



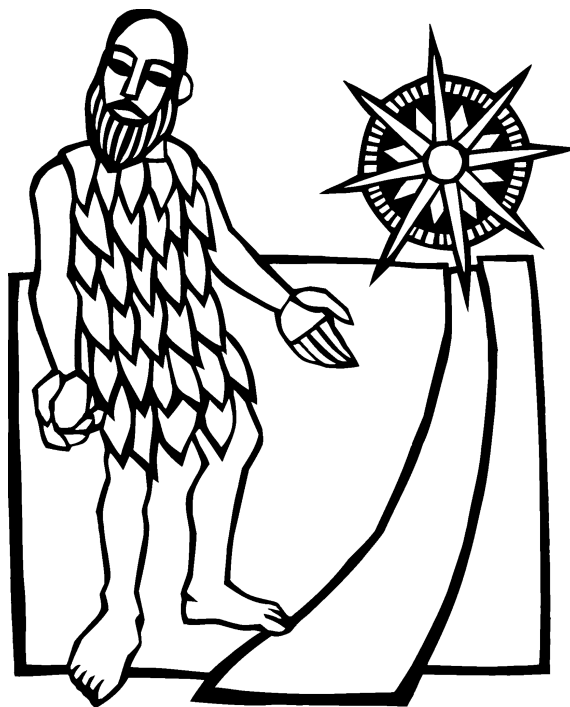
WELCOME TO GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF LILY LAKE, IL

5N600 Hanson Road, St. Charles, IL 60175

OFFICE: 630-365-6751 * E-MAIL: general@graceoflilylake.org

WEB ADDRESS: www.graceoflilylake.org

Sunday, December 14th, 2025 * 9:30 AM * INPERSON and ONLINE



3rd Sunday of Advent

Introduction

TODAY'S THEME: A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God's reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.

Print out your bulletin or use it on your phone or tablet to follow along.
Announcements are televised or found on our website

Be creative how you worship and remember God during this time. It will calm your soul, give you peace and enliven your spirit.

Our community gathers in unity with others in-person and a virtual way.

We hope all people find it easy to follow along.

We invite you to read/respond to the texts, pray the prayers, using this as a meditation guide all week long.

GOD GATHERS US

PRELUDE

Angels We Have Heard on High

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements are found on our website

Third Sunday of Advent – Light of Joy

Responsive Litany

L: Advent is a time to celebrate the joy of living.

C: Lord of light, we thank you for the gift of life.

L: Advent is a time to celebrate the joy of relationships.

C: Lord of light, we thank you for our friends and family.

L: Advent is a time to celebrate the earth we all share.

C: Lord of light, we thank you for providing for our needs.

L: Advent is a time to celebrate eternal life.

C: Lord of light, we thank you for sending a Savior.

L: Today we light three candles – the candle of hope, of peace, and the candle of joy.

This third candle reminds us that because of our Lord, we have reasons to be truly joyful.

The world around us is filled with surprise and beauty. Our cups overflow with goodness and grace, and we rejoice in the promise of eternal life.

Closing prayer

L: God of light, we thank you for the many gifts you have given us, and we pray today that you will teach us to be truly joyful. Help us remember that you supply our needs and fill our lives with meaning. Fill our days with keen awareness of your presence, and fill our hearts with praise as we celebrate this joyful Advent season. Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Long-expected God,

C: we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.

P: God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. ✝ You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.

All: Amen.

OPENING HYMN

Prepare the Royal Highway

ELW 264 v. 1 & 2/Red Hymnal

GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

P: Let us pray... Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, **and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

SHARING OF PEACE

P: God has received us, pardoned us and loved us; let us forgive each other in love and share the peace of Christ. Peace be with you.

C: And you also.

Share the peace with each other either by a wave or a bow.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST READING:

Isaiah 35:1-10

The prophet describes the return from the Babylonian captivity as a joyous procession to Zion. God's coming reign will bring a renewal of creation in which health and wholeness will be restored. There is no need for fear, for God is coming to save.

¹ The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ² it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and shouting.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.]]

³ Strengthen the weak hands
and make firm the feeble knees.
⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you."

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;
⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness
and streams in the desert;
⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp;
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸ A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

⁹ No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰ And the ransomed of the LORD shall return
and come to Zion with singing;

everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

L: Word of God; Word of Life.

All: **Thanks be to God.**



Children's Message

(Please rise for the reading of the Gospel.)

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew

ALL: Glory to you O Lord

John the Baptist expects the Messiah to bring God's judgment upon the earth (Matt. 3:11-12). From a prison cell, he wonders whether Jesus is the one who will do this. Jesus' response indicates that God's reign is indeed being fulfilled already through healing and restoration.

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴ Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

¹¹ “Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord

ALL: Praise to You O Christ!

MESSAGE FOR ALL

Pastor David Mercurio

SONG OF DAY

Prepare the Royal Highway

ELW 264 v. 3 & 4/Red Hymnal

APOSTLES' CREED

P: With the whole church, let us 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 power of 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.**

OFFERING IS WELCOMED

P: Nourishing God,

C: you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. Amen.

(An offering will be taken before the prayer.)

Offertory Music

Ukranian Carol

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

See list of those Grace is currently praying for at end of this document or online. Please let us know your prayer needs.



Please respond accordingly

P: In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

A brief silence.

P: God of power and mercy, we praise you for Jesus and his acts of healing and liberation. Lead us to proclaim the good news from generation to generation, that all may place their hope in you. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: When lands are parched and dry, bring rain and snow; where wilderness is barren, sow seeds of life. Fill the lands with trees that grow, plants that flower, and creatures that thrive, as nature proclaims the wonder of your works. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: When there is injustice or corruption among nations and leaders, root it out. Turn their attention to inequity and the cries of the poor. Instill a deeper sense of compassion and care in all who govern. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: When bodies weaken and hearts grow fearful, speak your blessing. In uncertain times, remind us of the promise spoken to our ancestors in faith. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: When people are imprisoned or held captive, break the chains and offer release. Strengthen the work of the church in making disciples, breaking cycles of poverty, and welcoming the unsaved. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: As we await your coming, we give thanks for the faithful who have lived and died in faith. May their boldness of faith inspire our witness and work. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

C: Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

P: Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them in the Spirit's love.

P: Let us give thanks to our Triune God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O God. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all who believe in Him should not perish. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his Holy Supper.

P: WORDS OF INSTITUTION

ALL: The Lord's Prayer

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

P: These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God

TAKE AND EAT OF THE BREAD AND CUP

Communion Hymns:

People, Look East

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Love Has Come

ELW 248/Red Hymnal

ELW 276/Red Hymnal

ELW 292/Red Hymnal

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: God our host,

C: at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. Amen.

CLOSING SONG

Angles from the Realms of Glory

ELW 275/Red Hymnal

GOD SENDS US

BLESSING

P: May God who comes among us, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always.

All: Amen.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Keep awake.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

From Heaven Above

Bach

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Liturgy-Sundays and Seasons May 31, 2026

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ADDITIONAL WEEKLY LECTIONARY LESSON

Psalm 146:5-10

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down. (Ps. 146:8)

Luke 1:46b-55 (alternate)

My spirit rejoices in God my Savior. (Lk. 1:47)

James 5:7-10

Patience until the coming of the Lord

12/14/25 ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALTAR FLOWERS are donated today by Char Sportsman in memory of Garry Sportsman.

LINE DANCING is currently on pause during the Christmas holidays and will resume on January 8th, 2026.

SUNDAY SCHOOL takes place on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month at 9:30am.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM & PARTY Next Sunday, December 21st, our Sunday school and Preschool children will be singing at the beginning of worship to the congregation. After singing, all children ages 3 – 12 will proceed to Fellowship Hall for a Christmas party.

GIVING TREE *Please return giving tree presents by after worship today, Sunday, December 14th.*

HOLIDAY EVENT Thank you to the many bakers, vendors and shoppers who attended our holiday event yesterday. We raised \$_____

NEW YEAR'S EVE "NOON" PARTY will be held here at Grace in Fellowship Hall from 10:30am – 1pm. Please see sign-up sheet in the Narthex. All are welcome!

KITCHEN RE-PAINTING The Rebecca Circle is having our kitchen re-painted, which includes the metal cabinet doors - therefore the kitchen is closed for any use until the end of December to allow for curing time on the paint. This also allows the committee to go through items and to put the kitchen back to working order.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES Are you looking for ways to be a little more involved in our church each week? We have a variety of tasks that take place before and during each Sunday worship service, such as preparing communion and altar, reading our announcements and Bible reading, ushering, running the PowerPoint during the service. A variety of ways to be a part of our worship behind the scenes or up front. Please see Pastor for more information.

TECHNOLOGY HELP Are you familiar with IT/computer technology/livestreaming? We are seeking several people to assist in preparation and recording our church services (during the week +/- or during worship service). Please contact Pastor or Tricia Painter ~ **please consider!**

LECTORS ARE NEEDED for readings during our service. Please look for the clipboard. Thank you for your assistance in our service.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH PRESCHOOL takes place every Monday and/or Wednesday from 9:15am – 1:15pm. There are still a few spots remaining on Wednesdays. If you know of anyone with a child ages 3-5, please let them know of this engaging Christian preschool program. More info can be found on our website, www.graceoflilylake.org/preschool or you can contact Janice Muncie at 630-854-1066.

SECURITY FOR PRESCHOOL Please be reminded that our Preschool policies are that all entry doors remain locked during preschool hours. If you need to come into church, we ask that you lock the door behind you, and of course ensure it is locked when you depart. And this is a good time for another request for anyone in and out of church or the last one here at church, please check all exit doors on both levels to ensure they are locked.

SHOE BOX COLLECTION in lower level outside of Fellowship Hall. Please help!

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY Nancy Corbige continues to collect email addresses for the Pottawatomie Partnership email distribution list. We currently have a house in-build in St. Charles. (Questions, you may call or text Nancy at 847-212-0237.)

BRIDGE TO LIFE DONATIONS The Bridge to Life Group continues to collect donations for the Elgin homeless. For details see the newsletter or Cathy Whiteside. ***Thank you for your generous donations!***

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER is available on-line at www.graceoflilylake.org (please note the new website address ends in a “.org” rather than a “.com”)

NOISY OFFERING We collect your loose change as the coins add up, and do help to offset unexpected expenditures - the latest of which was replacing the pressure tank for our well system!

OFFERINGS & FAITHFUL GIVING FOR THE MINISTRIES AT GRACE We are thankful for your offerings and donations to Grace. Offerings received as of Dec. 8 : \$ 1,465 (weekly goal is ~\$4,000). Please note that donations need to be in the church office by Dec. 28th to be accounted for in the 2025 calendar year.

~ Blessings upon Grace in our 131st year of ministry ~

VISIT OUR Website: www.graceoflilylake.org (.ORG not .COM)

FOR THE LATEST NEWS AND SERVICES

Get ALL the news you NEED there – including our weekly services

Our FACEBOOK PAGE for activities and posts of interest:

<https://www.facebook.com/GraceOfLilyLake/>

630-365-6751

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE WHOLE CHURCH

- * God's Church in all time and place, that God be seen and heard.
- * As we face these times both together and while apart, keep us from fear, suffering and death.
- * Ministries of the ELCA and Metro Chicago Synod, especially Bishop Yehiel Curry.
- * Efforts of Lutheran World Relief, ELCA World Hunger, and Disaster Relief

FOR THE WORLD

- * For every living person facing the threat of coronavirus – it affects us all, our loved ones and our worldwide neighbors together.
- * For the healing of the divisions in our Nation.

FOR OUR CONGREGATION

- * For God's Spirit to guide the Vision Team, and whole congregation as we face transition and change.
- * As we plan regarding the future of our congregation.

FOR THOSE IN THE MILITARY (members, relatives, and friends of members of our congregation)

- * Nathan Sajdak, grandson of Bill and Lori U'Ren
- * William Delmer, grandson of Kirk and Kathy Hooey
- * David Brazee, Grandson of Steve and Cathy Lindquist

(If you know of someone currently serving our country, please share their information with the Church office.)

FOR ALL

- * The continued support of our members
- * For all members of healthcare around the world
- * For those serving as first responders and in the military
- * For our Nation, to extend peace in all things.

FOR THOSE SICK IN BODY, MIND OR SPIRIT... For our "Grace Family" members:

Betty Boor, Craig Bradley, Dan Burtnette, Lillian Carlson, Nancy Corbige, Ken Deutschmann, Alexa Diehl, Natalia Diehl, Jan Docherty, Suzanne Girsch, Rich Jackson, Manfred Kaufmann, Paul Kinsel, Katie Kozeva, Pastor Dave & Carol Langseth, Tom and Lois Larkin, Ray Larsen, Larry Linden, Pat & Chili Lindgren, Steve Lindquist, Joan Mortensen, Jan Myers, Carol Nelson, Ed Nordwind, Nancy & John Schaefer, Bud and Marilyn Wise, Norm Turner, Wayne Whiteside, **For our Families and Friends:** Howard, Jim, Scott, Fred Alstadt, Barb Asher, Kathy Barton (mother of Tom Barton), Howard and Christine Baumert, Viola Bradshaw, Cindy Carlson, Joanie Chernick, David Diehl, Rebecca Eagen, Ted Ellingsen, Pat Eineke, Joyce Helander, Andrew Kinsel, Bob Koehling, Sally Kruthoff (daughter of Nancy Schnaitman), Karl Kruthoff, Gay Leslie, Janelle McDonald, Linda Mowers, Ray Navarro, Oksana & Maria, Donald Overby, Emily Peters, Marc Pluskowski (dear friend of Heidi Anderson), John Schnaitman, Kelly Wilken, Ron Wilken, Greg & Val Williams, and Barbara Zegiel.

If you have requested that anyone (including yourself) be put on Grace's prayer list, thank you for your faith in our work of prayer! In order to keep our list current and accurate, we would like to hear from you

regarding the need for continued prayer, praises and new requests. You may place these in a note in the offering plate, send them on-line via our prayer card on our website, leave them on the answering machine at church (630-365-6751) or speak with Pastor or Kathy Hooey. Aren't we blessed to have a God who listens and cares!

ALSO - Do you know someone who could use a reminder of our prayers and God's constant love? We have lovely **prayer shawls** all ready for delivery. Just call or see Twyla Strom for prayer shawl needs.