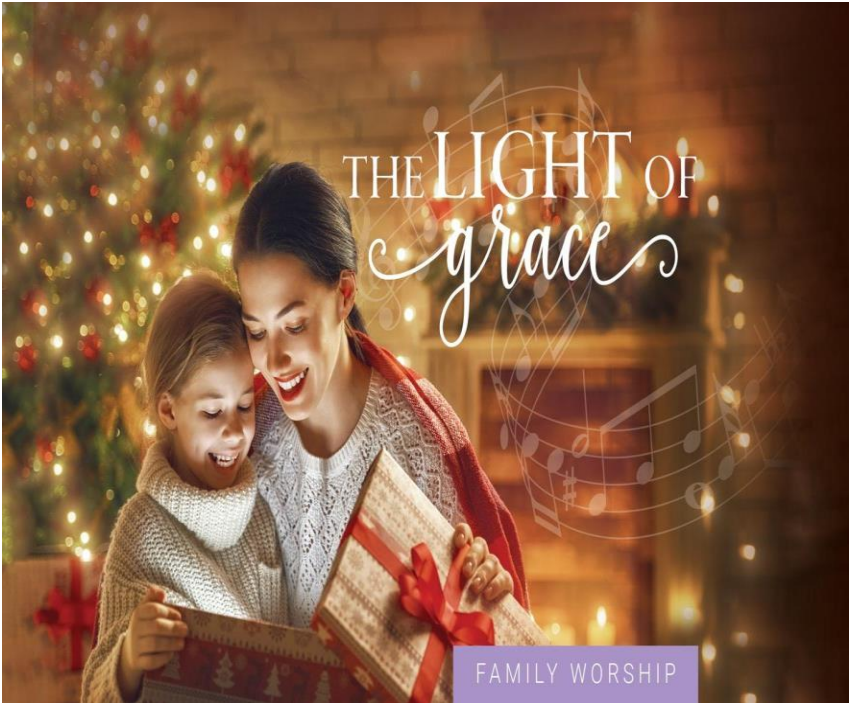


The Light of Grace

Family Advent Worship



Week One: Hope: Zechariah

*And now, O Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in you.
Psalm 39:7*

OPENING SONG ... The Advent of Our King LSB 331

**The advent of our King
Our prayers must now employ,
And we must hymns of welcome sing
In strains of holy joy.**

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**The everlasting Son
Incarnate deigns to be,
Himself a servant's form puts on
To set His servants free.**

**O Zion's daughter, rise
To meet your lowly King,
Nor let your faithless heart despise
The peace He comes to bring.**

**As judge, on clouds of light,
He soon will come again
And His true members all unite
With Him in heav'n to reign.**

**Before the dawning day
Let sin's dark deeds be gone,
The sinful self be put away,
The new self now put on.**

Stand

**All glory to the Son,
Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever one
Through all eternity.**

INVOCATION (*Read by Nabin*)

**In the name of the Father,
who created us,
and of the Son,
who redeemed us,
and of the Holy Spirit,
who makes and keeps us holy.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH (*Read by Nabin*)

(The first blue candle is lit)

Jesus Christ is the Light of the World,
The Light no darkness can overcome!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION (*Read by Nabin*)

Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

Lord, even though you give us amazing grace, sometimes it feels like we have no hope. Even though you remind us time and time again that our hope is in you, we forget about it. In this dark world, it is often hard for us to see the light of your truth. We forget that you are the one who created us. You are the one who redeemed us. You are the one who gives us hope. Forgive us for our unbelief. Forgive us for our forgetfulness. Amen.

When we forget our hope, the Lord is right there to remind us. When we are weak, he is strong. God's grace forgives us all our sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen. Thanks be to God!

PRAYER OF THE DAY (*Read by Nabin*)

Lord God, heavenly Father, you are indeed our light and our salvation. Your grace is amazing to us and fills us with joy! Fill us with the hope that only your Son can bring. Remind us of your love through your Word. Make us to rejoice in the coming of your Son, our Savior, Jesus to be the Light of the World.

Amen.

SENTENCES FOR CHILDREN (*Read by Ratna*)

Lord, you are the Hope of the World.

Fill us with hope.

You are the Light of the World.

Fill us with your light!

You are our Lord and God!

Thank you, Father, for loving us!

SONG ... Amazing Grace LSB 744 v. 1, custom

**Amazing grace--how sweet the sound--
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind but now I see!**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!**

FIRST READING ... Luke 1:8-17 (*Read by Nabin*)

⁸ Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, ⁹ according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. ¹⁰ And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. ¹¹ And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. ¹² And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. ¹³ But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. ¹⁴ And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵ for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. ¹⁶ And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, ¹⁷ and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared."

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING ... Luke 1:57-60 (*Read by Ratna*)

⁵⁷ Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. ⁵⁸ And her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had

shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. ⁵⁹ And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. And they would have called him Zechariah after his father, ⁶⁰ but his mother answered, “No; he shall be called John.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SONG FOR CHILDREN ... My Hope is in the Lord

(All are invited to sing along. Music played by Cave Quest VBS)

I can't help but feel a little down
A little worried when I look around
That's why my hope is in
My hope is in the Lord

I fix my eyes upon the God who gives
'Cause all I need is what I have in him
That's why my hope is in
My hope is in the Lord

My hope is in the Lord
I belong to him
He will never let me go
My hope is in the Lord
I can count on him
My hope is in the Lord

I can't help but feel a little down
A little worried when I look around
That's why my hope is in
My hope is in the Lord

I fix my eyes upon the God who gives
Cause all I need is what I have in him
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GOSPEL READING ... Luke 1:67-79 (*Zechariah's song*)
(*Read by Allen*)

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

⁶⁷ And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying, ⁶⁸ “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people ⁶⁹ and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, ⁷⁰ as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, ⁷¹ that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us; ⁷² to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, ⁷³ the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us ⁷⁴ that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, ⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. ⁷⁶ And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, ⁷⁷ to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, ⁷⁸ because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high ⁷⁹ to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to You, O Christ.

MESSAGE Hope in a Promise

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER (*Read by Ratna*)

Heavenly Father, our hope is in your Son. Your grace is amazing because of him! We love him, and we love you. It is out of that love that we give our offerings today. They are an expression of our love for you and our thankfulness for all that you have done for us. Use these gifts to bring even more to the knowledge of your eternal hope.

Amen.

SONG ... Nepali Song

CLOSING PRAYER (*Read by Nabin*)

O God, send us forth from this place with the light of hope shining within us that we might spread the message of hope in your Son Jesus to all those we meet. Let the sure hope of Jesus' salvation and forgiveness of sins rule in our hearts and minds throughout this Advent season and throughout the year. May each new day bring fresh hope to our spirits now and forever.

Amen.

BENEDICTION (*Read by Nabin*)

The Lord bless you and keep you.

Our hope is in Jesus.

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

Our hope is in Jesus.

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you his peace.

He truly gives us amazing grace. Amen.

CLOSING SONG ... My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less LSB 575

**My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
No merit of my own I claim
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.**

Refrain:

**On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.**

**When darkness veils His lovely face,
I rest on His unchanging grace;
In ev'ry high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil. *[Refrain]***

**His oath, His covenant and blood
Support me in the raging flood;
When ev'ry earthly prop gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay. *[Refrain]***

**When He shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh, may I then in Him be found,
Clothed in His righteousness alone,
Redeemed to stand before His throne! *[Refrain]***

Preacher	Allen Dass
Liturgist	Nabin & Ratna
Lector	Nabin & Ratna
Elder	Earl Welch
Organist	Suzanne Manelli

By Jeremy Klaustermeier with crafts by Karin Klaustermeier. ©
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