

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, Greeley, CO

www.greeleylutheran.org

Third Sunday of Advent – December 14, 2025 – 8:30 A.M.

We rejoice in your presence with us today at this service of Holy Communion.

Please silence cell phones and pagers during worship.

ELW = red EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP hymnal

Hymn numbers (#) refer to the main hymn section

*The congregation's response is printed in **BOLD type***

** = Please stand at your discretion*

GATHERING

PRELUDE

“Masters in This Hall”

French Carol, Arr. by Mark Hayes

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jeremiah said, “I am only a boy.”

Moses said, “Who am I to do this work?”

Mary said, “How can this be?”

We often say, “But God, I am afraid.”

Even when we are afraid, God invites us closer.

So may we trust the Inviter.

May we heed God's invitation.

May we summon our courage and sing God's praise.

Let us worship our courageous, inviting, calling God. Amen!

ADVENT LITANY AND CANDLE LIGHTING

Ryan, Ashley, Adryan and Audrey Mertz

In a world full of fear, where do you see glimmers of joy?

We see glimmers of joy in birthday candles and homemade cards. We see joy in the laughter of children and the delight of grandparents. We see joy in meals around the table and in the singing of Christmas songs.

Today we light the candle of joy as a reminder of this good news. May this flicker of light help us remember that even in a fearful world, joy is here. Joy is real. We only have to look for it.

Thanks be to God for that good news! Amen.

ADVENT THEME HYMN

“Light of the World” (*Sing Hallelujah*)
(Verse 3 and Chorus)

Lyrics on screen

*GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

Holy One, the story of this season is not a new one. We've heard this tale before. We've seen the nativities, watched the plays, sung the songs, witnessed the children act it out. The story of this season is not a new one, and yet we long to hear it as if it is. So spark our spirits awake. Call forth awareness, attention, and reverence in us. Allow us to hear this ancient tale with brand new ears. With hope we pray,

Amen.

WORD

READING

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Warren Mitchell

⁴Now the word of the Lord came to me saying, ⁵"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." ⁶Then I said, "Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy." ⁷But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a boy,' for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. ⁸Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord." ⁹Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth, and the Lord said to me, "Now I have put my words in your mouth. ¹⁰See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 146:5-10 (*read responsively with leader*) [NEW LIVING TRANSLATION]

Meg Spencer

⁵But joyful are those who have the God of Israel as their helper,
whose hope is in the Lord their God.

**⁶He made heaven and earth,
the sea, and everything in them.
He keeps every promise forever.**

⁷He gives justice to the oppressed
and food to the hungry.
The Lord frees the prisoners.

**⁸The Lord opens the eyes of the blind.
The Lord lifts up those who are weighed down.
The Lord loves the godly.**

⁹The Lord protects the foreigners among us.
He cares for the orphans and widows,
but he frustrates the plans of the wicked.

**¹⁰The Lord will reign forever.
He will be your God, O Jerusalem, throughout the generations.
Praise the Lord!**

*GOSPEL

Luke 1:26-39

Response after the announcement: "Glory to you, O Lord!"

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren.

³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be

with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her. ³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country.

Response after the reading: “Praise to you, O Christ!”

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON


“Even In Our Fear, We Are Called Forward”

Rev. Deb Abbott

Silence for reflection

*HYMN

“O Come, Take Heart”



O come, O come though tim - id and un - sure And
O come, O come though you feel un - pre - pared When
O come and join God's kin - dom work And

trust that God de - clares your worth Re - mem -
cour - age fails you, do it scared Don't let
be God's hands and feet on earth You're called

ber when you're feel - ing small That ev - ery child of
the fear of ma - king mis - takes Im - pede you from the
ex - act - ly as you are To love the world with

God is called
path you're called to take Take heart, take heart! The One
ev - ery bro - ken part

who calls to you Will give you strength and see you through

PRAYERS (each petition concludes:)

... God of grace,

Hear our prayer.

Prayers of sympathy for the families of: Sarah VanLoo, Linda Wickland (Jim Wickland's sister), Alma Kirk (Mary Lauck's sister)

*PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

*OFFERING / PRAYER

Creator God,

you made the whole world, even the farthest stars,

and you draw near to feed us.
We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine.
Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation
for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

- *THE GREAT THANKSGIVING
- *WORDS OF INSTITUTION
- *LORD'S PRAYER

You may text your offerings to
833-931-1874 or through this
link. Thanks for your
generosity.



DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

Communion is open to all who receive it as the presence of Christ. Come forward by the center aisle and return to your seat by the side aisles. For those who wish to abstain from alcohol, white grape juice is available in the center cups. Gluten-free wafers are available by mentioning your preference to the pastor or server. Adults and children who are not communing may come forward for a blessing.

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC: "We are Waiting for Jesus" **ACS #905** (music on screen)
"Abide With Me" **ELW #629**

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

SENDING

- *BLESSING (response: "**Amen!**")
- *SENDING HYMN "Canticle of the Turning" **ELW #753** (Verses 1 and 2)
- *ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DISMISSAL (response: "**Thanks be to God!**")
- *POSTLUDE "See How Great a Flame Aspires (Tune: AFRON)" *Arr. by Daniel Burton*

***Thank you to Kaye Specht, Stephanie & John for sponsoring today's
complimentary coffee and cookies in memory of Lydia (Helzer) Draper, her
parents, sisters & brothers.***

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall between services.

Assisting in worship

Pastor: Rev. Deb Abbott
Music Director: Cody Thomas
Sound Technician: Grey Conderman
Projection: Junior Vanderploeg

Video production: Joshua Matthews
Communion assistants: Meg Spencer
Ushers: Mary Pickering, Mike Simonds, Cindy
Ververs
Altar Guild: Linda Carey, Kelly Winter

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Scripture readings next Sunday: Matthew 1:18-25, Isaiah 41:5-10

"People connecting people with Jesus and each other."