Second Sunday of Advent Service of Holy Communion December 7, 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

At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

God gathers us in unity.

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH BLESSING

Blessed are you, God of hope, for you promise to bring forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse who will bring justice to the poor, who will deliver the needy and crush the oppressor, who will stand as a signal of hope for all people.

As we light these candles, turn our wills to bear the fruit of repentance, transform our hearts to live in justice and harmony with one another, and fix our eyes on the root of Jesse, Jesus Christ, the hope of all nations.

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

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

*GATHERING HYMN

People, Look East

ELW#248

*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, \pm 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.



*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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL FOR CHILDREN'S CHURCH

The assembly may be seated.

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

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 11:1-10

¹ A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

²The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,

the spirit of wisdom and understanding,

the spirit of counsel and might,

the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

³ His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear,

⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;

he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb;

the leopard shall lie down with the kid;

the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them.

⁷The cow and the bear shall graze;

their young shall lie down together;

and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

⁹They will not hurt or destroy

on all my holy mountain,

for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the

peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

- ¹ Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son;
- ² that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;
- ³ that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the hills, in righteousness.
- ⁴ Let him defend the needy among the people, rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.
- ⁵ May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.
- ⁶ Let him come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth.
- ⁷ In his time may the righteous flourish; and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
- 18 Blessed are you, LORD God, the God of Israel; you alone do wondrous deeds!
- ¹⁹ And blessed be your glorious name forever, and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen. Amen.

SECOND READING: Romans 15:4-13

⁴ Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵ May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷ Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸ For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors ⁹ and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles and sing praises to your name"; ¹⁰ and again he says,

"Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people";

11 and again,

"Praise the Lord, all you gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him";

12 and again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse shall come,

the one who rises to rule the gentiles;

in him the gentiles shall hope."

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands as able.

*GOSPEL GREETING

Prepare the Royal Highway

ELW#264 - Refrain



*GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord

¹ In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ² "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." ³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'"

⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹ and do not presume 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. ¹⁰ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ "I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

LITURGY FOR ANOINTING AND HEALING

The assembly stands as able.

*HYMN OF THE DAY

All Earth Is Hopeful

ELW#266

*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.

*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

Soon and Very Soon

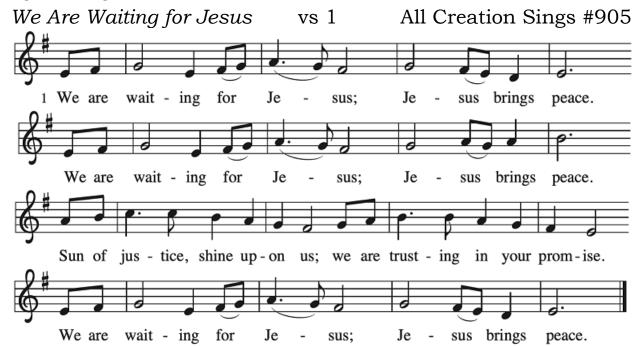
arr. Jack Schrader

Grace Chancel Choir

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

MEAL

*SETTING THE TABLE



*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.

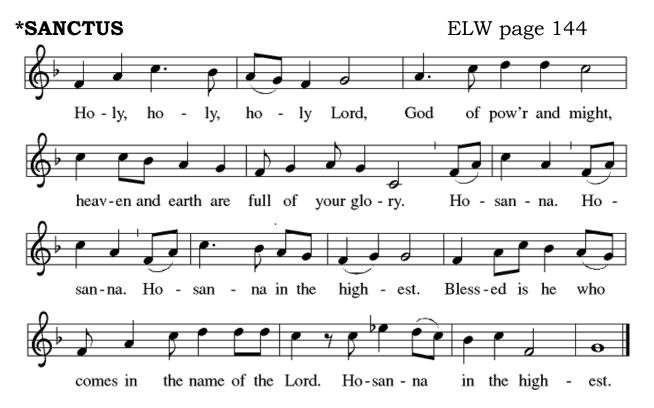
Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

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:



*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,

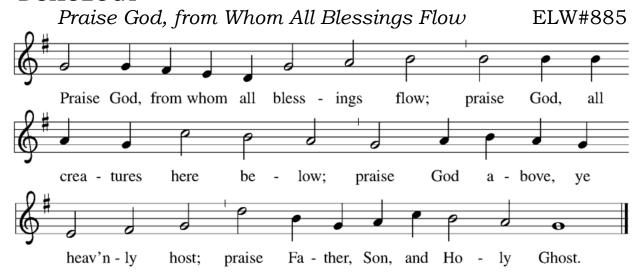
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever.

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



*INVITATION

Here is life. God is with us.

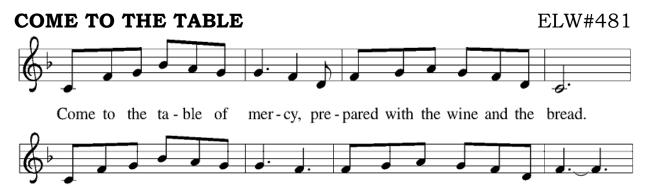
Come, receive what God has promised.

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



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

Savior of the Nations, Come

ELW#263 Vs 1, 3, 4

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Savior of the Nations, Come

Nun Komm, Der Heiden Heiland

SERVING TODAY IN WORSHIP

Presiding Minister	The Rev. Chad Butz
Assisting Minister	Krista Snavely
Lector	Pat O'Neal
Acolyte	Kinsey Hall
Communion Assistants	Rick Keen, Karen Galle
Sound	Scott Swartzell
Director of Music	Kristopher Hartman
Organist	Emily Hartman
Technology Operator	Chris Jury

This Week at Grace: December 6 – 12, 2025

The altar flowers are given by Steve & Connie Flook wishing Betty Erickson, a wonderful mom and grandma, a Happy 90th Birthday.





EVENTS

Connect with Us

The Bulletins & Mailings are given by David & Donna Enrico in memory of parents, William & Caroline.

We hold in prayer especially this week....

Russ Weber, Wendell Mortenson, 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 and the friends & family of Al Hughes.

We hold in prayer the recently departed...

Al Hughes

Scouting America Christmas Wreath Sale

Thank you to all those who purchased a wreath from Troop 54 this year. They sold a total of 210 wreaths of which 31 were from the congregation at Grace and that does not include the 12 wreaths we purchased for sponsorship!

The New Cumberland Community Tree Lighting

Join the community at the New Cumberland Community Tree Lighting on Sunday. December 7 at 5pm in Elkwood Park. There will be hot cocoa, cookies, and the New Cumberland Town Band. Bring a canned good to benefit Starfish Ministries.

Grace Book Club

Join the Grace Book Club to discuss "The One Hundred Years of Lenni and Margot" by Marianne Cronin via zoom. Contact Melinda Bechtel at mcbbechtel@gmail.com for login information.

Community Meal

The Community Meal will be on Wednesday, December 10 at 5:30pm in the Social Hall. Please note the menu has changed. They will now be serving Ham Loaf w/Ham Pineapple Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Peas & Carrots, Coleslaw, Dinner Roll and Assorted Desserts.

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.

Christmas Wreath, Poinsettia and ELCA Good Gift Sponsorships

As of December 2, there are (8) 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 (8) 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 or with QR Code. 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.

End-Of-Year Giving Reminder

Thank you for your faithful and generous support of our ministries this year! As the end of the year is approaching, please note that all contributions intended for 2025 taxyear credit need to be either received at the church or postmarked by December 31, 2025. Online giving needs to be entered by December 31, 2025. With your support we can continue to share Christ's love, serve our neighbors, and strengthen the Church for God's mission in the world.

Blue Christmas Service – Wednesday, December 17

Join us for a Blue Christmas service on December 17 at 7:00pm in the Sancturary. Blue Christmas is a service that is meant to acknowledge the pain of loss that often accompanies holidays, especially Christmas. Join us for an evening of prayer, acknowledgement, remembrance and a reminder that this world is not the end. This service will be available via Live Stream.

Family Promise at Grace

Family Promise will be at Grace the week of December 28 – January 4, 2026. During that week volunteers are needed to provide meals, host meals, and drive the van from the church and Day Center. If you are interested in helping you can find out more about what is required for each of these duties and sign up to volunteer on the website at https://www.gracecamphill.org/events/family-

promise-grace/2025-12-28. For more information regarding Family Promise please contact Susan Ryder at susan@familypromisehcr.org.

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.



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.

Inclement Weather Policy

In the event of inclement weather regarding weekend services and special events, staff will post closings or delayed openings on the church phone 717-737-0439x14, the website, Facebook and eblasts and most will, also appear on CBS 21 and ABC 27 as well. Please note that during the week the office will follow the West Shore School Districts' delays and closings.

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

12/6	5:00pm	Sabbath Service of Holy Communion with Anointing and Healing Liturgy in Barkley Chapel	
12/7	9:00am	Coffee Hour w/Endowment Committee	
		(After worship from 10:30 – 11:00am, too)	
	9:30am	Service of Holy Communion with Anointing and Healing	
		Liturgy in Sanctuary	
	10:00am	Children's Church	
	11:00am	Confirmation at Trinity Lemoyne	
	4:45pm	GYG	
	5:00pm	New Cumberland Community Tree Lighting	
12/8	7:00pm	Scout Troop 54 & Cub Scout Pack 54 Meeting	
		Grace Book Club Rescheduled to January	
12/9	9:00am	Quilting Ministry in Quilting Room	
	1:00pm	Bible Study in Library	
12/10	3:00pm	Grace Giving Pantry	
	5:30pm	Community Meal in Social Hall	
12/11	6:00pm	Bells of Grace in Balcony	
	7:00pm	Chancel Choir in Choir Room	

People, Look East

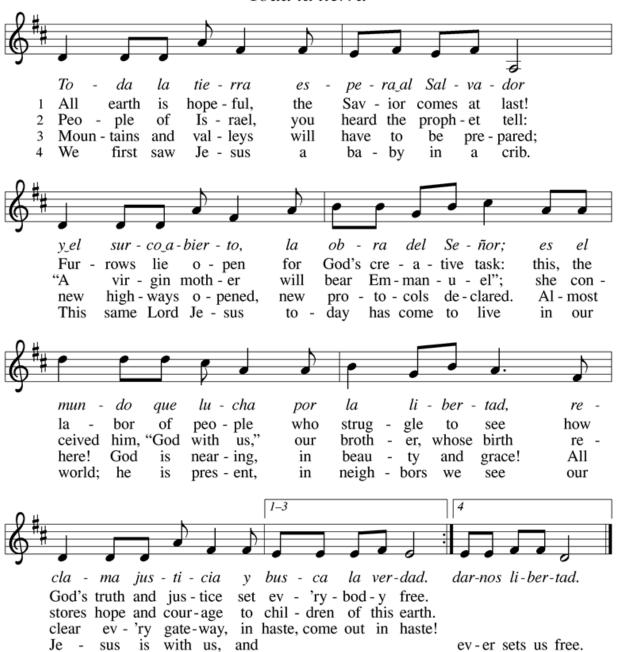


Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881-1965

Music: BESANÇON, French carol; arr. Barry Rose, b. 1934
Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates.
Arr. © 1999 Novello & Company Ltd., London, United Kingdom. All rights reserved. International copyright secured.

All Earth Is Hopeful

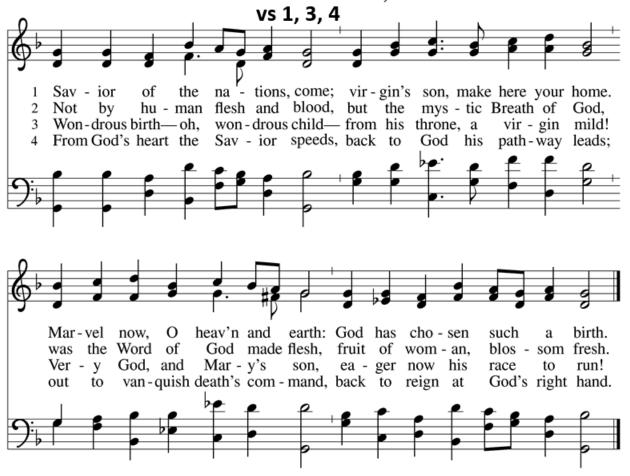
Toda la tierra



Text: Alberto Taulé, b. 1932; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946

Music: TODA LA TIERRA, Alberto Taulé
Spanish text and tune © 1993 and English text © 1995 Centro de Pastoral Litúrgica, admin. OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.

Savior of the Nations, Come



Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340-397; Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. hymnal version Music: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND, J. Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524 Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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 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 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

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