

Grace Lutheran Church

3020 Grace Church Rd. Salisbury, NC 28147

(704) 857-8641

www.grace-salisbury.com



1st Sunday of Advent

November 30, 2025

- + Ministers: The People of Grace +
+ Pastor: the Rev. Joshua Copeland +
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+ Director of Youth & Family Ministries Sarah Stirewalt +
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+ Secretary Terri Brown +
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+ Director of Music Lynn Lippard +
+ Director of Children & Youth Choirs Emily Copeland +
+ Accompanist for Children & Youth Teresa Yost +
+ Accompanist for Chancel Choir Becky Lippard +
+ Pastor Emeritus Rev. Gene C. Bost +

+ *Those who are able please stand.*
(*Congregation responses are printed in bold type*)

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

THE ROAD HOME

+ **CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who makes a way in the wilderness, who walks with us on the road, who welcomes us home.

Amen.

On the road of life, we often carry burdens too heavy to bear. We stumble, we wander, we lose our way. But God meets us with mercy and grace. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.

(Silence for reflection)

Merciful God,

we confess that we have lost our way. We have traveled paths of selfishness and fear. We have carried baggage of anger and regret. We have failed to see the signs of your love along the way. Forgive us. Lighten our load. Guide our steps back to you, so that we may walk in hope, peace, joy, and love. Amen.

Hear the good news: God does not leave us wandering. Christ comes to meet us on the road and bring us home. In the name of Jesus, + you are forgiven, freed, and welcomed.

Amen.

+ **GATHERING HYMN**

“Wake, Awake, For Night is Flying”

LBW# 31

+ **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.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Hope: Pack Light

Reader: *“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light”* (Isaiah 9:2). On this road of Advent, we light the candle of hope, trusting God’s promise that the darkness will not last forever.

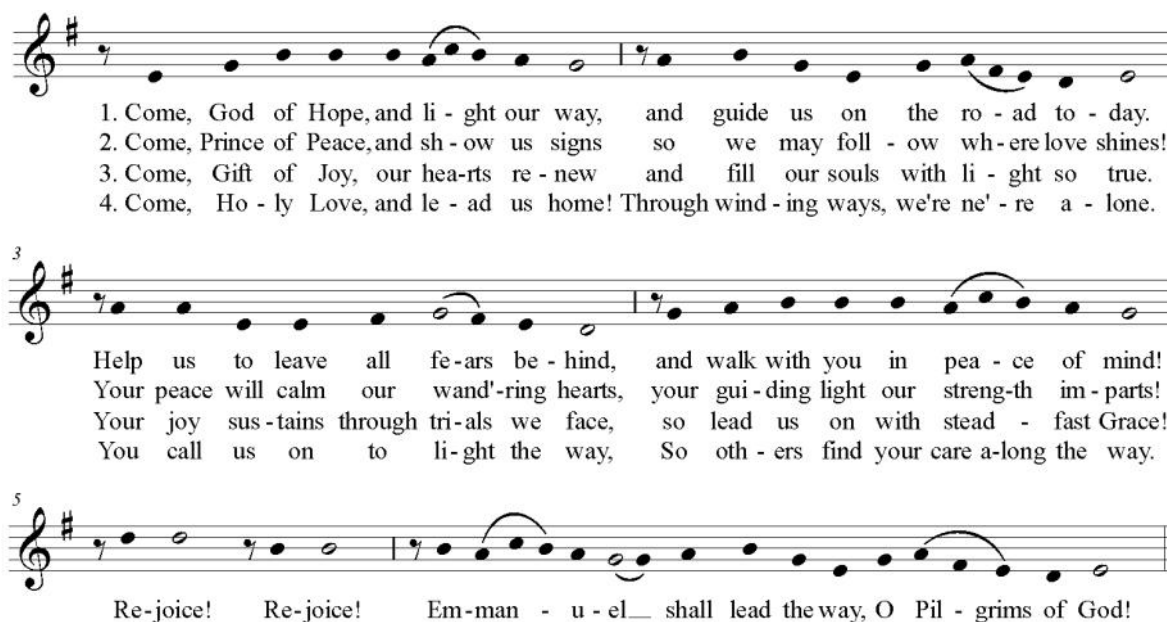
We are travelers on the road of faith.

We carry hope as our guide.

Today we light the candle of hope, trusting God to lead us.

Christ is our light and our home.

(Light the first candle.)



1. Come, God of Hope, and li - ght our way, and guide us on the ro - ad to - day.
 2. Come, Prince of Peace, and sh - ow us signs so we may foll - ow wh - ere love shines!
 3. Come, Gift of Joy, our hea - rts re - new and fill our souls with li - ght so true.
 4. Come, Ho - ly Love, and le - ad us home! Through wind - ing ways, we're ne' - re a - lone.

3
 Help us to leave all fe - ars be - hind, and walk with you in pea - ce of mind!
 Your peace will calm our wand' - ring hearts, your gui - ding light our streng - th im - parts!
 Your joy sus - tains through tri - als we face, so lead us on with stead - fast Grace!
 You call us on to li - ght the way, So oth - ers find your care a - long the way.

5
 Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall lead the way, O Pil - grims of God!

Text: Rev. Joshua Lewis Copeland 1995-

Tune: VENI EMMANUEL, French Processional 15th Century

+ SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

+ PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together ...

Gracious God, you are the beginning and the end of every journey. As we walk this Advent road, teach us to travel lightly, leaving behind the burdens that weigh us down, and carrying instead the hope you have promised. Guide our steps toward the home you are preparing, through Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

Amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST READING: Isaiah 2:1-5

¹ The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

² In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.

³ Many peoples shall come and say,
 "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
 to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways
 and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction
 and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴ He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more.
⁵ O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 122

¹ I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD."

² **Now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

³ Jerusalem is built as a city that is at unity with itself;

⁴ **to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD.**

⁵ For there are the thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David.

⁶ **Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you.**

⁷ Peace be within your walls and quietness within your towers.

⁸ **For the sake of my kindred and companions, I pray for your prosperity.**

⁹ Because of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek to do you good."

SECOND READING: Romans 13:11-14

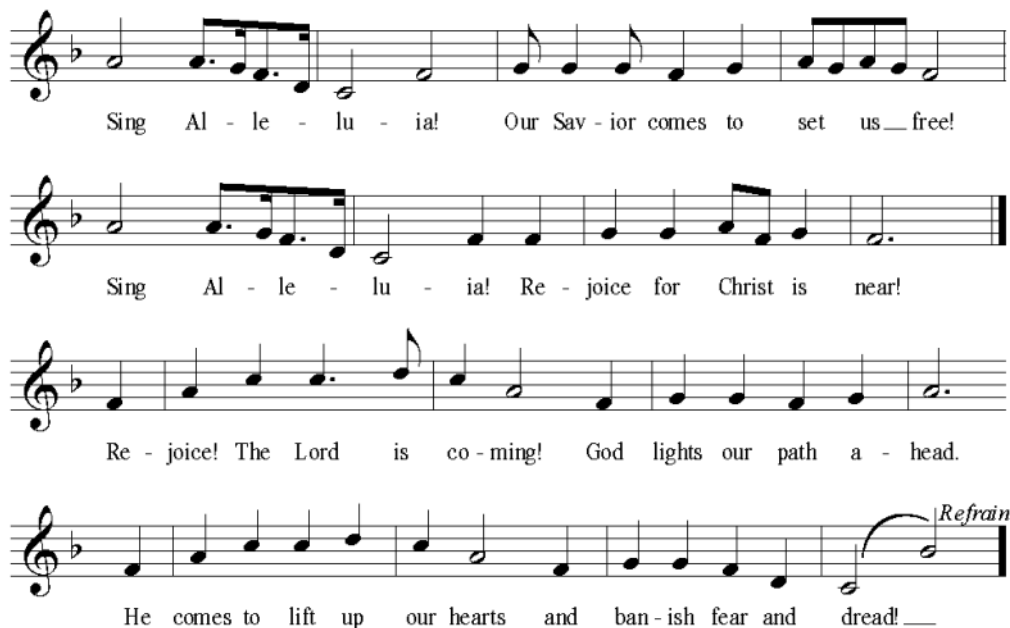
¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

+ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(Melody: "Go Tell It On the Mountain")



Sing Al - le - lu - ia! Our Sav - ior comes to set us free!

Sing Al - le - lu - ia! Re - joice for Christ is near!

Re - joice! The Lord is co - ming! God lights our path a - head.

He comes to lift up our hearts and ban - ish fear and dread! — *Refrain*

+ GOSPEL: Matthew 24:36-44

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the disciples, ³⁶“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

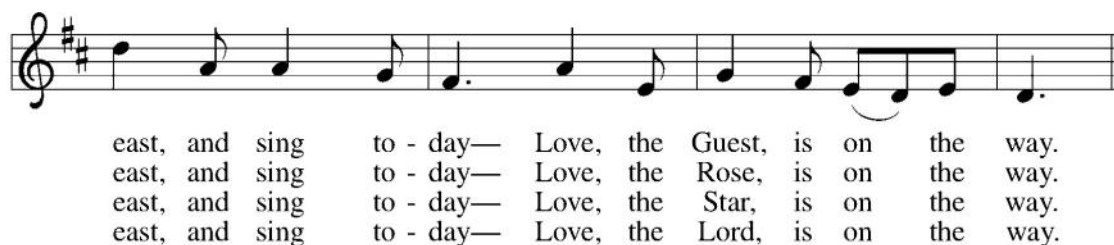
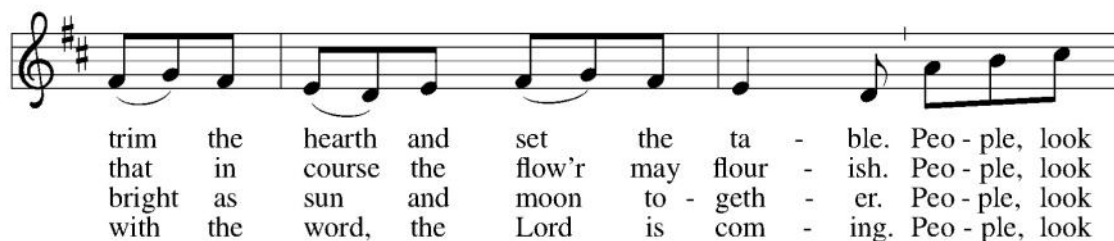
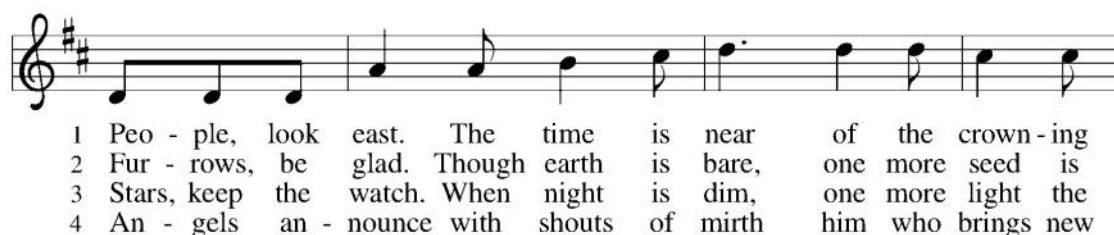
SERMON

“Pack Light”

+ HYMN OF THE DAY

“People, Look East”

WOV#626



+ APOSTLES' CREED

God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in hope and trust, we confess our faith.

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 INTERCESSION

Let us now open our hearts and offer to God our deepest prayers.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Almighty God, you lovingly created and care for us, hear now these prayers and answer them as may be best for us and for the furtherance of your redemptive grace, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

+ SHARING THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

+ OFFERTORY SONG (Melody: "Blessed Be the God of Israel" WOV#725)

**A weary world now summons us
to labor, love, and give;
to make our life an offering
to God, that all may live.
The church of Christ is calling us
to make the dream come true:
a world redeemed by Christ-like love;
all life in Christ made new.**

+ OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray ...

Gracious God, you provide signs of hope along our journey. **We bring our gifts with hope.**

Receive these offerings, O God, and use them to guide all people home to you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

+ GREAT THANKSGIVING (Melody: O Come All Ye Faithful!)

The Lord be with you.

And with you, his servant.

Oh, come, let us lift our hearts unto the Lord.

**With hearts uplifted,
Thanks to him we render:
With joy we come before him
In gratefulness implore him
With thankful hearts adore him,
Evermore!**

+ PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. Long ago you set your people on a journey, guiding them through wilderness and exile, promising a home where justice and mercy would dwell. Through prophets and messengers, you gave signs along the way, stirring hope, peace, joy, and love in waiting hearts. In these last days you have made your home with us in Jesus, the Word made flesh, the light that shines in our darkness, the road that leads us safely home to you. And so, with all travelers on the way, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS (Melody: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing)

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,
God of Hosts, by heav'n adored!
Heav'n and earth cannot contain
All the glory of your name!
Hail, Hosanna, God most high!
Blest is He who now draws nigh!
In the name of God the King
Halleluias glad we sing:
Hail, Hosanna! Praises due**

+ LORD'S PRAYER (Melody: It Came Upon a Midnight Clear)

**O Father, Lord, on Heav'n's high throne
Most holy be your Name.
Your Kingdom come. Your will be done.
On earth, in Heav'n - the same.
Give us this day the food we need;
Forgiven may we be
Into temptation do not lead;
From evil set us free.**

**Yours is the Kingdom; unto you
In grateful love we bow;
And yours the pow'r, Lord, let us view
Your gracious presence now.
The glory yours; Your praise be sung
By angel hosts and then
In ev'ry land, by ev'ry tongue
Forevermore! AMEN.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good!

Amen.

LAMB OF GOD (Melody: Away in a Manger)

**O, Lamb of our Lord God, the most holy Son,
This world needs your mercy, your love and
your grace.**

Draw near to us, dear Lord, bring liberation!

Have mercy upon us and grant us your peace!

**O, Lamb of our Lord God, the most holy
Son,**

**You came to this dark world to lead us from
night!**

Have mercy upon us and bring us your light!

And grant to the whole world your peace.

Amen.

DISTRIBUTION – All baptized children are welcome at the table for communion. Come forward in two lines to receive the bread from the pastor and wine/grape juice from a communion assistant.

+ TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our LORD and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you always in his grace.

Amen.

+ PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together....

God of the journey, we give you thanks for this holy meal, where Christ meets us on the road and strengthens us for the way ahead. Send us now with hope, peace, joy, and love, that we may be signs of your welcome and witnesses of your light, until all your children find their home in you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

+ BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you on the road of faith.

The Lord's face shine upon you and guide your steps with hope.

The Lord turn toward you in peace, and surprise you with joy.

And the blessing of God — Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit —
go with you now and always, as you find your home in Christ.

Amen.

+SENDING HYMN

“Soon and Very Soon”

WOV#744

+ DISMISSAL

Go in peace. God is with you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Useful Information

<u>Serving 11/30/2025</u>	
Organist	Teresa Yost
Children's Sermon	Starr Atwell
Lector & Advent Wreath	Chris Sloop Family
Communion Assistant	Sarah Nolan & Kristina Martin
Acolyte	Abigail Kluttz
Security Team	Ted Lotti & Bobby Roberson
Sound System	Sawyer Basinger
Teller Team	Helen Correll, Gene Stirewalt & Michael Miller
Ushers	David & Brenda Miller Michael & Kristi Miller

<u>Serving 12/7/2025</u>	
Organist	Becky Lippard
Children's Sermon	Myra Sechler
Lector & Advent Wreath	Jamey Basinger Family
Communion Assistant	Nicole Ritchie & Michael Miller
Acolyte	Hudson Sechler
Security Team	Robert Hunter & Jeremy Parris
Sound System	Kurt Weddington
Teller Team	Wendy Diggs, Mary Sloop & Kristina Martin
Ushers	Mike Stout, Donnie Stout, Randy Basinger & Lynn Aldridge

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR TODAY are given to the glory of God and in memory of Jimmy Miller by Irene and their children.

AMAZING GRACE SENIOR CITIZEN meeting will be Tuesday, December 16 in the FLC at 10:30. The program will be music by Matthew Weaver and Clay Lungsford. Lunch will be catered. Please let Barbara Schenk know if you will be attending so she can reserve you a plate. Come join us for Food, Fellowship and Fun!

CIRCLE OF HOPE will meet on Thursday at 7:00pm. We will sort Chrismons and share cookies.

HANGING OF THE GREENS will be next Sunday during the worship service.

This Week's Giving 11/23/2025		Needed Weekly	
Category	Amount	Per Spending Plan	Difference
Attendance 193			
Current	\$ 16,332.00		
Sunday School (Attendance 79)	\$ 58.00		
Angel Tree	\$ 165.00		
Poinsettias	\$ 155.00		
Property Fund	\$ 150.00		
Benevolence	\$ 35.00		
Rowan Helping Ministries	\$ 25.00		
Altar Flowers	\$ 250.00		
Total Current	\$ 17,170.00	\$ 7,815.00	\$ 9,355.00
Boy Scouts	\$ 230.00		
Boy Scout Endowment	\$ 30,000.00		
Lutheridge/Kids to Camp	\$ 31,000.00		
Barbara Miller Memorial	\$ 50.00		
Clean Water 5K	\$ 50.00		
Facility Rental	\$ 240.00		
Youth of Grace	\$ 4,600.00		
Kids of Grace	\$ 2,645.00		
Total Deposit	\$ 85,985.00		

Scan here for
online giving.



THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Mon	Women of Christ Fellowship	7:00pm
Tues	Quilting	10:00am
Wed	Little Lights	6:00pm
	Torchbearers	6:30pm
	Chancel Choir	7:00pm
Thurs	Circle of Hope	7:00pm

Prayer List

Immediate needs:

Alice & Michael Baglio

Community Concerns:

Scout & Skylar Harmon (*Fish Fry Recipients*), Debbie Everhart (*Vicki Morris*), Sue Shell (*Irene Miller*), Pat Kluttz (*Pam Roseman*)

Comfort:

Family and friends of Margie Martin

Ongoing Needs:

John Miller, Bobby & Barbara Sloop, Mary Miller, Kari Overcash, Janice Gray, Janis Eury, Allen & Lynn Sloop, Sophie Hooks, Louise Vaughn, Judy Copeland, Diane Bouk, Arlene Wise, Hazel Miller, Ronnie Gorman, Earl Thomas, Danny Benfield, Jesse Martin, Alice & Michael Baglio

Those who serve others

Active Duty Military personnel and families; First Responders