

Waiting...for Grace

Prelude

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever. **Amen.** Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Loving and forgiving God, **we confess that we are held captive by sin.** In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. **We have not welcomed the stranger; we have not loved our neighbor; we have not been Christ to one another.** Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin. Renew us each day in the light of Christ. **Amen.**

People of God, hear this glad news: by God's endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free—free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God's love, ☩ comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn – O Come, O Come, Emmanuel #257 (red hymnal), #34 (green), vs. 3 & 4

3. O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on Sinai's height in ancient times you gave the law in cloud, and majesty, and awe. *Refrain*

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

4. O come, O Branch of Jesse, free your own from Satan's tyranny; from depths of hell your people save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. *Refrain*

Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. Show us your gift of grace in new ways so that we might serve you more faithfully. We pray this in your holy name. **Amen.**

Kids' Sermon

Candle Lighting

Gospel Hymn – God Came Down #253 (red hymnal)

1. God came down that we may have love; God came down that we may have love; God came down that we may have love; hallelujah forevermore.
2. God came down that we may have hope; God came down that we may have hope; God came down that we may have hope; hallelujah forevermore.
3. God came down that we may have light; God came down that we may have light; God came down that we may have light; hallelujah forevermore.
4. God came down that we may have peace; God came down that we may have peace; God came down that we may have peace; hallelujah forevermore.

5. God came down that we may have grace; God came down that we may have grace; God came down that we may have grace; hallelujah forevermore.

Scripture: John 1:14-17

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son,^[a] full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Sermon

Reflection Song – The Prayer by Josh Groban offered by Jason Wieland & Barb Steers

Prayers of the People

Reflection Music

Holy Communion

Benediction

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound #779 (red hymnal), #448 (green)

1. Amazing grace! how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved; how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!
3. Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come; 'tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
4. The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures; he will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.
5. When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun, we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

Announcements

Postlude

Drive-thru Offering Collection, Advent Bag Pick-up, & Holy Communion Distribution under the awning at the Parish Center