

JOIN US
FOR WORSHIP!



The Light of Grace
Week 1 – Hope

THE LIGHT OF
grace



ADVENT MIDWEEK 1

DECEMBER 6, 2023

**congregation stands*

AS WE GATHER

In this first service in The Light of Grace series for Advent, we celebrate that Jesus is the Light of the World who shines on us with his amazing grace, and we focus on the gracious gift of hope, exemplified in the life of Zechariah. In his old age, after years of waiting and not giving up hope, Zechariah is blessed with a son, John the Baptist, who prepared the way for the Light of Grace, Jesus.

OPENING HYMN

HARK THE GLAD SOUND

LSB 349

***INVOCATION**

***LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

One Advent candle is lit.

P Today we light the first of our Advent candles, the candle of hope.

C **“O Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in you.” (Psalm 39:7)**

P Across the centuries, the people of God waited in hope for the promised Messiah, the Savior. As the time came near for the promise to be fulfilled, the Lord sent an angel to tell the priest Zechariah that Zechariah and his wife would have a son. That son, to be named John, would announce the coming of the Messiah and prepare Israel to welcome the Savior.

C **“O Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in you.”**

P John would proclaim the dawn of hope for Israel. He would baptize people as a sign of re-pentance, preparing them for the Savior, the Lamb of God, who was coming to take their sins away. When the right time came, God's promise was fulfilled in the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C **"O Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in you."**

P We have seen the promise fulfilled. The Savior has come! He has died and risen to set us free. Now we wait in hope for his return on the Last Day. Jesus has promised, "Surely I am coming soon!"

C **"O Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in you." Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!**

***CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

P Let us confess our sins to God, trusting in his mercy for the sake of Jesus our Lord.

C **Almighty God, you have called us to a living hope in Jesus. Yet so often we do not reflect that hope in our lives. We turn away from the promises of your Word. We walk in our own selfish ways instead of following in Jesus' footsteps. We do not love others as we should, and we are not always willing to share our hope with the people around us. Have mercy on us and forgive us.**

P God has had mercy on us. He sent his Son to be our Savior and for his sake forgives our sins. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

C **"O Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in you."**

***HYMN OF RESPONSE**

AMAZING GRACE

LSB 744, vs. 1-3

***COLLECT FOR TODAY**

HYMN

COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS

LSB 338, vs. 1

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN

COME, THOU LONE-EXPECTED JESUS

LSB 338, vs. 2

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 51:1-5

¹Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness,
you who seek the LORD:
look to the rock from which you were hewn,
and to the quarry from which you were dug.

²Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah who bore you;
for he was but one when I called him,
that I might bless him and multiply him.

³For the LORD comforts Zion;
he comforts all her waste places
and makes her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the LORD;

joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

⁴Give attention to me, my people,
and give ear to me, my nation;
for a law will go out from me,
and I will set my justice for a light to the peoples.

⁵My righteousness draws near,
my salvation has gone out,
and my arms will judge the peoples;
the coastlands hope for me,
and for my arm they wait.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE READING

Romans 5:1–5

¹Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
²Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

*GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:67–79

⁶⁷And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying,

⁶⁸"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has visited and redeemed his people

⁶⁹and has raised up a horn of salvation for us
in the house of his servant David,

⁷⁰as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,

⁷¹that we should be saved from our enemies
and from the hand of all who hate us;

⁷²to show the mercy promised to our fathers
and to remember his holy covenant,

⁷³the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us

⁷⁴that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies,
might serve him without fear,

⁷⁵in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

⁷⁶And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

⁷⁷to give knowledge of salvation to his people
in the forgiveness of their sins,

⁷⁸because of the tender mercy of our God,
whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high

⁷⁹to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

*APOSTLES' CREED

SERMON HYMN

LET THE EARTH NOW PRAISE THE LORD

LSB 352, vs. 1, 2

SERMON

The Light of Grace and Hope: Zechariah

HYMN OF RESPONSE LET THE EARTH NOW PRAISE THE LORD **LSB 352, vs. 3, 4**

OFFERING

***PRAYERS**

After each petition:

P Our God and Savior,

C **Fill us with hope and guide us into the way of peace.**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

LSB 251

***BENEDICTION**

P Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

C **Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.**

P May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

C **Amen.**

HYMN

SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS COME

LSB 332, vs. 1–4

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Pick up a copy of The Light of Grace devotions from the TLO narthex. Share a copy with a friend, and invite them to worship with you this Advent and Christmas Season!



Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion | Dec. 24 @ 7:00**pm
Christmas Day Worship with Holy Communion | Dec. 25 @ 9:00**am



Note special Sunday worship schedule:

December 24 – 9:00**am & December 31 – 9:00**am

**Livestreamed at www.trinityloneoak.org