

First Sunday of Advent

Service of Holy Communion

November 30, 2025

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 worshiping 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

The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.

God gathers us in unity.

GATHERING

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

The Angel Gabriel

arr. Hal H. Hopson

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, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Long-expected God,

we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake.

Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised.

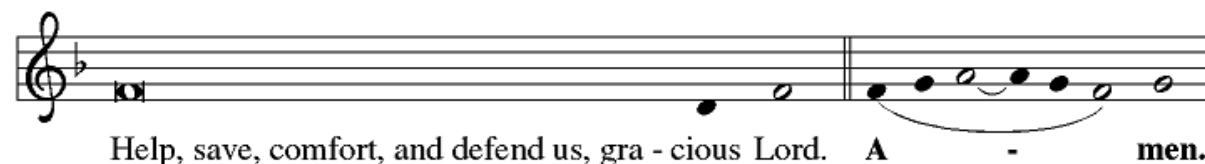
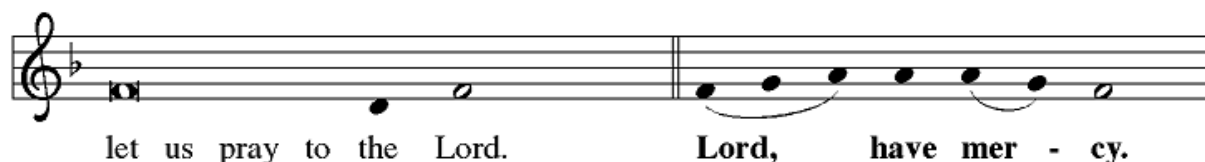
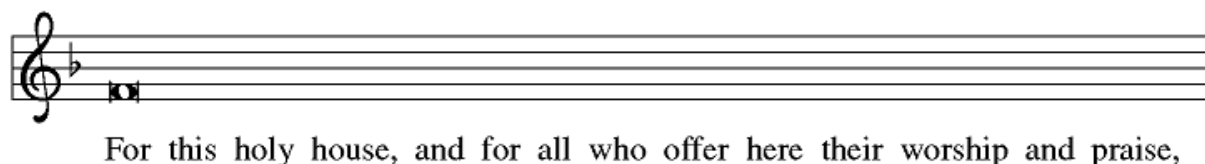
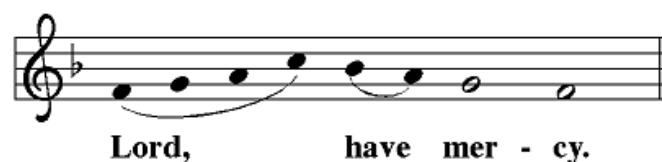
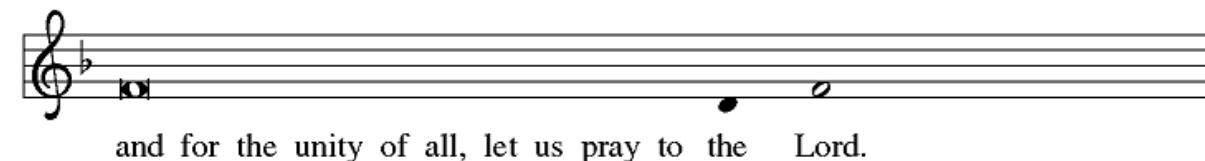
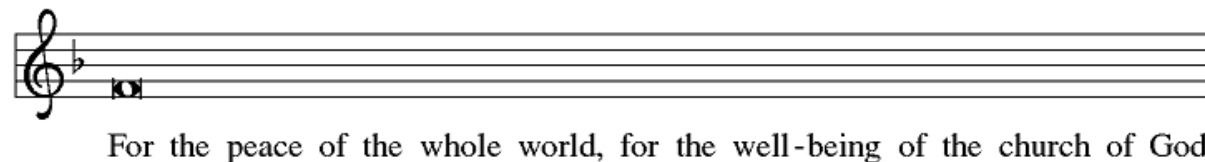
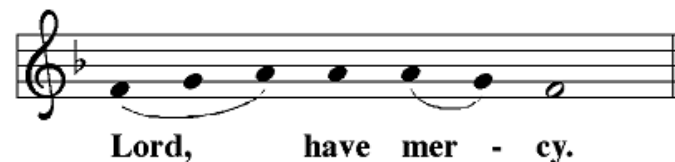
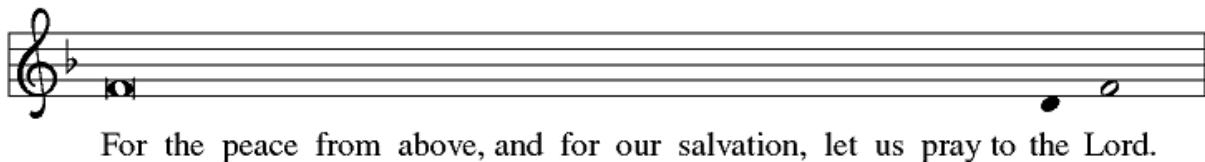
Amen.

God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. † You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.

Amen.

***KYRIE**

ELW page 138



***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 save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, 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: Isaiah 2:1-5

¹ The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

² In days to come

the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

³ Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴ He shall judge between the nations
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation;
neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵ O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD!

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 122

- ¹ I was glad when they said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the LORD.”
- ² **Now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.**
- ³ Jerusalem is built as a city
that is at unity with itself;
- ⁴ **to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD,
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD.**
- ⁵ For there are the thrones of judgment,
the thrones of the house of David.
- ⁶ **Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
“May they prosper who love you.**
- ⁷ Peace be within your walls
and quietness within your towers.
- ⁸ **For the sake of my kindred and companions,
I pray for your prosperity.**
- ⁹ Because of the house of the LORD our God,
I will seek to do you good.”

SECOND READING: Romans 13:11-14

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The Word of the Lord.

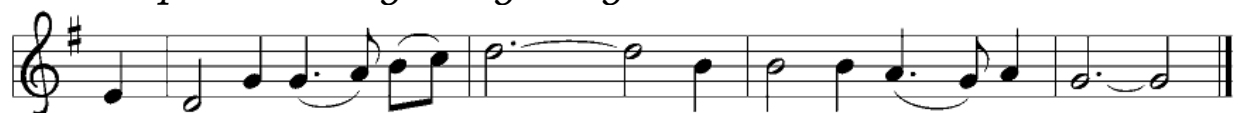
Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands as able.

***GOSPEL GREETING**

Prepare the Royal Highway

ELW#264 - Refrain



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

***GOSPEL: Matthew 24:36-44**

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

The assembly stands as able.

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus

ELW#254

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBER

[Suzanne Morris]

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for *this person*, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new *member* into the life and ministry of this congregation.

***APOSTLES 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.**

Address and Questions

The presiding minister addresses those being welcomed.

In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Sibling in Christ,
do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism
among God's people in this place?

Those being welcomed respond.

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

The minister addresses the assembly.

People of God,
do you promise to support and pray
for *this new member* in *their* life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Welcome

Those being welcomed face the assembly. A representative of the congregation addresses the assembly.

Let us welcome *these siblings* in Christ to this community of faith.

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.

**Together we will give thanks and praise to God
and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

Each prayer concludes:

God of grace,

Hear 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.

MUSICAL OFFERING

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

arr. Lloyd Larson

Karen Jury - voice

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.



***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray. Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come.

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





***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.

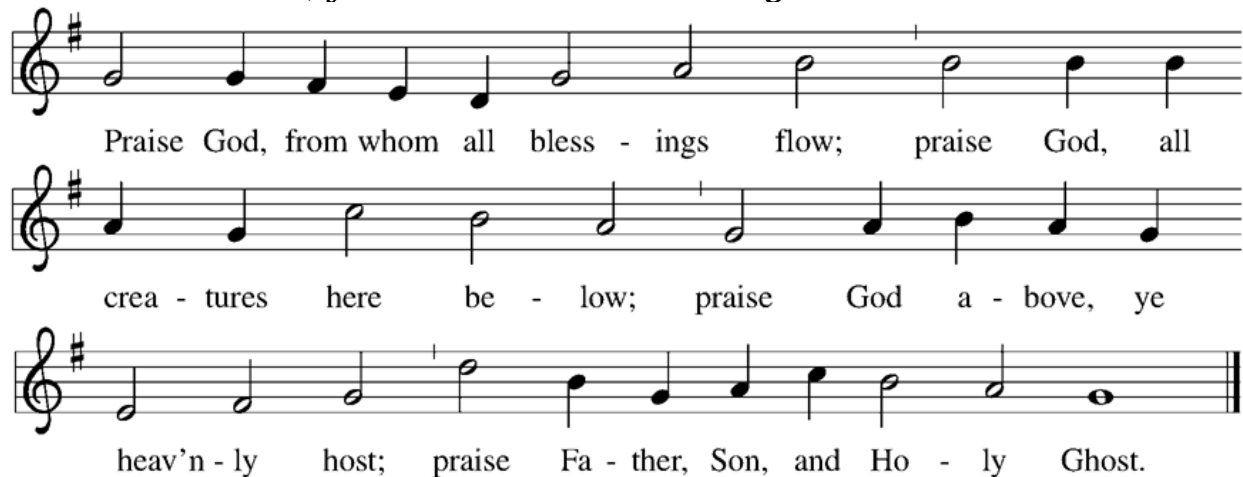
***LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

ELW#885



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all
crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

***INVITATION**

Here is life. God is with us.
Come, receive what God has promised.
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. God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

SENDING

***BLESSING**

May God who comes among us, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always.

Amen.

***SENDING HYMN**

Prepare the Royal Highway

ELW#264

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Keep awake.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Prepare the Royal Highway

Bereden väg för Herran

SERVING TODAY IN WORSHIP

Presiding Minister The Rev. Chad Butz
Assisting Minister..... Randy Easton
Lector..... Karen Jury
Acolyte Kaiden Pautz
Communion Assistants Don Barlup, Donna Enrico
Sound Bryan Weber
Director of Music..... Kristopher Hartman
Organist..... Emily Hartman
Technology Operator Chris Jury

This Week at Grace: Nov. 29 – Dec. 5

The altar flowers are given by Craig & Tracey Douty in honor of their granddaughter, Magnolia Jones' birthday.

The Bulletins & Mailings are given to the Glory of God.

We hold in prayer especially this week....

Howard Lauver, Joe Swank, Halie Osswald, Donna Crossley, Steve Behr, Mary Louise Shetter, Dave Hawkins, Lisa Miller, Ed Klemmer, Barry Fenicle, Beverly Earhart, Amy Vogel, Alice M., and Dean Jury.

We hold in prayer the recently departed....

Dave Rowland

Scouting America Troop 54/Cub Pack 54 Wreath Pick-Up

If you ordered a wreath from Troop 54/Cub Pack 54 they will be available for pick up at Grace this Sunday, November 30.

Come Meet Your Synod Staff

You're invited on Wednesday, December 3, 10:45 – 11:45am in Messiah Lutheran Church (901 North Sixth Street, Harrisburg) for a time of connection with the Lower Susquehanna Synod staff. Everyone is welcome to stop by, meet the team, and learn more about how we aspire to serve and support your ministry. At noon, all are invited to participate in Messiah's Wednesday worship service, followed by a light lunch. No RSVP is needed unless you plan to stay for lunch. If so, please RSVP to mshifflett@lss-elca.org. The LSS Staff looks forward to being with you and celebrating the many ways we are on the way together in Christ's mission.



Connect with Us



EVENTS

Giving Tree for West Shore School District

Grab a tag off the tree in the Library and purchase the gift on the tag for a child at one of the area Elementary Schools. All items should be returned to the church unwrapped with the tag attached and placed under the tree by Friday, December 12.

Pub Theology

Please note that Pub Theology will not be meeting for their monthly talks in November or December. Gatherings will resume in January 2026. Watch the Events Page on the website, the Bulletin and the This Week at Grace for further updates.

Welcome to Our Church Cards

If you are visiting with us today, please take a moment to complete one of the "Welcome to Our Church" cards found in both narthexes, the library and the pews. We'd love to hear from you.

Children's Play on Christmas Eve at 4pm

Calling all kids! We are looking to see who may be available to participate in the Children's Play during the 4pm Christmas Eve service. If your child is interested in participating, please contact the church office at office@gracecamphill.org or 717-737-0439 by Monday, December 1 so we can schedule rehearsal dates.

Lost & Found Items

If you have lost something and you think it may be here at Grace, please contact the church office at 717-737-0439 or office@gracecamphill.org. We have moved items into the office, and they will be held for 30 days after which they will be removed. If you find a lost item in the church, you can place it in the basket cart next to the Mail Center outside the office. Thank you.

Check out the new Merchandise Store for Grace

Looking for some Grace swag? Check out our new merchandise store at <https://www.bonfire.com/store/grace-camp-hill-merch/> or use the QR code. You can find hats, clothing (with Grace's purpose on the back) and water bottles. What a great way to support Grace and start a conversation.



GRACE LUTHERAN MERCHANDISE

Christmas Wreath, Poinsettia and ELCA Good Gift Sponsorships

We are excited to let you know that once again you can sponsor Christmas Eve at Grace! This year we're offering multiple sponsorship opportunities, including: (11) beautiful wreaths from the Scouting America Troop 54/Cub Scout Pack 54 (\$23 each); (2) Large Red Poinsettia for on the altar (\$35 each) or (17) 6.5-inch Red Poinsettia for in the sanctuary (\$13 each). If you wish to sponsor a Wreath or Poinsettia, please contact Diane at ddeppen@gracecamphill.org or 717-737-0439x15 to reserve one before paying. Payment can be made in person with envelope or online [HERE](#) or with QR Code below. Please include your dedication with payment. *Please note the (2) Altar Poinsettia cannot be paid for online.*

Plus, new this year we're introducing ELCA Good Gift Ornament sponsorship in a price range from \$10-\$150 located on the Christmas Tree in the Narthex. For the ornaments just remove one from the tree and include it with your dedication and payment. *Payment for the ELCA Good Gift Ornaments cannot be made online.*

ALL sponsorships must be received no later than Monday, December 15 to be included in the Christmas Eve newsletter.

Finance & Stewardship Ministry

Pledge cards can be found in the Narthex, by contacting the office to have one sent to you or you can pledge using the QR code. If you have not completed one we'd appreciate you doing so by December 1.



Grace Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee is revamping and reorganizing all of Grace's Policies and Procedures. We are doing this to make volunteering and working at Grace clearer and easier to understand. If you are a leader of a ministry, you will probably be hearing from one of the Personnel Committee members for a policy/procedure for your specific ministry. The Personnel Committee is not here to dictate what happens, but rather to organize and communicate with the congregation the policies and procedures in place. Our goal is to become as transparent as possible on the inner workings of Grace. Thank you all!

Special Benevolence Offering

The Special Benevolence for **November** is **ELCA World Hunger**. To contribute, please list your dollar amount next to *Special Offering Ministry* on the contribution envelopes or use the online giving page on the website at <https://www.gracecamphill.org/give> or use the our QR Code.



Give Now

Good News from Grace articles are due by **12noon on the 15th of the month** for the next month's newsletter. **Grace Notes** information is due by **12noon on Tuesdays**. Email to ddeppen@gracecamphill.org

Calendar

11/29	5:00pm	Sabbath Service of Holy Communion in Barkley Chapel
11/30	9:00am	Coffee Hour w/Fellowship Grace & Community Outreach Ministry (<i>After worship from 10:30 – 11:00am, too</i>)
	9:30am	Service of Holy Communion in Sanctuary
12/1	7:00pm	Scout Troop 54 & Cub Scout Pack 54 Meeting
12/2	9:00am	Quilting Ministry in Quilting Room
	1:00pm	Bible Study in Library
12/3	3:00pm	Grace Giving Pantry
12/4	6:00pm	Bells of Grace in Balcony
	7:00pm	Chancel Choir in Choir Room

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

Prepare the Royal Highway



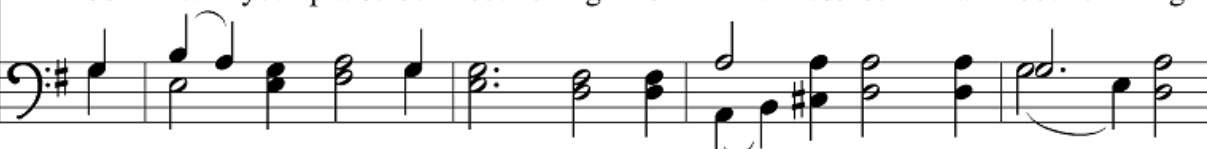
1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



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, 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 Children, Youth & Family Ministry	Ethan Lentz Ethan.Lentz@gracecamphill.org
Director of Music	Kristopher Hartman K.E.Hartman11@gmail.com
Organist	Emily Hartman K.E.Hartman11@gmail.com
Office Administrator/Sexton	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**