

# **First Sunday of Advent**

## **Service of Holy Communion**

### **December 1, 2024**

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Traditional Worship 9:30 a.m.**

*\*-the congregation is invited to stand*

#### **WELCOME TO GRACE**

*A warm welcome to all who are worshipping with us in this season of preparation as we wait to celebrate the coming of Jesus, the Word of God Incarnate. If you are visiting with us, please fill out a guest card which is found in the pews. Following the service, please introduce yourself to the pastor.*

*We hope that this bulletin will help guide you through our worship service.*

#### **INTRODUCTION**

*Advent is about the “coming days.” God’s people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a “righteous Branch to spring up for David.” The Thessalonians awaited “the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints.” Jesus’ contemporaries hoped for the time “to stand before the Son of Man.” With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper.*

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*God gathers us in unity.*

**GATHERING**

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#### **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

#### **BLESSING**

Blessed are you, God of Jacob, for you promise to transform weapons of war into implements of planting and harvest and to teach us your way of peace; you promise that our night of sin is far gone and that your day of salvation is dawning.

As we light the first candle on this wreath, wake us from our sleep, wrap us in your light, empower us to live honorably, and guide us along your path of peace.

O house of Jacob, come,

**let us walk in the light of the Lord. Amen.**

*During the prelude music, the Advent wreath candle(s) is/are lighted.*

## **PRELUDE**

*Variations on Puer Nobis*

*Michael Burkhardt*

*The assembly stands as able.*

### **\*GATHERING HYMN**

*Hark, the Glad Sound!*

ELW#239

### **\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, alive in the world,  
reviving creation, arriving soon.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God  
and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of mercy,

**we confess that we have sinned.**

**We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.**

**We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.**

God of might,

**we confess that we have sinned.**

**We have turned away from our neighbors.**

**We have trusted false promises.**

God in our midst,

**we confess that we have sinned.**

**We plead: come to us.**

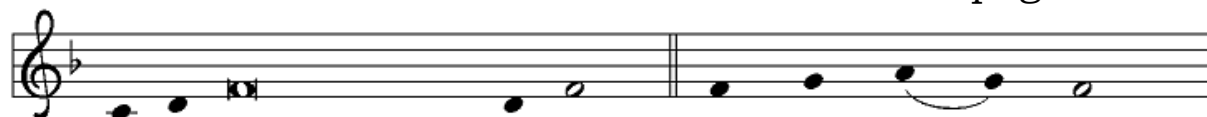
**Bring your mercy to birth in us.**

A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our  
Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.

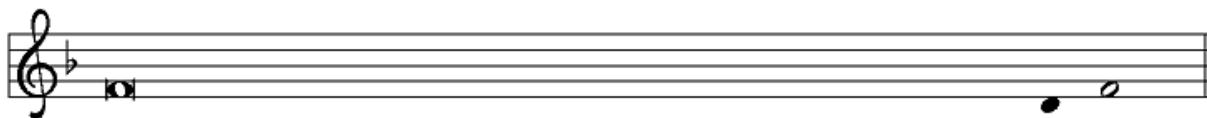
By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and  
forgiveness of God through † Christ Jesus, whose day draws  
near.

**Amen.**

**\*KYRIE**



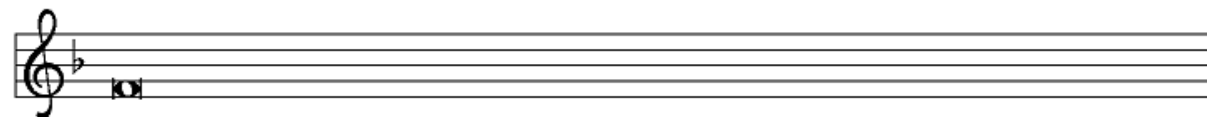
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



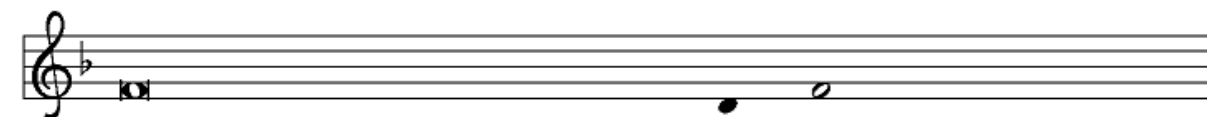
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



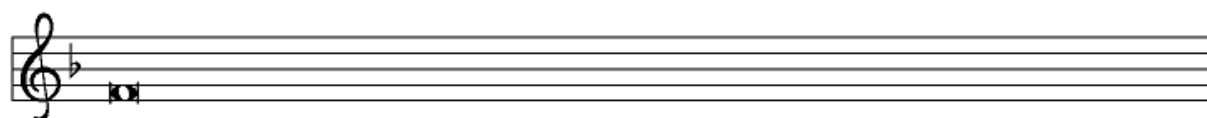
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



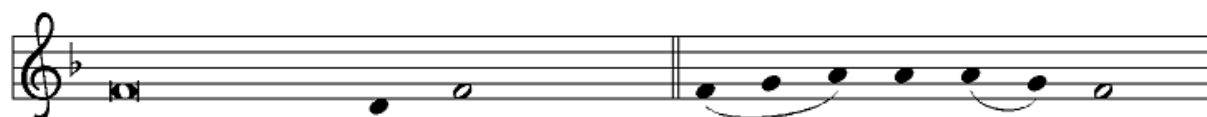
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



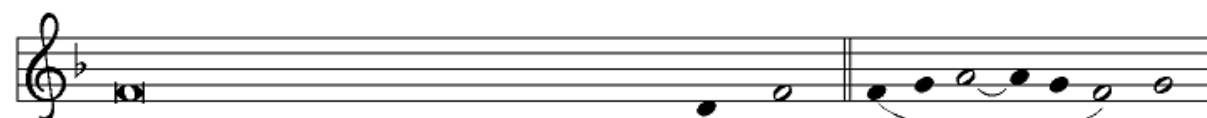
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

**\*GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The assembly may be seated.*

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*God speaks to us in scriptures read, sung, and preached.*

**WORD**

### **FIRST READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16**

<sup>14</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup>In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup>In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: Psalm 25:1-10**

<sup>1</sup>To you, O Lord,  
I lift up my soul.

<sup>2</sup>**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

<sup>3</sup>Let none who look to you be put to shame;  
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

<sup>4</sup>**Show me your ways, O Lord,  
and teach me your paths.**

<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted  
all the day long.

<sup>6</sup>**Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love,  
for they are from everlasting.**

<sup>7</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;  
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the  
sake of your goodness, O Lord.

<sup>8</sup>**You are gracious and upright, O Lord;  
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

<sup>9</sup>You lead the lowly in justice  
and teach the lowly your way.

<sup>10</sup>**All your paths, O Lord, are steadfast love and faithfulness  
to those who keep your covenant and  
your testimonies.**

**SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13**

<sup>9</sup>How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? <sup>10</sup>Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

<sup>11</sup>Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup>And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. <sup>13</sup>And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.  
The Word of the Lord.

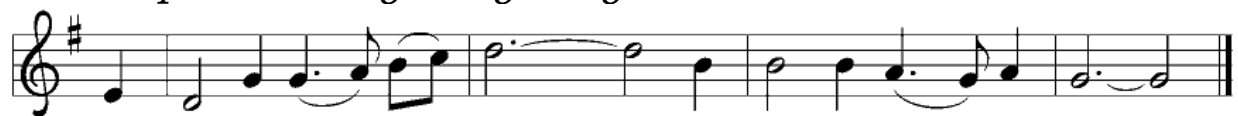
**Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands.*

**\*GOSPEL GREETING**

*Prepare the Royal Highway*

ELW#264 - Refrain



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

**\*GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-36**

The holy gospel according to St. Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord**

[Jesus said:] <sup>25</sup>“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup>People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup>Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup>Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

<sup>29</sup>Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup>as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for

yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup> So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup> Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>34</sup> “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup> like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup> Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **CHILDREN’S SERMON**

### **SERMON**

*The assembly stands as able.*

### **\*HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus*

ELW#254

### **\*BLESSING OF COLLEGE-AGED MEMBERS AND CARE PACKAGES**

### **\*APOSTLE’S CREED**

Let us profess our faith using the words of the Apostle’s Creed. **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*The Leader prays for the church/world and all in need.*

*Each prayer concludes:*

Lord, in your mercy,

**Receive our prayer.**

## **\*PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*A greeting of peace is shared among the assembly.*

## **OFFERING**

*We respond to the grace given us by sharing our gifts with others through the offering. Today's regular offering supports the ongoing ministry of Grace church. You can give online, by cash, or by check.*

## **MUSIC DURING THE OFFERING**

*What Star Is This?*

*Thomas Keesecker*

Carolyn Houck - organ

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*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ*

**MEAL**

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## **\*SETTING THE TABLE**

*We Are Waiting for Jesus*

vs 1

All Creation Sings #905



1 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



Sun of jus - tice, shine up-on us; we are trust - ing in your prom-ise.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

## **\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray. Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **\*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

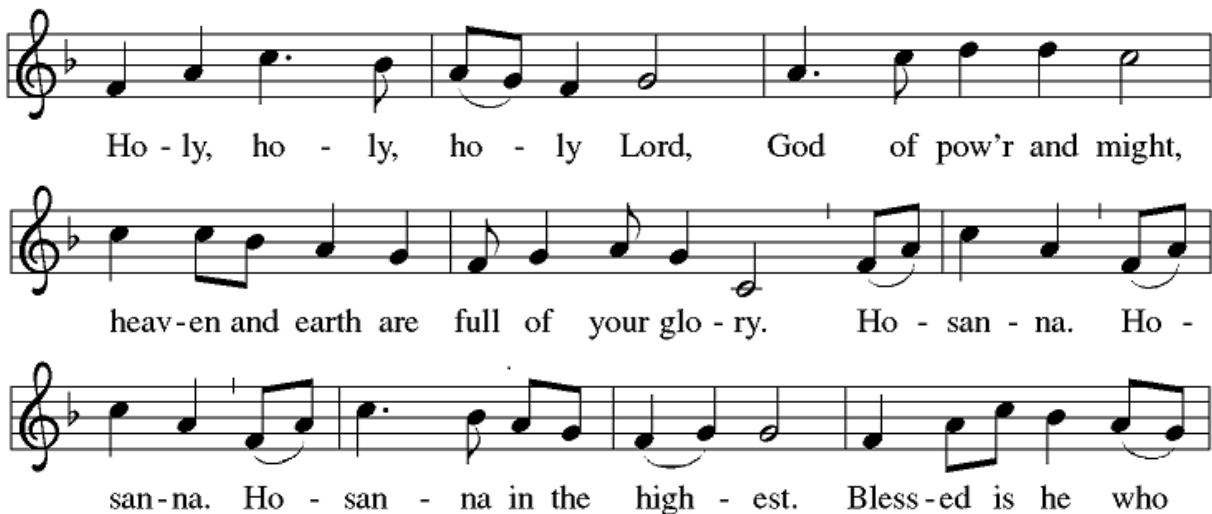
It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe.

The heavens tremble and the mountains quake at your presence. Although we have forsaken you, you have never forgotten us: you are the potter and we are the clay, the work of your hand.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all the faithful of every time and place who forever sing to the glory of your name:

## **\*SANCTUS**

ELW page 144



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who





comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

### **\*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

You are holy, O God of majesty,  
and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

Christ Jesus is our grace and peace,  
the Word that we proclaim,  
the source of all our strength,  
and the giver of every good gift.

In Christ's body,  
we have received fellowship with you, our God.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it,  
and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ,  
we take from your creation this bread and this wine  
and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising,  
as we await the day of his coming.

With thanksgiving, we offer our very selves to you  
to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us  
and upon these your gifts of bread and wine,  
that the bread we break and the cup we bless  
may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.  
By your Spirit, unite us with Christ  
and with your church in all the world.

Keep us awake until the hour of Christ's coming,  
when the sun and moon and stars will fall from heaven  
and you will gather up the faithful from the ends of the  
earth.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are  
yours, almighty God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **\*LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, stir our hearts as we boldly pray:

**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.**

### **\*INVITATION**

God feeds us with tender mercy.

Come to the table.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly is seated.*

*Those communing in their seats and at home are invited to prepare their  
elements then to be led through eating and drinking the real presence of  
Christ in the bread and wine.*

### **DISTRIBUTION MUSIC**

#### **COME TO THE TABLE**

ELW#481



Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

*The assembly stands as able.*

### **\*BLESSING AND PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen.**

Let us pray. Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name.

**Amen.**

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*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world*

**SENDING**

### **\*BLESSING**

God of endings and beginnings,  
God in the darkness and the light,  
God, our hope for the journey,  
✠ bless and keep you now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **\*SENDING HYMN**

*Prepare the Royal Highway*

ELW#264

### **\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **POSTLUDE**

*Wake, Awake for Night Is Flying*

*Michael Burkhardt*

**SERVING TODAY IN WORSHIP**

Presiding Minister ..... The Rev. Chad Butz  
Assisting Minister..... Krista Snavely  
Acolyte .....Addie Weber  
Lector..... Brigitte Storey  
Communion Assistants ..... Don Barlup, George Osswald  
Director of Music..... Kristopher Hartman  
Organist ..... Carolyn Houck

# Hark, the Glad Sound!

1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior  
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's  
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing  
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come

prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -  
bond - age held. The gates of brass be -  
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures  
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal

pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.  
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.  
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751

Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

# Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;  
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,  
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;




dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.  
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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# Prepare the Royal Highway



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!  
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!  
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!  
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!  
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.  
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:  
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



*Refrain*  
Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

## **Our Story**

Matthew 25:35-40: *For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup>I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ <sup>37</sup>Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? <sup>38</sup>And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? <sup>39</sup>And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ <sup>40</sup>And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’”*

***The purpose of Grace Lutheran Church is to make a difference by serving others through God’s love and our faith***

### **Grace Church Staff**

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Senior Pastor .....             | The Rev. Chad Butz<br>610.297.2514 (cell); pastorchad@gracecamphill.org |
| Director of Music.....          | Kristopher Hartman<br>K.E.Hartman11@gmail.com                           |
| Organist.....                   | Emily Hartman<br>K.E.Hartman11@gmail.com                                |
| Administrative Assistant.....   | Chris Jury<br>cjury@gracecamphill.org                                   |
| Administrative Specialist ..... | Diane Deppen<br>ddeppen@gracecamphill.org                               |

To contact the church office: 717.737.0439; office@gracecamphill.org

Monday-Thursday 8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

**Grace Lutheran Church \* 1610 Carlisle Road \*  
Camp Hill, Pennsylvania 17011**