

# WELCOME

ADVENT | CHRISTMAS | EPIPHANY | LENT | EASTER | PENTECOST

**To our visitors** We are glad you have joined us to share in the gifts of our gracious Lord as we worship Him together in spirit and truth by receiving His Word and Sacraments. We invite you to pick up information and our Wittenberg Way newsletter at our welcome desk. If you have questions concerning the Christian faith or the Lutheran tradition, please let us know as our pastor would love to speak with you.

**Children are welcome in our services** Grace is a church family and we believe like any family we learn by doing things together. Bulletins are available for children that coincide with the liturgical calendar and scripture readings. We encourage parents to guide their children throughout the service, helping them to learn the language of the faith through the liturgy. A nursery with sound is located in the hallway outside the sanctuary to the right just before the glass door to the courtyard.

**Holy Communion** Our fellowship in the Lord’s Supper follows the Lutheran tradition grounded in the teaching of Holy Scripture. As one baptized into the Name of our Triune God and confessing the real presence of Christ’s body and blood in the Supper for the forgiveness of sins you are warmly invited to join us around the table for Holy Communion. If you are not communing but wish to be blessed, then simply cross your arms at the rail and you will be blessed by the celebrant.

### Giving to Grace

- Your weekly envelopes or those in the pews
- Online from your bank website
- Scan the QR code to the right
- On the Grace Giving Page at [gracesandiego.com](http://gracesandiego.com)
- Time & Talents - contact Pr. Brian



Please silence cell phones and be mindful of those preparing for worship.

Restrooms are available in the hallway outside the sanctuary.



### AS WE GATHER

God specializes in showing up right in the middle of our mess, and today’s reading from Isaiah 7 is proof. King Ahaz was panicking like a man who just realized his warranty had expired, and God said, “Ask for a sign.” Ahaz tried to sound humble, but God basically replied, “Fine. I’ll give you one anyway—a Virgin will conceive and bear a Son.” That’s God for you. When we bring fear, He brings promises. When we bring excuses, He brings grace. When we bring nothing, He brings Christ—the Child born of Mary, the Savior who steps into our world with no panic and no hesitation.

### Collect

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Isaiah 7:10-17

<sup>10</sup> Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz: <sup>11</sup> “Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” <sup>12</sup> But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” <sup>13</sup> And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. <sup>15</sup> He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup> For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. <sup>17</sup> The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father’s house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria!”



| DIVINE SERVICE                                  |                                  |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Setting 3                                       |                                  |
| <i>A Great and Mighty Wonder</i>                |                                  |
| Jan Bender, Michael Burkhardt                   |                                  |
| <b><i>O Come, O Come Emmanuel (vs. 1-5)</i></b> | <b>357</b>                       |
| Confession & Absolution (kneel)                 | 184                              |
| <b>Kyrie</b>                                    | <b>186</b>                       |
| <b>Salutation and Collect</b>                   | <b>189</b>                       |
| Reading   | Isaiah 7:10-17                   |
| Gradual   |                                  |
| Reading   | Romans 1:1-7                     |
| <b>Gospel</b>                                   | <b>Matthew 1:18-25</b>           |
| Children’s Homily                               |                                  |
| <i>Anthem</i>                                   | Andrew Gertz, violin             |
|   | <i>Arise, O Christian People</i> |
| Sermon  | Rev. Brian Thomas                |
|   | “God’s Billboard”                |
|   | Isaiah 7:10-17                   |
| <b>Nicene Creed</b>                             | <b>191</b>                       |
| <b>Prayer of the Church</b>                     |                                  |
| Offertory Hymn                                  |                                  |
| <i>Let Our Gladness Banish Sadness</i>          | 371                              |
| <b>Preface</b>                                  | <b>194</b>                       |
| <b>Sanctus</b>                                  | <b>195</b>                       |
| Lord’s Prayer (kneel)                           | 196                              |
| The Words of Our Lord                           | 197                              |
| Memorial Acclamation (2x)                       |                                  |
| Christ has died,                                |                                  |
| Christ is risen,                                |                                  |
| Christ will come again.                         |                                  |
| <b>Pax Domini</b>                               | <b>197</b>                       |
| <b>Agnus Dei</b>                                | <b>198</b>                       |
| <b>Eucharist</b>                                |                                  |
| Psalm 24  |                                  |
| <i>Once He Came in Blessing</i>                 | 333                              |
| <b>Nunc Dimittis</b>                            | <b>199</b>                       |
| <b>Thanksgiving</b>                             | <b>200</b>                       |
| <b>Collect</b>                                  | <b>201</b>                       |
| <b>Salutation and Benedicamus</b>               | <b>201</b>                       |
| <b>Benediction</b>                              | <b>202</b>                       |
| <b><i>A Great and Mighty Wonder</i></b>         | <b>383</b>                       |
| <i>Joy to the World</i>                         | Burkhardt                        |
| <i>* bold indicates standing</i>                |                                  |

| Worship Assistants |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Pastor             | Rev. Brian Thomas |
| Director of Music  | Dale Sorenson     |

| Serving Today         |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Elder                 | Jason Huntley   |
| Altar Guild           | Huntley Family  |
| Crucifer              | Spencer Huntley |
| Acolytes              | Peter Gertz     |
|                       | Andrew Gertz    |
| Lector                | Jason Huntley   |
| Cantor                | Sandi Garcia    |
| Usher                 | Daryl Svensson  |
| Serving Christmas Eve |                 |
| Elder                 | Jeremy Fullam   |
| Altar Guild           |                 |
| Crucifer              | Andrew Gertz    |
| Acolytes              | Peter Gertz     |
|                       | Leopold Fullam  |
| Lector                | Jeremy Fullam   |
| Cantor                |                 |

| Prayer List   |  |
|---|--|
| For Strength and Healing  |  |
| Dave, Arleen, Eddie, Michelle, Kristi, Mark, Hugo, Jacque, Dave, Phyllis, and Floyd   |  |
| For Our Missionaries & Seminarians  |  |
| Rev. Dr. Tardelli Voss, Vicar Rowan Turner, and Vicar William Baker   |  |
| For Our Military Members  |  |
| Rev. Mario Ancira, Hannah Downey, Nathan Farish, Gavin Robillard, Joshua Simmons, and Jeff & Jordan Gruetzmacher,<br><i>(If you are in the military, please send your info to elsyglc@gmail.com to be added to the prayer list)</i> |  |
| For Those Unable to Attend  |  |
| Joyce Rochester, Herb & Marge Foelber, and Janice Keitel  |  |

## Announcements

**Sunday School and Wednesday Bible Study** are on recess until January.

**2026 Envelopes** are in church mailboxes. Please email elsyglc@gmail.com if you need envelopes and/or a mailbox or have any questions.



## Upcoming Services

- December 24: Christmas Eve @ 6:30pm
- December 25: Christmas Day @ 9:00am

## Advent 4

December 21, 2025  
9:00 am



**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
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*Proclaiming the Good News of God's grace in Jesus Christ*