

Third Sunday of Advent

December 13, 2020

Virtual Bulletin with Holy Communion

Hill Avenue Grace Lutheran Church

Rev. Zachary W. Johnson, Pastor

Donna Menzies, Assistant to the Pastor, Visitation & Spiritual Care

Douglas Shabe, Director of Music

Grace Lee, Organist

Michelle Tune, Soprano

Order of the Liturgy

Prelude *"See Amid the Winter's Snow"* arr. by Mary McDonald

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

Most merciful God, **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I



Hill Ave Grace
Lutheran Church



Centennial Celebration 1919-2019

therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the \dagger Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN**Prepare the Royal Highway****ELW 264**

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!

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.

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.**

ADVENT HYMN OF PRAISE: *Everyday God**Congregation - sing at bold print*

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| <p><i>Earth's creator,</i> Everyday God <i>Loving Maker</i> O Jesus <i>You who shaped us</i> O spirit, <i>Recreate us,</i> Come be with us.</p> | <p><i>God of laughter,</i> Everyday God <i>God of sorrow,</i> O Jesus, <i>God of shelter,</i> O Spirit, <i>Strong and patient,</i> Come be with us.</p> | <p><i>Alleluia,</i> Everyday God <i>Now and always,</i> O Jesus, <i>Alleluia,</i> O spirit, <i>Through the ages.</i> Come be with us.</p> |
| <p><i>In your presence,</i> Everyday God <i>We are gathered.</i> O Jesus, <i>You have called us,</i> O Spirit, <i>To restore us,</i> Come be with us.</p> | <p><i>Word of gladness,</i> Everyday God <i>Word of mercy,</i> O Jesus, <i>Word of friendship,</i> O Spirit, <i>Word of challenge,</i> Come be with us.</p> | <p><i>Bernadette Farrell</i> <i>Restless is the Heart</i></p> |
| <p><i>In our dreaming,</i> Everyday God <i>In our daring.</i> O Jesus, <i>In our searching.</i> O Spirit, <i>In our sharing,</i> Come be with us.</p> | <p><i>Our beginning,</i> Everyday God <i>Our Unfolding,</i> O Jesus, <i>Our enduring,</i> O Spirit <i>Journey's ending,</i> Come be with us.</p> | |

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.**LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH *"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah"* ELW 240**

- 1 Light one candle to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.
He shall bring salvation to Israel, God fulfills the promise.
- 2 Light two candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.
He shall feed the flock like a shepherd, gently lead them homeward.
- 3 Light three candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.
Lift your heads and lift high the gateway for the King of glory.

Lector: Kristin Johnson

FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

- ¹The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
- ²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
- ³to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.
- ⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.
- ⁸For I the LORD love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
- ⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.
- ¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
- ¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 126 *The congregation responds with the bold (even-numbered) verses.*

¹When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
then were we like those who dream.

²**Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.
Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."**

³The LORD has done great things for us,
and we are glad indeed.

⁴**Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses of the Negeb.**

⁵Those who sowed with tears
will reap with songs of joy.

⁶**Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Lector: Donna Menzies

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil.

²³May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

"Savior of the Nations, Come"

ELW 263

- 1 Savior of the nations, come; virgin's son, make here your home.
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth: God has chosen such a birth.
- 2 Not by human flesh and blood, but the mystic Breath of God,
was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of woman, blossom fresh.
- 3 Wondrous birth—oh, wondrous child—from his throne, a virgin mild!
Very God, and Mary's son, eager now his race to run!

GOSPEL: John 1:6-8, 19-28

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²²Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³He said, "I am the voice of

one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’” as the prophet Isaiah said. ²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, “Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” ²⁶John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.” ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

The Gospel of our Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Pastor Zach Johnson

HYMN OF THE DAY

Hark, the Glad Sound!

ELW 239

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Assistant Bob Menzies

*Each petition ends with "Lord, in your mercy," The assembly responds with "**Hear our prayer.**"***SHARING OF THE PEACE***The presiding and the assembly share a virtual sign of peace.*The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.****HOLY COMMUNION****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.****PREFACE***Spoken by the presiding minister.*

It is indeed right...we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY*All speak the words together.***Holy, holy, holy, Lord. Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.****EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER***The presiding minister begins the prayer.*

Holy one, the beginning and the end, the giver of life...

WORDS OF INSTITUTION*The presiding minister and the assembly speak the following words together.***In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread (each plate of bread may be raised at this time), and gave thanks; broke it, and give it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me (bread plate may be lowered).****Again, after supper, he took the cup (cup of wine/grape juice may be raised at this time), 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 sins. Do this for the remembrance of me (cup of wine/grape juice may be lowered).***The presiding minister continues the Eucharistic prayer.*Let us proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ had died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**With this bread and cup...We look with hope for his coming. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your spirit...Bring the gift of peace on earth. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us...

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

*All are invited into a time of reflection before they receive communion. During this time, you may prepare your hearts to receive the sacrament. Once ready, you may commune yourself and those around you with the bread and wine/grape juice. A representative from each household may say the following—bread: **"The body of Christ given for you."** Wine/grape juice: **"The blood of Christ shed for you."***

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

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

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

All speak the prayer together.

God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts and send us forth to be your people in the world, announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BENEDICTION

May Christ, the Sun of righteousness, shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

ELW 248

People, Look East

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in the key of D major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a clear harmonic structure. The lyrics are printed below the vocal lines.

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



DISMISSAL Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965
 Music: BESANÇON, French carol; arr. Barry Rose, b. 1934
 Text © Miss F. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates.
 Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude *“While By My Sheep”* by Douglas E. Wagner
 +++++

| Calendar This Week | | |
|--------------------|----------|--------------------------------|
| Today | 10:00 AM | Worship |
| Wed 12/16/2020 | 6:00 PM | Virtual Advent Bible Study |
| Wed 12/16/2020 | 7:00 PM | Virtual Pandemic Support Group |
| Thurs 12/17/2020 | 7:00 PM | Virtual Choir Sing-along |
| Sat 12/19/2020 | 9:30 AM | Food Shelf Open |
| Sun 12/20/2020 | 10:00 AM | Worship |

Our Christmas Eve service will be virtual via Zoom and FB Live this year. We do want to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas, so we invite you to order a poinsettia. Cost is \$10 per plant. You can mail your check to the office with "Poinsettias" in the memo line. Word has it that "Elves" will deliver them to your home after the service, or you can arrange a drive-by pickup at the church. Call or email the office at office@hillavenuegrace.org, and let us know if the poinsettia is in memory of, in honor of, or dedicated to anyone, and that sentiment will be included in our virtual Christmas Eve service bulletin.

Join us this Sunday at 10am for our Virtual Worship via Zoom!

Check in a few minutes early and hear the prelude by Grace! You may also join us on Facebook Live. We look forward to seeing your faces and worshipping together. We will continue after our service on the same link for our fellowship time!

Hill Avenue Grace Lutheran Church is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Hill Avenue Grace Lutheran Church Worship

Time: Sundays at 10:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95007590439?pwd=M2NmMUZCZzhMOUY0SG8xeHpzcU5RUT09>

Meeting ID: 950 0759 0439

Passcode: worship

One tap mobile

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Passcode: 4584517