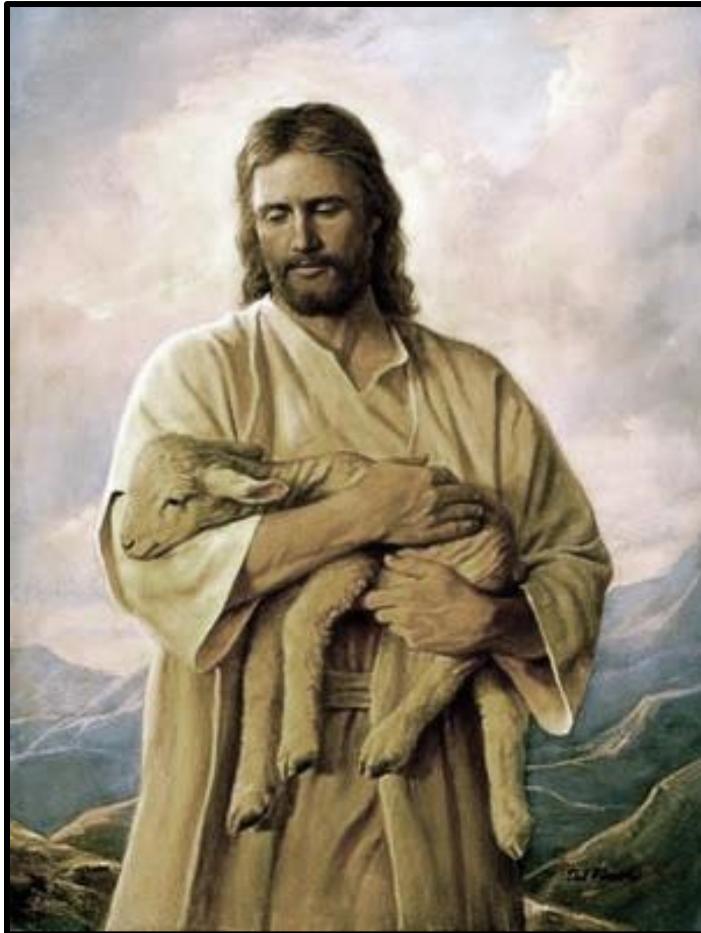

Grace Lutheran Church
Advent 2015



Jesus, Tender Shepherd, Hear Me

Order of Midweek Advent Worship

Opening Prayer:

Opening Hymn:

Confession of Sins:.... With Tune of CW 51 (I am so Glad When Christmas Comes)

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

Congregation: Amen.

P: Lord, we confess that all we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way. We admit that we have sought other pastures which we thought were greener than Yours. We have often preferred to please ourselves with the dry weeds this world has to offer. We have often pursued what we saw to be the freedoms of the flesh, which in truth are nothing but slavery to sin. Many are the times we have made ourselves easy prey for the dreadful wolf, the devil.

Sing [♪]: There is a tender Shepherd
Who watches o'er the sheep,
And they need fear no evil
Who in His pasture keep.

C: Our hearts are filled with gratitude and thanks that You did not on account of our sins reject us and condemn us to all eternity in hell, which is what we deserved. Instead, in Your Son Jesus Christ, You were moved with compassion for us, because we were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. Instead of penalizing us, You laid on Your Son the iniquity of us all.

Sing [♪]: Christ Jesus is that Shepherd;
Oh, grant, dear Lord, that we
Within Thy pleasant pastures
May safe and happy be.

P: Fellow sheep of the Good Shepherd, rest assured of God's forgiveness and gracious love! For Christ also suffered for us. He committed no sin, nor was guile found in His mouth. When He was reviled, He did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten. He bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness – by His stripes we were healed! For we were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of our souls.

Sing [♪]: O blessed, holy Jesus,
Thou Shepherd, kind and strong,
Thou Friend so true and loving,
May we to Thee belong!

C: Lord, we pray, continue to be with us, Your people. Make us go forth like sheep, and guide us in the wilderness like a flock. Lead us on safely, so that we do not fear. Help us cling to Your own promise, “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.”

Sing [♪]: Our only Hope of heaven,
The Life, the Truth, the Way,
May we, with sins forgiven,
Praise Thee in endless day.

Responsive Psalm (Psalm 23):

P: The LORD is my shepherd;

C: I shall not want.

P: He makes me to lie down in green pastures;

C: He leads me beside the still waters.

P: He restores my soul;

C: He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name’s sake.

P: Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil;

C: For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

P: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

C: You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.

P: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life;

C: And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever.



Scripture Reading:

☆ December 2 – Ezekiel 20:34-44

☆ December 9 – Isaiah 40:1-11

Confession of Faith:..... Luther’s Explanation to the Second Article

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sin, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and His innocent suffering and death. He did this that I should be His very own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and joy; just as He is risen from death, lives and reigns in eternity. This is most certainly true.

Hymn:

Sermon: Jesus, Tender Shepherd, Hear Me

Come with Your Rod:.....2 Samuel 7:11b-16

Hymns: TLH 55; TLH 368; TLH 396

December 2, 2015

Come with Your Staff: Matthew 9:35-36

Hymns: TLH 56; TLH 648; TLH 431

December 9, 2015

Come as My Sacrifice:..... John 10:7-11

Candlelight Worship Service

December 16, 2015

Come Quickly: Revelation 22:17-20

Christmas Day Worship Service

December 25, 2015

Response:..... WS 783: Jesus, Shepherd of the Sheep

Sing [♫]: Jesus, shepherd of the sheep, Who Your Father's flock does keep,
Safe we wake and safe we sleep, Guarded still by You.

By Your blood our souls were bought; By Your life salvation wrought;
By Your light our feet are taught, Lord, to follow You.

Hymn:

Offering, Prayer, Lord's Prayer, & Benediction:

Closing Hymn: Jesus, Tender Shepherd, Hear Me (Tune TLH 155)

1. Jesus, tender Shepherd, hear me,
Bless Thy little lamb tonight;
Through the darkness be Thou near me,
Watch my sleep till morning light.
2. All this day Thy hand has led me,
And I thank Thee for Thy care;
Thou hast clothed me, warmed and fed me,
Listen to my evening prayer.
3. Let my sins be all forgiven,
Bless the friends I love so well;
Take me, when I die, to heaven,
Happy there with Thee to dwell.