

LAST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

NOVEMBER 24, 2024

*Live Like You'll Live
Forever[†]*

LIVE WITH YOUR EYES ON THE SKIES



GRACE EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

5600 West Palmyra Ave
Glendale, Arizona 85301
tel: 623-937-2010
email: info@graceglendale.org
web: <https://www.graceglendale.org>



WELCOME TO GRACE!

We're glad you're here! May the Word of God bring you comfort in Christ alone. You can follow along with the service using this worship folder or using the screens above the chancel. If you're new here, below is some helpful information about our sanctuary and our worship...

- Please reserve the **BACK PEWS** for parents with **SMALL CHILDREN**.
- A **PARENT'S ROOM** with private changing area and restroom is available through the door at the back of the middle aisle. Windows from the room allow you to still watch the service and speakers allow you to hear as well. A volume control is available on the wall by the door.
- Ask an usher to receive an **AUDIO RECEIVER** and **HEADSET** if you need hearing assistance in the sanctuary or Fellowship Hall.
- **RESTROOMS** are available in the Narthex. Exit out of the north doors from the Sanctuary and go to the left. They are located in the alcove behind Luther's Seal.
- **LARGE PRINT** bulletins are available. See an usher to receive one.
- Visit our **WEBSITE** at <http://www.graceglendale.org> for additional information about our ministries and upcoming events.

CONTACT US...

Feel free to reach out directly to our office staff via email or telephone. Call 623-937-2010 and use the extension to the right.

Rev. Mark Jacobson	x321
pastorjacobson@graceglendale.org	
Rev. Jasper Sellnow	x303
pastorsellnow@graceglendale.org	
Principal Joel Walker	x302
jwalker@graceglendale.org	
Office Manager, Debbie Petersen	x322
officemanager@graceglendale.org	
School Office Manager, Monica Assaker	x326
massaker@graceglendale.org	
Church Secretary	
secretary@graceglendale.org	

AT TODAY'S SERVICE...

Preaching Minister: Pastor Jacobson

Liturgist: Pastor Sellnow

Senior ushers: 8:00 AM – Nick Lincoln

10:30 AM – AJ & Tristan McDunn

Organist: Jeff Wegner

A/V Team: 8:00 AM – Mark Breiling / Jon Scheel

10:30 AM – Paul Sullivan

ABOUT THE THEME

“Eyes on the prize.” That axiom stresses that when pursuing some good goal, focus is important. You don’t want distractions or a lack of self-discipline to keep you from obtaining whatever that prize might be. “Eyes on the prize.” You summon the willpower to fixate on that good thing. You let nothing divert your attention from obtaining the prize.

The prize that we want most is spending eternity with Jesus. As the Church Year comes to a close, Jesus promises that he will come again “in clouds with great power and glory” to give us that prize. That prize will be so unbelievably good, it is worth fixating on. It merits our striving to set aside all that would distract us from Christ. Let us be ready. Let us keep watch. Let us live with our eyes on the skies.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Setting 4

HYMN: LO! HE COMES WITH CLOUDS DESCENDING

CW 487

Please stand

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

CONFESSION

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.
Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father, we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts. We have offended you and sinned against your holy law. We have done those things that we should not have done, and we have not done those things that we should have done. Have mercy on us, Lord! Spare us, forgive us, and restore us, according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

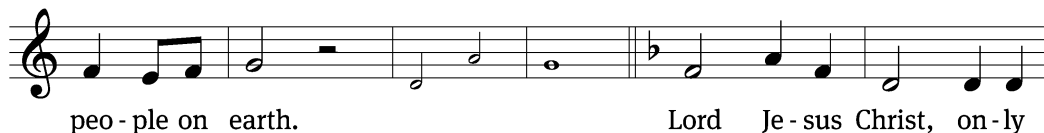
Silence for meditation and reflection

DECLARATION OF GRACE

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by



glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace to his



peo - ple on earth. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly



Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on



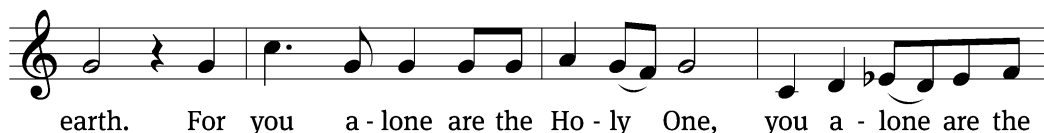
us; you are seat - ed at the right hand of the



Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer, re - ceive our prayer.



Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace to his peo - ple on



earth. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the



Lord, you a-lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ,



with the Ho - ly Spir-it in the glo - ry of God the Fa-ther.



Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace to his peo-ple on earth.



Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God.

Tune: Kermit G. Moldenhauer

Tune: ©2002 Kermit G. Moldenhauer, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 705990

SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God and Savior, you have set the final day and hour when we shall be delivered from this world of sin and death. Keep us ever watchful for the coming of your Son that we may sit with him and all your holy ones at the marriage feast in heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated

FIRST READING

Isaiah 51:4–6

The Lord encourages his people to live in joyful expectation of salvation, with eyes lifted up to the skies.

⁴Listen to me, my people;
hear me, my nation:
Instruction will go out from me;
my justice will become a light to the nations.
⁵My righteousness draws near speedily,
my salvation is on the way,
and my arm will bring justice to the nations.
The islands will look to me
and wait in hope for my arm.
⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens,
look at the earth beneath;
the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment
and its inhabitants die like flies.
But my salvation will last forever,
my righteousness will never fail.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

MEN'S CHORUS

"All that I am"

SECOND READING

Jude 20–25

St. Jude explains how we live in anticipation of Jesus' return—by doing the things that build up our faith and by showing mercy to our neighbor.

²⁰But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, ²¹keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.

²²Be merciful to those who doubt; ²³save others by snatching them from the fire; to others show mercy, mixed with fear—hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh.

²⁴To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy— ²⁵to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 24:42



Refrain

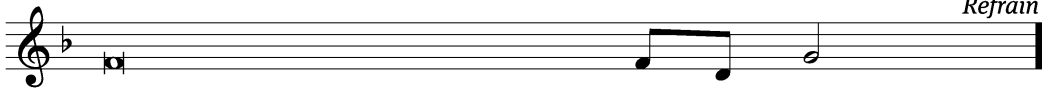


Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Tone



Therefore keep watch,



because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.

Tune: © 2002, 2021 Kermit G. Moldenhauer, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 705990

GOSPEL

Mark 13:26–37

You do not know when Jesus will come again. So be alert, with your eyes on the skies.

²⁶“At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.

²⁸“Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. ²⁹Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. ³⁴It’s like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.

³⁵“Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. ³⁶If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. ³⁷What I say to you, I say to everyone: ‘Watch!’ ”

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

Please be seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

At this time, children are invited to the front of the church to hear a special children's message from the Pastor.

HYMN OF THE DAY: THE DAY IS SURELY DRAWING NEAR

CW 488

SERMON

Mark 13:26-37

WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO CHRIST'S RETURN

Please stand

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Please be seated

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH for the Last Sunday after Pentecost

Eternal and gracious Father, today we end another year of grace. Once again the Holy Spirit has nourished and strengthened our faith as we reviewed the words and works of Jesus recorded in the Gospels. We have rejoiced to hear that you kept the promises you made to your ancient people. We were

encouraged as we remembered how you empowered your followers to proclaim the good news in their world.

Work in us every day to believe the truths of your Word and apply them in our lives.

We are aware that we live in dangerous times as Satan and his forces of evil assault your people again and again. Give us wisdom to discern teachings that subtly deny the Scriptures. Provide courage to stand against the attacks of godless opponents. Strengthen our resolve to confess the truth and then to speak the truth in love.

Work in us every day to be watchful and cautious as we live in our world.

Help us take to heart that your Son, our Lord Jesus, is coming again to judge the living and the dead. Since the day of his return is unknown to us, lead us to note the signs that signal the end of time. Spare us from fear as trouble and woe increase, and fill us with hope as we long for that great day.

Work in us every day to be ready for the moment of his coming.

Fill us with concern for family members and friends who are not taking seriously their need for Jesus and his forgiveness. Provide opportunities to reach out to them with patient persistence and to lovingly lead them to your Word and sacraments. Make us generous with our offerings so that others can go in our place to proclaim the good news.

Work in us every day to witness to Christ and his love for sinners.

Lead us to see our Savior's face in the faces of the poor and hungry, the lonely and forgotten, the oppressed and imprisoned, and move to support them whenever we can. Empower our faith to be lights in the world so that people may see our good works and glorify you and your Son.

Work in us every day to imitate your love for the lost, the least, and the last.

Special Intercessions

If you call us to glory before the final day comes, carry our souls to heaven where we will await the resurrection of our bodies. Comfort those who may grieve over losing us and point them to the day when they will join us at the marriage feast of the Lamb.

Work in us every day so that we are ready whenever you call us home.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Fill us with hope and joy as we await your Son's return. Cause us to enjoy your earthly blessings in light of your eternal glories and to realize that heaven is really our home. Lead us to long for the splendor of Paradise where you will wipe away all tears from our eyes.

**Work in us every day as we listen for the sound of the final trumpet.
Amen.**

OFFERINGS OF LOVE TO OUR LORD

Please complete the "Welcome to Grace" register in your pew at this time.

HYMN: REJOICE, REJOICE, BELIEVERS

CW 493

Please stand

PRAYER

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

Amen.

Please be seated

HYMN: COME, YOU THANKFUL PEOPLE, COME

CW 491

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

Liturgical and musical settings of Scripture based on text from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House.

Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2024 Concordia Publishing House.

TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS:

Altar flowers are donated by Don Petersen in memory of his father, John Petersen.

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK:

Worship: 8:00 AM – 151 – 10:30 AM – 132

Worship: 8:00 AM – 131 – 10:30 AM – 122

Sunday School: Adults: 104 – Bible Basics: 13 – Children: 28

Midweek Bible Class: Tue: 22 – Wed: 7 – Fri: no class

HOSPITALIZED OR RECUPERATING AT HOME:

Don Bollmeier – 12610 W Flower St, Avondale, AZ 85392

Carol Bottcher – 8611 N 67th Ave Apt 158, Glendale, AZ 85302

Dorothy Favorite – 1928 W Orangewood Ave Apt 14, Phoenix, AZ 85021

Annette Hartzell – 14182 W Mountain Laurel Trl, Surprise, AZ 85374

Brenda Hepper – 5516 W John Cabot Rd, Glendale, AZ 85308

Tracey Moreland – 6801 N Ocotillo Rd Apt 1089, Glendale, AZ 85303-3111

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. The November issue of *Forward in Christ* and Bible-reading and activity calendars are in the Narthex and south entrance to the church.
2. Thank you to the cleaning crew that cleaned yesterday. The team scheduled for November 30 is led by Jon & Sarah Floerke, with Brayden Floerke, Acacia Floerke, Greg & Claudia McDunn, Jake & Merida Oliphant, Mackenzie Oliphant, Andrew Oliphant and Kaleb Oliphant.
3. We can use more cookie donations for Sunday Fellowship time.

NEW MEMBER... as you heard in our prayers today we welcomed a fellow believer into membership here at Grace this past week. Please keep Tracey Moreland in your prayers as she is built up in faith through Word and Sacrament. Due to health challenges at this time Tracey will be mostly homebound. You may send her greetings if you wish (address above).

ALTAR FLOWER SIGN-UP SHEETS... Please sign up for altar flower donations by filling out the Altar Flower binder in the narthex. Altar bouquets cost \$35 each. Enclose payment in a pink envelope (checks payable to Grace Ladies Aid) and place it in the collection plate.

SCRIPTURAL THANKSGIVING, CHRISTMAS, & GREETING CARDS, AND 2025 CALENDARS... are available for purchase before Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall. The price per box varies this year. Proceeds support the ministry of Grace Ladies' Aid.



Grace Groups

Gathering Together Around God's Word

Over 60 members recently completed our Fall Session of Grace Groups and the response has been amazing! We will resume with our Spring Session after the

first of the year – watch for new sign-ups coming. We'd like to include more members in the next session. For that, we'll need more people to serve as group facilitators. Easy, fun and fulfilling, if you'd like to learn more about being a facilitator, speak to Don Petersen or one of the pastors. In the meantime, pastors will continue to provide sermon-based questions on the back cover of the bulletin. We hope you find that helpful with your sermon preparation, meditation or family devotions – even if you are not part of a group.

THIS WEEK AT GRACE:

TODAY : WORSHIP, 8:00 & 10:30 AM

Bible Class & Sunday School, 9:30 AM

MON - Handbells, 6:15 PM

Boy Pioneers, 6:30 PM

Choir Practice, 7:00 PM

TUE - Newsletter Assembly, 8:00 AM (FH)

WED - ABC will meet at Grace School – Grandparents Day

Grandparents Day at Grace LES, 8:30 AM; LES Early Release

THUR - **Thanksgiving Worship, 9:00 AM**

FRI - NO Bible Class

NO School / Offices Closed

SAT - **Christmas Decorating, 8:00 AM**

SUN - **COMMUNION WORSHIP, 8:00 & 10:30 AM**

Bible Class & Sunday School, 9:30 AM

Women's Advent by Candlelight, 5:00 PM (FH)

OTHER EVENTS COMING UP...

ABC: ADULT BREAKFAST & COFFEE - The ABC - Adult Breakfast and Coffee Group - is a group of Grace members and friends who enjoy gathering for breakfast two or three Wednesdays each month. This week, ABC will meet Wednesday, Nov 27, at Grace for Grandparents' Day; but instead of breakfast, pie and coffee will be served. We encourage all our seniors to join us even if you have never attended before. To sign up send a text or email to: Pat Walker - Mobile 480-717-0131 - patwalker1950@gmail.com

GRANDPARENTS' DAY AT SCHOOL – NOV 27, 8:30 AM; EARLY RELEASE

THANKSGIVING WORSHIP, NOV 28, 9:00 AM ... Grades PreK-8th will sing

CHRISTMAS DECORATING... Can you help? We will be decorating the church and Narthex for Christmas next **Saturday, November 30th at 8:00 a.m.** We want to beautify our sanctuary as the following day will be the first Sunday in Advent & the Ladies Aid will be hosting the Advent by Candlelight Service that evening in the Fellowship Hall. If you need more information, please call or text Steve or Patty Bischoff at 623-695-0247

WOMEN'S ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT... All ladies and young ladies, 3rd grade and older, are invited to our Women's Advent by Candlelight service on **Sunday, December 1, at 5:00 PM.** Appetizers will be served at 5:00, with the service starting at 5:30. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex. Thank you!



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE... will be held at **6:30 PM on Thursday, December 19.** All Grace children of the appropriate ages in the congregation are welcome to participate and may join us for any or all of the practices. Packets are available on the school table in the narthex for public school families that wish to participate. We will not be having any Sunday practices this year. All practices are at 9 AM unless otherwise noted. The dates that we will be practicing for the Christmas Service are: December 6, 13, 16, and 17. There will be a dress rehearsal at 8:15 AM on December 18. Please contact Mr. Kulhanek with any questions.

NEW GREETERS SIGN-UP... Attention all Greeters, a new sign-up for January thru April is in the narthex. Take a few minutes to sign-up for your turn(s) to help welcome all who walk thru our doors for Sunday worship. Once the sign-up is complete, you will receive a completed copy. Thank you!



FINANCIAL UPDATE:

Need amounts are based on a goal of **\$968,775.00 by 6/30/2025.**

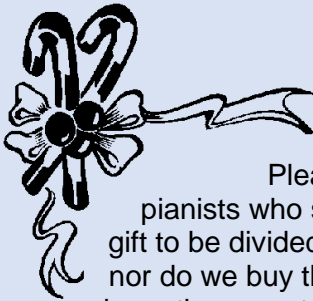
Week ending 11/17/2024:

Weekly Need:	17,500.00
Weekly Actual:	15,087.10
Weekly +/-:	-2,412.90

YTD 7/1/2024 through 11/17/2024:

YTD Need:	364,000.00
YTD Actual:	299,573.30
YTD +/-:	-64,426.70

DONATE FROM YOUR SMARTPHONE... Scan this image using your phone's QR code reader! Contact Debbie at ext. 322 if you have any questions or need help with setting this up. Automatic or one-time deductions for offerings may also be accessed from the graceglendale.org site with the "Click Here to Donate Online" button. A phone app is also available for donations: install Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement and search Organizations for Grace Ev Lutheran Church. *Please use checking or savings account information rather than a credit or debit card to save the processing fees.*



Dear Grace Members:

Please show your thanks to the fine organists and pianists who serve us throughout the year by making a financial gift to be divided among our musicians. We do not pay our organists, nor do we buy their music for them. At this time of the year, we all have the opportunity to show them what a blessing they are to us!

Our organists in 2024 were:

Rachel Kulhanek
Jeff Wegner
Michael Wilde

Our pianists in 2024 were:

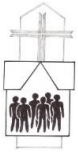
Lara Johnson
Stacey Hill

Checks (payable to Grace Ev. Lutheran Church with "Organist Gift" on the memo line) or Cash (in an envelope with your name and/or envelope # and "Organist Gift" written on the outside) may be placed in the offering plates or turned into the office by December 31st.



Thank you! And special thanks to our Organists and Pianists! We are very BLESSED to have such a talented group of musicians!

Sincerely,
Jon Scheel, President



Grace Groups

Gathering Together Around God's Word

LOOK FORWARD TO CHRIST'S RETURN

Mark 13:26-37

What have you learned about the church calendar?

What 3 encouragements were offered to help us look forward to *that* day? What other encouragements would you add?

Why doesn't it matter when Christ returns?

Practically speaking, how does Jesus say, "Watch!" to *everyone*?

One goal of this Sunday was to take away the scary unknowns of the last day. Was that accomplished for you? Why or why not?

Another goal of this Sunday was to reinforce your "assigned task" as we wait Christ's return? In what ways will your task be accomplished this week?
