

APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

God of grace, hear our prayer.

THE OFFERING

OFFERING VOLUNTARY — Jill Sousek [8 & 10:30 AM]

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Nourishing God, 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.

LORD'S PRAYER [TRADITIONAL]

BLESSING

SENDING

BENEDICTION

HYMN #244 — *Rejoice, Rejoice Believers*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. **Keep awake.**

POSTLUDE — Jill Sousek [8 & 10:30 AM]

Keep
awake
therefore,
for you
do not know
on what day
your
Lord
is coming.



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A member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



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First Sunday of Advent

NOVEMBER 30, 2025



WELCOME TO ZION

PRELUDE — Jill Sousek [8 & 10:30 AM]

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

We come with wonder in our hearts at the mystery that God's grace is for us.
We wonder if God can really do all the work.

We come with wonder in our hearts at the mystery that God is for us.
We are focused on getting everything accomplished by a deadline.

During this season of Wonder, let us remember that God, in love, brought salvation to us. **God's grace is for us.**

HYMN #438 — *My Lord, What a Morning*

ADVENT WREATH

God says I will keep my promises.
God's grace is for us.

God is for our righteousness.
God's grace is for us.

We light the first candle to declare to everyone that God's grace is for us.

HYMN #248 — *People Look East* [VERSE 1]

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Holy God, you gather us together as your people. Help us! Remind us of your grace and mercy. Help us each day to see your grace-filled beginnings. Hear us as we confess you:

A time for silent reflection and self-examination.

For times when we fail to recognize that your grace is for us. **Forgive us.**

For days when we forget that you not only love us, but also that you love all people. **Forgive us.**

For the days when we fail to share your love and grace. **Forgive us.**

For the times we are afraid to tell our own story or listen to someone tell theirs. **Forgive us.**

For the times we exclude people from the community into which you draw us. **Forgive us.**

For the times we are afraid to follow you. **Forgive us.**

Dear friends, God is at work in our lives though it might be difficult to see some days. God's grace will continually claim, restore, and remind us once again that we are loved. In the name of Jesus ✠ your sins are forgiven, and you are set free to love. **Forgive us.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING — *Isaiah 2:1-5*

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. Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the Jacob's God, who will teach us the ways of God, that we may walk in the paths of the LORD." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. God 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.

O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

SECOND READING — *Romans 13:11-14*

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

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

The Holy Gospel, according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL — *Matthew 24:36-44*

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

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

THE SERMON — Seminarian Joel Yeakey

HYMN #436 — *Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying*