

**Third Sunday of Advent**  
**Service of Holy Communion**  
**December 15, 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**

*Christ's presence in our midst in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the God in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one "more powerful" than John, even with a winnowing fork in hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.*

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*God gathers us in unity.*

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

*Susanni*

*arr. St. Paul Brass*

*Huron*

*arr. St. Paul Brass*

St. Paul Brass

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

**BLESSING**

Blessed are you, God of might and majesty, for you promise to make the desert rejoice and blossom, to watch over the strangers, and to set the prisoners free.

As we light these candles, satisfy our hunger with your good gifts, open our eyes to the great things you have done for us, and fill us with patience until the coming of the Lord Jesus.

O ransomed people of the Lord, come,

**let us travel on God's holy way and enter into Zion with singing. Amen.**

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

**PRELUDE**

*Ding Dong! Merrily on High*  
St. Paul Brass

*arr. St. Paul Brass*

*The assembly stands as able.*

**\*GATHERING HYMN**

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

ELW#257  
Vs 1, 2, 3

**\*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.

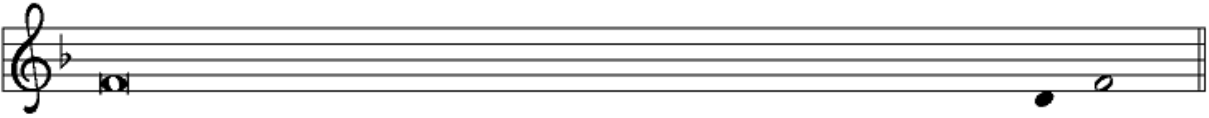
**Amen.**

**\*KYRIE**

ELW page 138



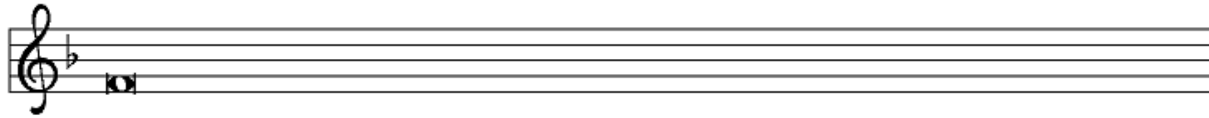
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



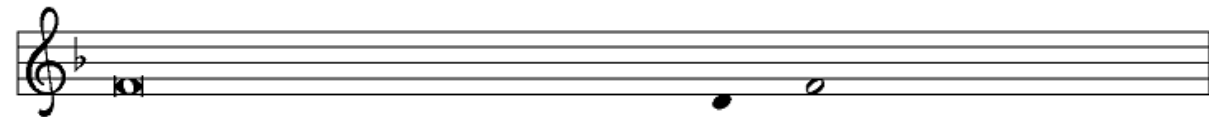
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



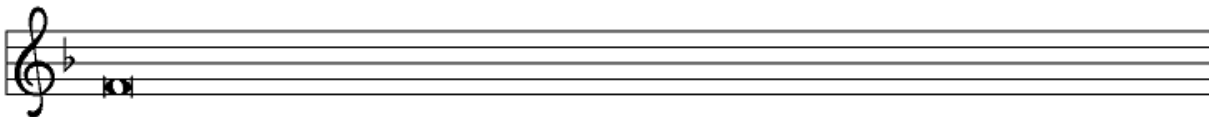
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



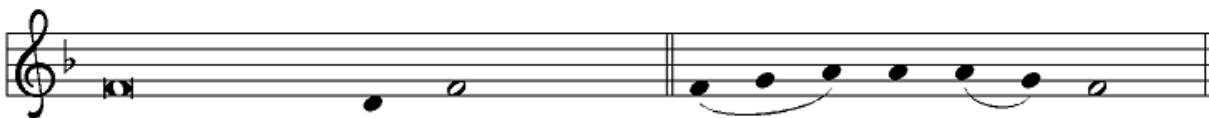
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



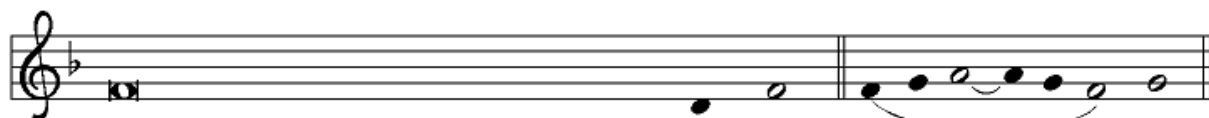
Lord, have mer - cy.



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 the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you 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**

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## **FIRST READING: Zephaniah 3:14-20**

<sup>14</sup> Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;  
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter Jerusalem!

<sup>15</sup> The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,  
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;  
you shall fear disaster no more.

<sup>16</sup> On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
Do not fear, O Zion;  
do not let your hands grow weak.

<sup>17</sup> The LORD, your God, is in your midst,  
a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness,  
he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing  
<sup>18</sup> as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,  
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

<sup>19</sup> I will deal with all your oppressors  
at that time.

And I will save the lame  
and gather the outcast,  
and I will change their shame into praise

and renown in all the earth.  
<sup>20</sup> At that time I will bring you home,  
at the time when I gather you;  
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.  
The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Isaiah 12:2-6**

<sup>2</sup> Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid,  
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has  
become my salvation.

<sup>3</sup> **With joy you will draw water  
from the wells of salvation.**

<sup>4</sup> And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on  
God's name;  
make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations;  
proclaim that this name is exalted.

<sup>5</sup> **Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;  
let this be known in all the earth.**

<sup>6</sup> Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,  
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

**SECOND READING: Philippians 4:4-7**

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup> Let your  
gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not  
worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and  
supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made  
known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all  
understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in  
Christ Jesus.

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 3:7-18

The holy gospel according to St. Luke.

### **Glory to you, O Lord**

<sup>7</sup> John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup> Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup> Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

<sup>10</sup> And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” <sup>11</sup> In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” <sup>12</sup> Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” <sup>13</sup> He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” <sup>14</sup> Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

<sup>15</sup> As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup> John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

<sup>18</sup> So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

### **SERMON**

*The assembly stands as able.*

### **SPECIAL MUSIC**

*Away in a Manger*

*arr. St. Paul Brass*

St. Paul Brass

### **\*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**

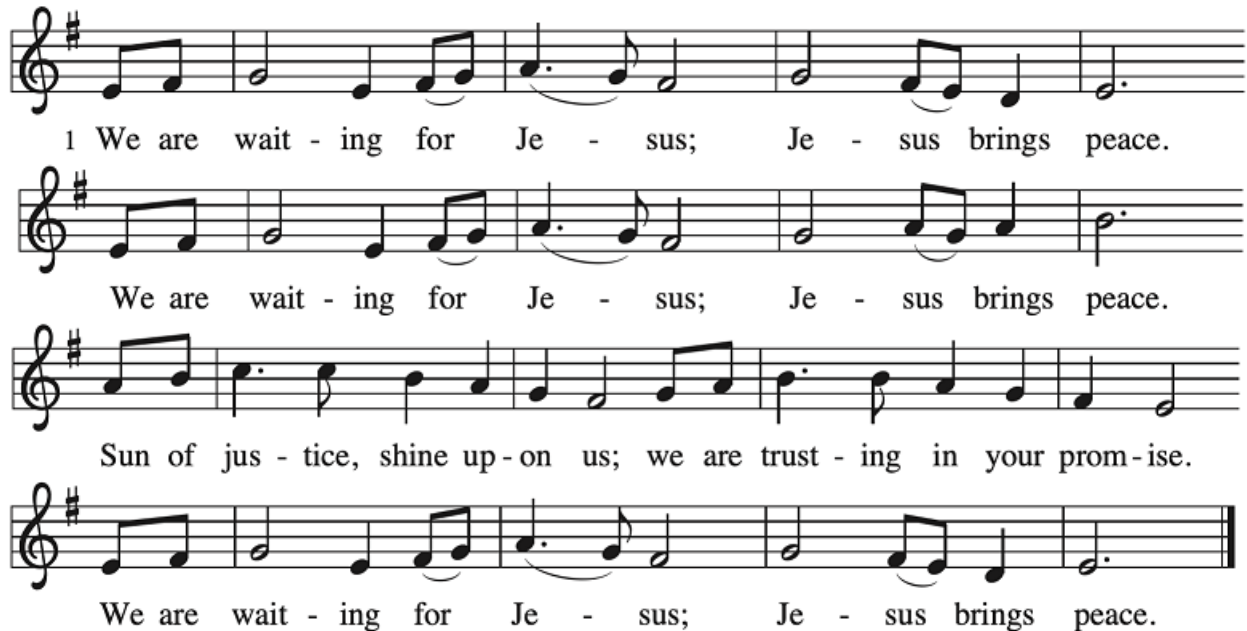
*Go Tell It on the Mountain*

*arr. St. Paul Brass*

St. Paul Brass

**\*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.**

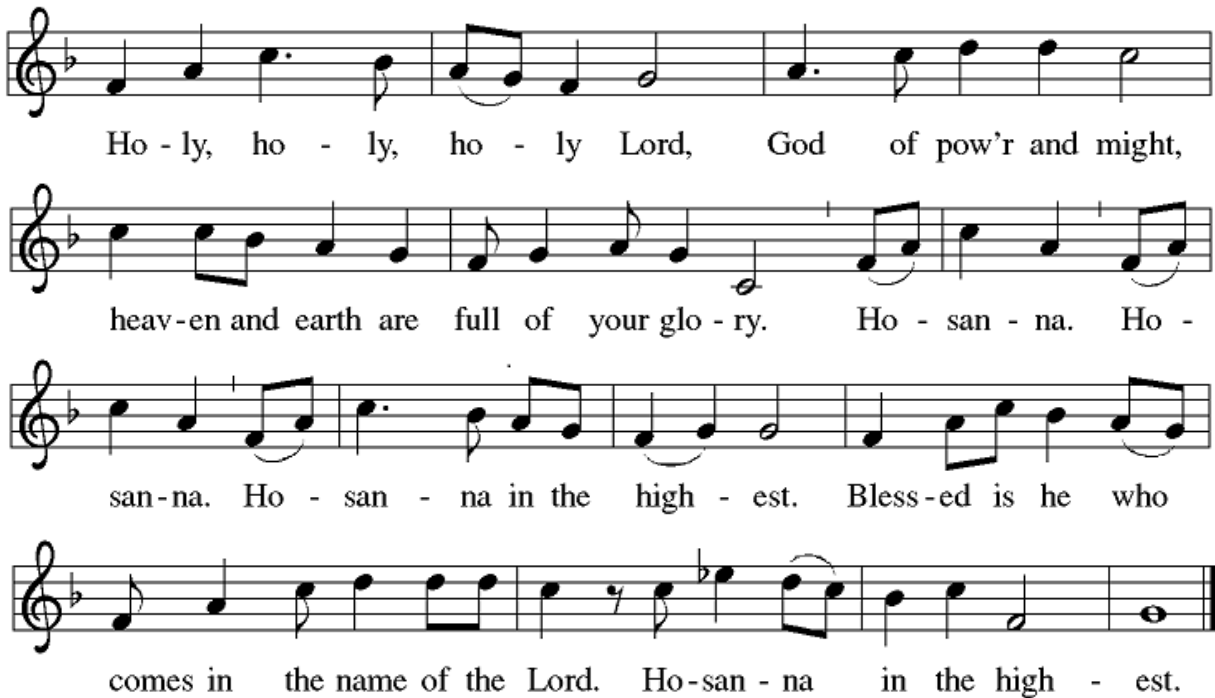
It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe. The heavens tremble and the mountains quake at your presence. Although we have forsaken you, you have never forgotten us: you are the potter and we are the clay, the work of your hand.



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.

## COMMUNION MUSIC

*Joseph Lieber, Joseph Mein*

*In the Bleak Midwinter*

*arr. St. Paul Brass*

*arr. St. Paul Brass*

St. Paul Brass

*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**

*Joy to the World*

ELW#267

**\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

*Twas the Brass Before Christmas with Joy to the World*  
St. Paul Brass

**SERVING TODAY IN WORSHIP**

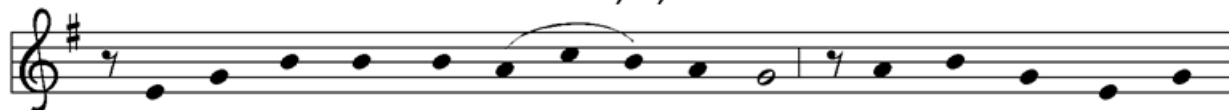
|                            |                           |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Presiding Minister .....   | The Rev. Chad Butz        |
| Assisting Minister .....   | Donna Enrico              |
| Acolyte .....              | Claire Pankake            |
| Lector .....               | Karen Galle               |
| Communion Assistants ..... | Bill Robison, Ann Hoffman |
| Director of Music .....    | Kristopher Hartman        |
| Organist .....             | Emily Hartman             |

St. Paul Brass is a brass quintet that was formed in 1995 and is the brass quintet in residence at St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. In addition to playing for church services at St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, they have performed at many other area churches, provided music for weddings, memorial services, local Veteran’s Day programs, played the Star-Spangled Banner prior to Phillie Phanatic games, and was a part of the entertainment for Carlisle First Night. St. Paul Brass is Tracee (Trumpet), Vanessa (Trumpet), Don (Tuba), Bob (Trombone), Mary Grace (French Horn).

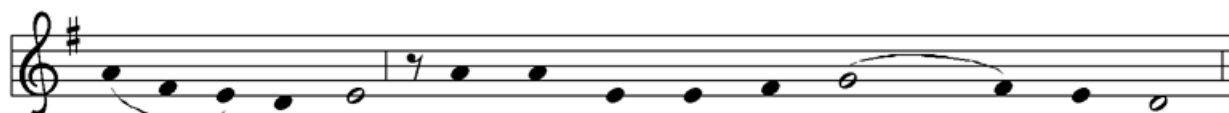
The Hoff Music Endowment Fund is sponsoring the St. Paul Brass appearance today.

# O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

vs 1, 2, 3



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things  
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on  
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
far - and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;  
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law  
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!  
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.  
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Text: *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite  
Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.  
Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

# Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

## **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**