceptable in your sight. Come and help us in time of need that we may sing your praise in holy joy now and forever, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

HYMN

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You
Christian Worship #19

PSALM 27

M: Hear my voice when I call, O LORD;
C: be merciful to me and answer me.

M: Do not hide your face from me,
C: do not turn your servant away in anger; you have been my helper.

M: Do not reject me or forsake me,
C: O God my Savior.

M: Though my father and mother forsake me,
C: the LORD will receive me.

M: I am still confident of this:
C: I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.

M: Wait for the LORD;

C: be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.

All: 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.

PSALM PRAYER

M: Gracious Father, you have been the light and salvation of your people in every age. Bring us, we pray, through the troubles of this present life that we may see your goodness in eternity; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 1:57-80 (NIV 2011)

When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy. On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah, but his mother spoke up and said, “No! He is to be called John.” They said to her, “There is no one among your relatives who has that name.” Then they made signs to his father, to find out what he would like to name the child. He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone’s astonishment he wrote, “His name is John.” Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue set free, and he began to speak, praising God. All the neighbors were filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things. Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, “What then is this child going to be?” For the Lord’s hand was with him. His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied: “Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel,

because he has come to his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago), salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us—to show mercy to our ancestors and to remember his holy covenant, the oath he swore to our father Abraham: to rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve him without fear in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him, to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace.” And the child grew and became strong in spirit; and he lived in the wilderness until he appeared publicly to Israel.

HYMN

Jesus, Your Church with Longing Eyes
Christian Worship #9

SERMON

Zephaniah 1:14-2:3 (NIV 2011)
With Longing Eyes We Wait For Your Second Coming

The great day of the LORD is near—near and coming quickly. The cry on the day of the LORD is bitter; the Mighty Warrior shouts his battle cry. That day will be a day of wrath—a day of

distress and anguish, a day of trouble and ruin, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness—a day of trumpet and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the

corner towers. "I will bring such distress on all people that they will grope about like those who are blind, because they have sinned against the LORD. Their blood will be poured out like dust and their entrails like dung. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the LORD's wrath." In the fire of his jealousy the whole earth will be consumed, for he will make a sudden end of all who live on the earth. Gather together,

gather yourselves together, you shameful nation, before the decree takes effect and that day passes like windblown chaff, before the LORD's fierce anger comes upon you, before the day of the LORD's wrath comes upon you. Seek the LORD, all you humble of the land, you who do what he commands. Seek righteousness, seek humility; perhaps you will be sheltered on the day of the LORD's anger.

Please remain seated after the sermon

SONG OF MARY (*The Song of Mary continues on page 5*)

Magnificat



C: My soul pro-claims the great-ness of the Lord; my spir-it re-joic-es in God my Sav-ior,



for he has looked with fa-vor on his low-ly ser-vant.



From this day all gen-er-a-tions will call me bless-ed.



The Al-might-y has done great things for me, and ho-ly is his name.



He has mer-cy on those who fear him in ev-'ry gen-er-a-tion.



He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scat-tered the proud in their con-ceit.



He has cast down the might-y from their thrones and has lift-ed up the low-ly.



He has filled the hun-gry with good things, and the rich he has sent a-way emp-ty.

He has come to the help of his ser - vant Is - ra - el,
 for he has re - mem - bered his prom - ise of mer - cy,
 the prom - ise made to our fa - thers, to A - bra - ham, and to his chil - dren for - ev - er. A - men.

OFFERING

Members of Grace respond to their Savior’s love with offerings that are given joyfully, generously, regularly, and in a way that is proportionate to how the Lord has blessed them. Their cheerful gifts support the mission and ministry of our congregation. If you are a guest today, please know that we do not expect you to contribute to our congregation’s work. However, if you would like to give an offering to the Lord in response to his love to you, we are happy to receive it and put it to work in God’s kingdom.

Please fill out the Friendship Register located in the red folder at the end of the row and pass along. Thank You!



If you prefer, use your smart phone to give online by scanning this QR code.

Please stand

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Kyrie

M: In the closing hours of this day, hear us as we pray, O Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: For the well-being of people everywhere, for the growth of your church in all the world and for the strengthening of all who serve and worship here, we pray, O Lord:

C: Christ, have mercy.

M: For one another, young and old, for your blessings that come with every stage of life, and for joy in doing your will, we pray, O Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: For our public servants who work day and night to bring protection, justice, learning, and health to this and every place, we pray to you, O Lord:

C: Lord, hear our prayer.

M: For favorable weather and bountiful harvests, for clothing and food, for health of body, mind, and spirit, and for deliverance from all sin and every form of evil, we pray to you, O Lord:

C: Lord, hear our prayer.

M: For the faithful who have gone before us, who have shared with us your good news, whose souls are now at rest in your heavenly kingdom, we give you thanks, O Lord:

C: Thanks be to God.

M: In thanksgiving for your many and varied gifts to us, we now commend ourselves to your care.
Be our shield and strength, O Lord.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

M: Lord God, all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works come from you. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments. Defend us also from the fear of our enemies that we may live in peace and quietness, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

SONG OF SIMEON

Nunc Dimittis



C: In peace, Lord, you let your ser - vant now de - part ac - cord - ing to your word.



For my eyes have seen your sal - va - tion, which you have pre - pared for ev - 'ry peo - ple,



a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

BLESSING



M: The grace of our Lord + Je - sus Christ and the love of God



and the fellowship of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.



C: A - men.

Please be seated

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLOSING HYMN

O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide
Christian Worship #22

THOSE ASSISTING IN WORSHIP THIS EVENING

Worship Leader Pastor Nathan Kassulke Accompanist..... Elaine Goldie

December 24 Worship

This Sunday, December 24, we are adjusting our regular Sunday morning schedule. There will be one Advent service of *Lessons & Carols* at 10:00 AM. There will not be a 7:45 AM Service, Sunday School, Lifeliners, or Bible Study that morning.

We hope you will join us for the morning service and come back later that evening for our Christmas Eve Candlelight service beginning at 7:00 PM in the Grace-Tucson sanctuary.

HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve Services Sunday, December 24

7:30 AM at Grace-Benson
4:00 PM at Grace-Vail
7:00 PM at Grace-Sahuarita
7:00 PM at Grace-Tucson

Christmas Day Services Monday, December 25

10:00 AM at Grace-Sahuarita
10:00 AM at Grace-Tucson

New Year's Eve Worship — All Site Service Sunday, December 31

7:00 PM at Grace-Tucson

Grace-Tucson

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