

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

422 Valhi Boulevard
985-879-1865

Houma, Louisiana 70360
WWW.GRACEHOUMA.ORG

Pastor - Richard D. Rudnik
pastor@gracehouma.org

President - Mike Cape
president@gracehouma.org

Church Secretary - Lorie Souther
secretary@gracehouma.org

Accompanists - David West & Mike Cape

Today

Service Elder - Joey Souther
Scripture Reader - Dale Boger
Offering Stewards - Lisa Giroir
Altar Guild - Pastor Rich & Bridgette

Next Sunday

John Wegner
Mona LaCour
Lisa Giroir
Mary Lou & Lorie

Third Sunday in Advent	December 15, 2024
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Welcome to God's house! Please allow us to keep in touch with you by signing the register in the foyer/narthex. Thank you!

Altar Flowers are placed today to the glory of God in celebration of Tom & Brigitte Kinsella's wedding anniversary on Tuesday and their granddaughters, Lainey, Breiyah and Blakelynn's birthdays.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated each week. Those Christians who truly believe that they receive the true body and blood of Christ Jesus our Savior, in, with and under the bread and wine are invited to partake in the Lord's Supper.

The Apostle Paul's words in Corinthians 11:27-29 set forth, "*Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself.*"

If you are concerned about having a proper understanding of the Lord's Supper, we urge you to speak with pastor. Questions and answers that may aid your understanding of and preparation for Holy Communion are on pages 329-330 in the pew hymnal.

Non-alcoholic white wine is located in the center of the individual cup trays for those who cannot tolerate alcohol.

† PREPARATION †

Stand

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

John 1:5, 9; 15:10–11; Psalm 100:1–5

Pastor: We light the third Advent candle as we prepare for the arrival of the Savior, who would come to His people in human flesh, and who promises to come again. In a world of darkness, a light shines. Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

People: **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

Pastor: The third, pink Advent candle has been known as the shepherd candle or the candle of joy. The third Sunday of Advent is known also as Gaudete Sunday. *Gaudete* in Latin means “rejoice,” as found in Philippians 4:4. We find our joy in Christ this season and always as we prepare to celebrate His birth. Jesus affirms the joy found only in Him as we remain connected to Him: “If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.”

People: **The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.**

Pastor: Guided by the light of joy, we respond with the psalmist: “Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into His presence with singing!

People: **Know that the Lord, He is God! It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.**

Pastor: Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise!

People: **Give thanks to Him; bless His name!**

Pastor: For the Lord is good; His steadfast love endures forever,

People: **and His faithfulness to all generations.”**

Three Advent candles are lit.

HYMN “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” LSB #357, verses 5-7

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Philippians 4:4–7*

Pastor: As we gather today to hear God’s Word and call upon Him in prayer and praise, we come before Him as people who are broken by an imperfect world, burdened by sin, and bearing guilt for the things we have done and the things we have left undone.

Pause for reflection on our sins

In the midst of our condition, the Word of God speaks to us. In today’s Epistle, we hear, “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.”

People: **We confess we do not rejoice in everything; instead, we let the weight of this world bring us down. Instead of seeing all good things from Your hand, at times we focus on that which does not give You glory nor bring lasting joy to our lives.**

Pastor: “Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand.”

People: We confess we have at times been unreasonable in our relationships with others and in our relationship with You. Our witness to Your grace has faltered.

Pastor: “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”

People: We confess we have been anxious about our sin and our circumstances of life. Create in us a clean heart and renew in us a right spirit that we may abide in Your love and that Your joy may be in us, and our joy may be full.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

People: Amen.

† WORD †

INTROIT *Psalm 146:5–8; antiphon: Philippians 4:4*

Pastor: Rejoice in the Lord always;

People: again I will say, Rejoice.

Pastor: Blessèd is he whose help is the God of Jacob,

People: whose hope is in the Lord his God,

Pastor: who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them,

People: who keeps faith forever;

Pastor: who executes justice for the oppressed,

People: who gives food to the hungry.

Pastor: The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

People: The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.

Pastor: Glory be to the Father and to the Son

People: and to the Holy Spirit;

Pastor: as it was in the beginning,

People: is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Pastor: Rejoice in the Lord always;

People: again I will say, Rejoice.

KYRIE

Pastor: Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Into the darkness, You bring light, and into our lives, You bring lasting joy.

People: Fill us with Your Spirit that we may rightly prepare and welcome the Savior promised and born for us, that in Him, Your joy may be known, and our joy may be complete;

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Zephaniah 3:14–20*

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;
shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter of Jerusalem!
¹⁵The Lord has taken away the judgments against you;
he has cleared away your enemies.
The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;
you shall never again fear evil.
¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
“Fear not, O Zion;
let not your hands grow weak.
¹⁷The Lord your God is in your midst,
a mighty one who will save;
he will rejoice over you with gladness;
he will quiet you by his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing.
¹⁸I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival,
so that you will no longer suffer reproach.
¹⁹Behold, at that time I will deal
with all your oppressors.
And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.
²⁰At that time I will bring you in,
at the time when I gather you together;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes,” says the Lord.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL *Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.*

Pastor: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.

People: Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.

Pastor: Behold, your king is coming to you;

People: righteous and having salvation.

Pastor: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

People: From the house of the Lord we bless You.

EPISTLE *Philippians 4:4–7*

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving

let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

VERSE *Matthew 11:10b*

Pastor: Alleluia. Behold, I send My messenger before Your face,
People: **who will prepare Your way before You. Alleluia.**

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 7:18–28 (29–35)*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the seventh chapter.
People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The Gospel is read.)

¹⁸The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, ¹⁹calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ²⁰And when the men had come to him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?’” ²¹In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. ²²And he answered them, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. ²³And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

²⁴When John’s messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ²⁵What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings’ courts. ²⁶What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ²⁷This is he of whom it is written, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.”

²⁸I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

CREED *Nicene Creed*

People: **I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven**

and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life † of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN *"Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding" LSB #345*

SERMON

MEDITATION

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *Philippians 4:4*
(After each petition...)

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

OFFERTORY *"Lord of All Good" LSB #786 verse 1*

**Lord of all good, our gifts we bring You now;
Use them Your holy purpose to fulfill.
Tokens of love and pledges they shall be
That our whole life is offered to Your will.**

† SACRAMENT †

PREFACE *2 Timothy 4:22*

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, in and through whom we are called to rejoice always. Your kingdom is at hand, and Your kingdom will come on earth as it in heaven as we await the fullness of eternal joys through faith in our Savior, Jesus Christ, who came in our flesh, comes to us now in His body and blood for the forgiveness of sins, and promises to come again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

**Holy, Holy, Holy
Is the Lord God Almighty
Who was, and is, and is to come
With all creation I sing:
Praise to the King of Kings!
You are my everything,
And I will adore You! Yeah!**

From "Revelation Song" CCLI# 4447960 2004 Gateway Create Publishing (Admin. by Integrity's Praise! Music)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING *Hebrews 12:2, adapt.*

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and out of perfect love sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior who we look to, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Instill in us the joy of receiving Your healing grace through Christ's body and blood given and shed for us.

People: **Amen.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My † blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST *1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20*

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

People: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

**People: Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

**Worthy is the, Lamb who was slain
Holy, Holy, is He
Sing a new song, to Him who sits on
Heaven's Mercy Seat
(repeat)**

Sit

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness" LSB #849

"Jesus, Thank You" Pat Sczebel

**The mystery of the cross I cannot comprehend
The agonies of Calvary
You the perfect Holy One, crushed Your Son
Drank the bitter cup reserved for me**

**Your blood has washed away my sin
Jesus, thank You
The Father's wrath completely satisfied
Jesus, thank You
Once Your enemy, now seated at Your table
Jesus, thank You**

**By Your perfect sacrifice I've been brought near
Your enemy You've made Your friend
Pouring out the riches of Your glorious grace
Your mercy and Your kindness know no end**

**Your blood has washed away my sin
Jesus, thank You
The Father's wrath completely satisfied**

**Jesus, thank You
Once Your enemy, now seated at Your table
Jesus, thank You**

**Lover of my soul I want to live for You
Lover of my soul I want to live for You
Lover of my soul I want to live for You
Lover of my soul I want to live for You**

**Your blood has washed away my sin
Jesus, thank You
The Father's wrath completely satisfied
Jesus, thank You
Once Your enemy, now seated at Your table
Jesus, thank You**

**Your blood has washed away my sin
Jesus, thank You
The Father's wrath completely satisfied
Jesus, thank You
Once Your enemy, now seated at Your table
Jesus, thank You**

Words and Music by Pat Sczebel © 2003 Sovereign Grace Worship. CLLI #1734685.

"Rejoice, My Heart, Be Glad and Sing" LSB #737

Stand

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

"O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee" LSB #632

**O Jesus, blessed Lord, to Thee
My heartfelt thanks forever be,
Who hast so lovingly bestowed
On me Thy body and Thy blood.**

**Break forth, my soul, for joy and say:
What wealth is come to me this day!
My Savior dwells within my heart:
How blessed am I! How good Thou art!**

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,
People: for His steadfast love endures forever.

Pastor: We thank You for the true body and blood shed for us for the forgiveness of sins and nourishment of faith.
People: Enable us to depart in peace and in joy to serve You and others to the glory of Your name.
Amen.

CLOSING SENTENCES *John 1:5, 9*

Pastor: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.
People: The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

People: **Amen.**

HYMN *“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee” LSB #803*

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This Week at Grace

Today	9:00 a.m. Worship Coffee & baked goods 10:45 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
Monday	6:00 p.m. Bible Study
Tuesday	1:00 p.m. Bible Study 4:00 p.m. New Member Zoom Class
Wednesday	4:30 p.m. Confirmation Class 6:00 p.m. Potluck Fellowship 7:00 p.m. Midweek Advent Worship Service

For the week December 15 - 21, 2024

Birthdays
12/17 Breiyah Kinsella
12/20 Blakelynn Vogel
Ian Wegner

Baptismal Anniversary
12/21 Charlene Shroyer

Wedding Anniversary
12/17 Tom & Brigitte
Kinsella

In the palm of God’s Hands...

BATTLING CANCER: Annick George Matherne, Eldon Authement, Isla Granger, Jenny Ford, Lance Griffin, Laura Robson, Michael Hamilton and Noah Donnes.

RECOVERING FROM SURGERY/INJURY: Donna Elke and Jacqui Kaplan.

CHRONIC CONDITIONS & ELDERLY: Connie Oswalt, DeAnn Barrios, Ellen DeSoto, Frank Alessio, Gloria Ashley, Jackie Webb, James Hillman, Jaxon Greene, Joe Deane, John Wegner, Kim Cape, Lyle Souther, Marilyn Beach, Mary Jane Schouest, Mike Wallace, Patsy Wegner, Rhonda Roan, Richard LaCour and Toni St. Amant.

MOURNING A LOSS: The families of Cindy Dean, Rev. David Green, Leo LaPlume and Sue Ackett.

NEW & EXPECTING MOTHERS: Allyssa Andrews & Owen.

SERVING IN OUR ARMED FORCES & THEIR FAMILY:
Avery St. Amant, Chandler Crawford, Haily Crawford, Haize Shroyer, Jason Reid-O’neill, Julia Shroyer, Justin Scherf, Katie Cahill, Kyle Turcott, Lei’Lyn Hebert, Noah Scheufens and Todd Mueller.

COLLEGE STUDENTS: Alyssah Kinsella, Annie Reaves, Donovan Domangue, Gabbie Corbitt, Hannah Norman, Jacob Harding, Nicholas Scott, Peyton Kraus, Shelby Giroir and Victoria Thalheim.

