

The Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 20, 2020



*Who can be petty,
bitter, mean and resentful,
when the Lord is near?*

South Big Horn Lutheran Parish

**Grace Lutheran Church
Greybull**

For by grace you have been saved, through faith, and this is not of yourselves, it is the gift of God.
Ephesians 2:8-9

**Zion Lutheran Church
Emblem**

Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Isaiah 12:6

Notes for the Season

Advent (of Latin: *Adventus Domini*, the Coming of the Lord) is a season of preparation for the celebration of the birth of Christ. As difficult as this may be, surrounded by the increasingly pagan and premature celebrations of the godless world, this is a time of **penitence**. We are reminded of why He had to come for our salvation - and that He shall come to judge, and we should be ready to meet Him, when He does. The **colour of the season** is the colour of penitence, **purple**.

Today:

Penitential Order of Holy Communion, LSB p. 184, *Apostles' Creed*

Hymns: 331 - 354 - 781:1-2 - 344/636 - 387:1

About Holy Communion

Holy Scripture teaches that as an expression of unity (Acts 2:42) Christians should share the Sacrament only with those with whom we are united in a common faith. We honour this teaching as our due obedience, and also to guard the uninstructed and those who do not submit to the full counsel of God against spiritual harm (1 Corinthians 11:27-29). As such, only Christians who share our faith and confession and therefore belong to congregations in the fellowship of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod will commune in our church. **We sincerely welcome our visitors;** we assure you that we uphold this practice also out of concern for *your* spiritual welfare, and that our Pastor would love to study Scripture with you and help you embrace the full counsel of God, so that we can share the Sacrament in a manner pleasing to God and beneficial for us all.

Just so we do not forget:

What is the Eighth Commandment?

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbour.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbour, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

Of the Small Catechism

This we believe - *from the Confessions of our Church*

Faith brings the Holy Spirit and produces a new life in hearts. It must also produce spiritual movements in hearts. Therefore, when we have been justified by faith and regenerated, we begin to fear and love God, to pray to Him, to expect aid from Him, to give thanks and praise Him, and to obey Him in times of suffering. We also begin to love our neighbors, because our hearts have spiritual and holy movements.

Of the Apology of the Augsburg Confession

Christmas Eve Worship at Grace at 4 pm.

Christmas Eve Worship at Zion at 6 pm.

Christmas Day Worship at Grace on Christmas Day (well, you know) at 10:30 am.

Epiphany Worship at Grace on Monday, January 4, at 7 pm.

A Life Thought from Lutherans For Life:

Jesus brought God delicately amidst sinners, as humble in crucifixion as He was helpless in conception. Yet this estate did not hinder but, in fact, heralded the full realm and reign of God for us. And thereby He reaffirmed the worth of even the feeblest human beings. God's gift of life arrives all the better for the plain packaging He habitually hides it behind. *Lamb of God, make it so that our taking hold of You leads us to cradle Your little ones as well. Amen.*

A Stewardship Thought for the Sunday: Part of our readings for today is Philippians 4:6 - "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." Paul puts two things in opposition to each other: anxiety and prayer. So, trade your worries for prayers! You have a Father who loves you and desires to hear your prayers and bless you.

From the LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Thank you - again - to all who requested that Thrivent Choice Dollars go to our churches. We have been informed that Zion has recently received another \$25 through the Thrivent Choice Dollars program. The money will be kept on a special account, where it will be available to us, should a special need arise; and where, in the meantime, it will earn us good interest.

Do not be miserable without letting your Pastor know about it. Not that your Pastor likes to learn that you are miserable; but if you are, he would like to know. Your Pastor might not know about the things that are happening in your life; or he might know of what is happening, but not be aware of how it is bothering you, or how much. He should be, though: part of what he is there for is to help you through difficult times. And letting him do so is part of what it means to have a Pastor and be Church and be Christian. Even if what is bothering is not what you yourself would think of as a spiritual or Church related, you should nevertheless not exclude the possibility that the light the Word of God would have shed upon it would be helpful. So please, if there are things that are bothering you in your life, please let your Pastor know about it.

This Week:

Tuesday:	Noon - 1 pm.	Pastor's office hours at Grace
Wednesday:	Noon - 1 pm.	Pastor's office hours at Grace
	2 pm. →	<i>Pastor Tinglund gone</i>
Thursday:	4 pm.	Christmas Eve Worship at Grace
	6 pm.	Christmas Eve Worship at Zion
Friday:	10: 30 am.	Christmas Day Worship at Grace
Saturday:	7 pm.	Communion worship at Grace
		<i>- in case somebody registers!</i>
Sunday:	8 am.	Communion Worship at Grace
	9:15 am.	Bible Study at Grace
	10:30 am.	Communion Worship at Zion
	11:45 am.	Bible Study at Zion