

**Fourth Sunday of Advent
Service of Holy Communion
December 22, 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

Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in holy communion—with high delight—"we proclaim the Lord's death."

God gathers us in unity.

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

BLESSING

Blessed are you, God of hosts, for you promised to send a son, Emmanuel, who brought your presence among us; and you promise through your Son Jesus to save us from our sin.

As we light these candles, turn again to us in mercy;
strengthen our faith in the word spoken by your prophets;
restore us and give us life that we may be saved.

O house of David, come,

let us rejoice, for the Son of God, Emmanuel, comes to be with us. Amen.

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

PRELUDE

O Come, O Come Emmanuel *arr. Hartman*
Kristopher Hartman – trumpet, Emily Hartman - piano

The assembly stands as able.

***GATHERING HYMN**

Prepare the Royal Highway ELW#264

***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.

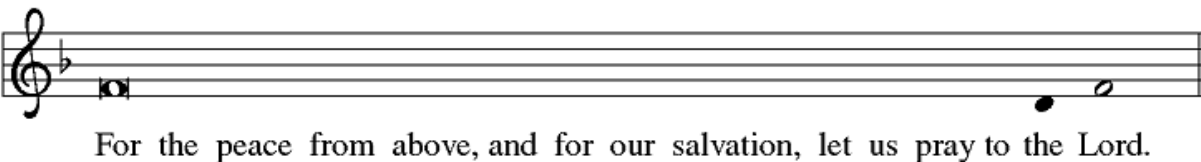
A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our
Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.
By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and
forgiveness of God through † Christ Jesus, whose day draws
near.

Amen.

***KYRIE**



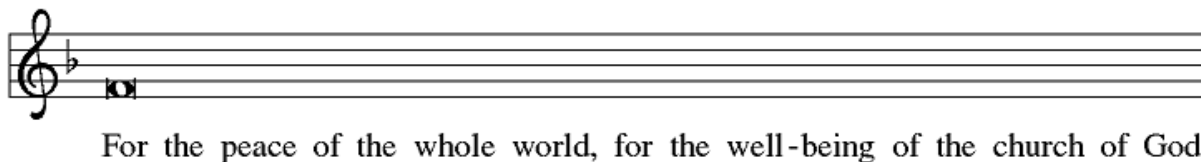
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



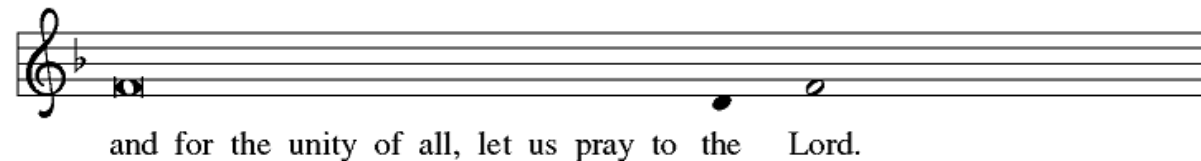
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



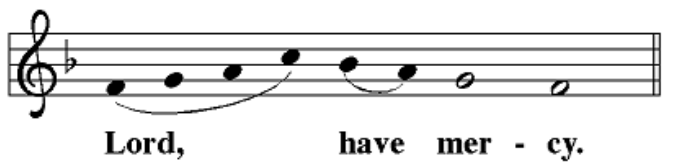
Lord, have mer - cy.



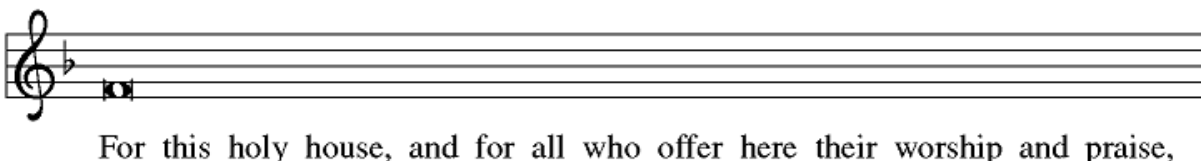
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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



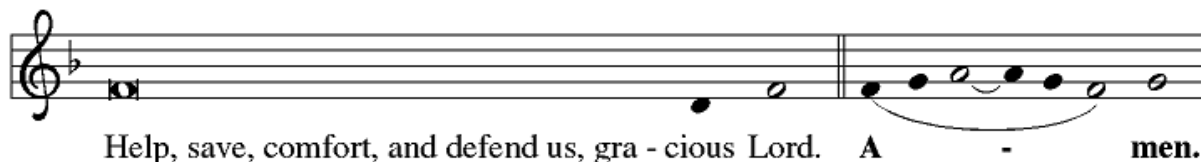
Lord, have mer - cy.



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. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The assembly may be seated.

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

WORD

FIRST READING: Micah 5:2-5a

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
 who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
 one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
 from ancient days.

³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time
 when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
 to the people of Israel.

⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of
 the LORD,
 in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
 to the ends of the earth;

^{5a} and he shall be the one of peace.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Luke 1:46b-55

^{46b} My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

⁴⁷ my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ **for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.**

From this day all generations will call me blessed:

⁴⁹ you, the Almighty, have done great things for me
 and holy is your name.

⁵⁰ **You have mercy on those who fear you,
 from generation to generation.**

⁵¹ You have shown strength with your arm
and scattered the proud in their conceit,
⁵² **casting down the mighty from their thrones
and lifting up the lowly.**
⁵³ You have filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.
⁵⁴ **You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,
to remember the promise of mercy,**
⁵⁵ the promise made to our forebears,
to Abraham and his children forever.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:5-10

⁵ Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,
“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;
⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.
⁷ Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”
⁸ When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken
pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin
offerings” (these are offered according to the law), ⁹ then he
added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first
in order to establish the second. ¹⁰ And it is by God’s will that
we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of
Jesus Christ once for all.

The Word of the Lord.

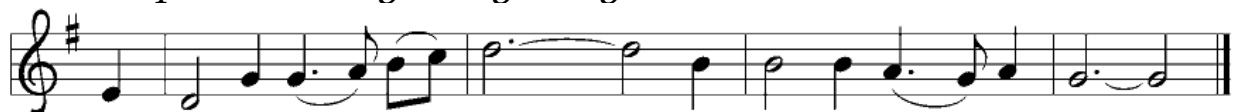
Thanks be to God.

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 1:39-45**

The holy gospel according to St. Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON AND PRAYERS FOR HEALING

The assembly stands as able.

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

ELW#265

***APOSTLE'S CREED**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

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.

***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

Can You See the Light?

Angerman & Graham

Grace Chancel Choir

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

MEAL

***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.

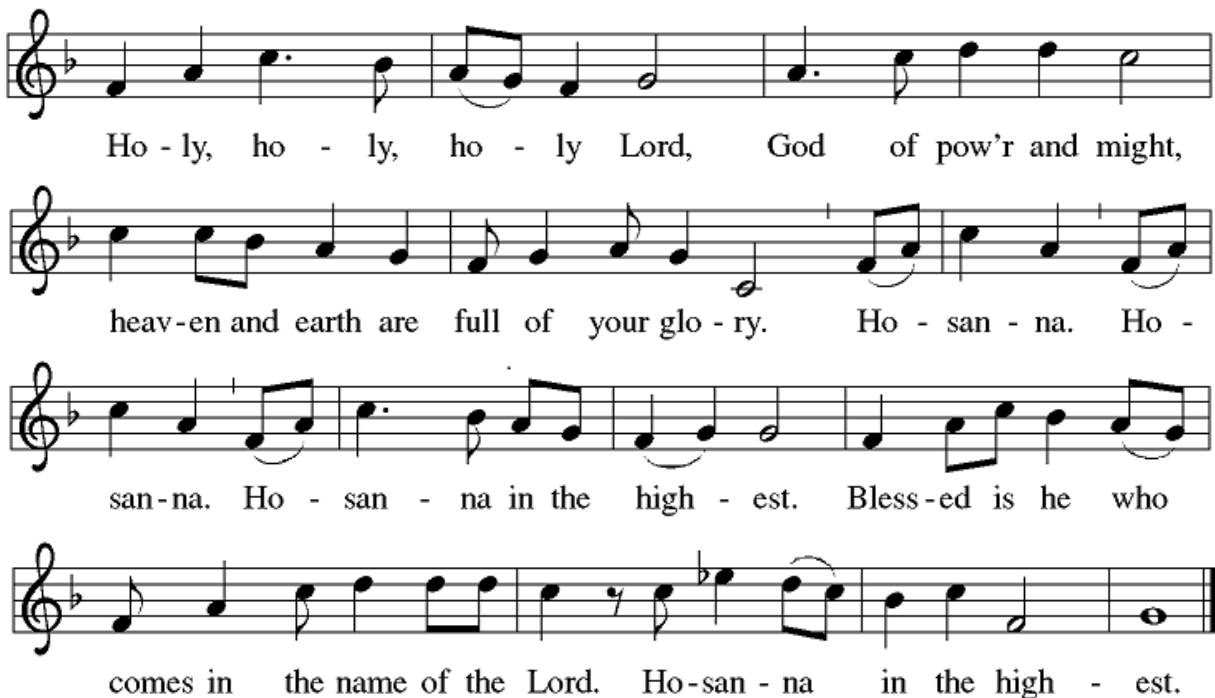
It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe.

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

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.

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**

People, Look East

ELW#248

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

People, Look East

Besançon

SERVING TODAY IN WORSHIP

Presiding Minister The Rev. Chad Butz
Assisting Minister..... Karen Galle
Acolyte Zach Weber
Lector..... Pat O’Neal
Communion Assistants Brigitte Storey, Patty Rohde
Director of Music..... Kristopher Hartman
Organist..... Emily Hartman

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:



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

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born



with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
"To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.
in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
"My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."
and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:



most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!
"Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."

Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924
Music: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE, Basque carol

People, Look East

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
 4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new

of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
 plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
 bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
 life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming

trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
 that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
 bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
 with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look

east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965

Music: BESANÇON, French carol; arr. Barry Rose, b. 1934

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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, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ ³⁷Then 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? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ ⁴⁰And 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 610.297.2514 (cell); pastorchad@gracecamphill.org
Director of Music	Kristopher Hartman K.E.Hartman11@gmail.com
Organist	Emily Hartman K.E.Hartman11@gmail.com
Administrative Assistant.....	Chris Jury cjury@gracecamphill.org
Administrative Specialist	Diane Deppen 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**