

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 18, 2022

Virtual Bulletin with Holy Communion, Everyday God

Hill Avenue Grace Lutheran Church

Rev. Tom Ford, Guest Pastor

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

Douglas Shabe, Director of Music

Hannah Lee, Organist

Kate Radford, Soloist

Anita Mork, Assistant Minister

Lija Kalejs, Lector

### Order of the Liturgy

Prelude

*"The Lord's My Shepherd"*

arr. Cindy Berry

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

**Blessed be God's name forever. Amen.**

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep. Let us confront our sins, and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

God of new beginnings,

**we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign. We have strayed from your paths. We prepare for war instead of peace. We dishonor one another and your creation. Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love, that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us. Amen.**

People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign. By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder. You have put on + Christ, and your sins have been washed away. Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

**Amen.**



Hill Ave Grace  
Lutheran Church

## OPENING HYMN

## Fling Wide the Door

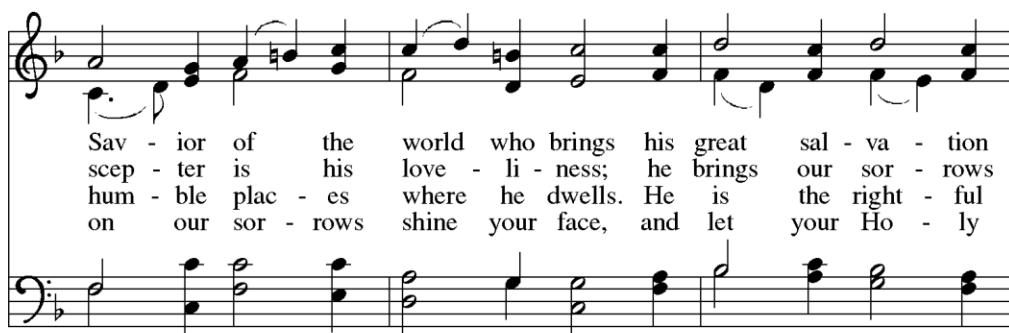
ELW 259



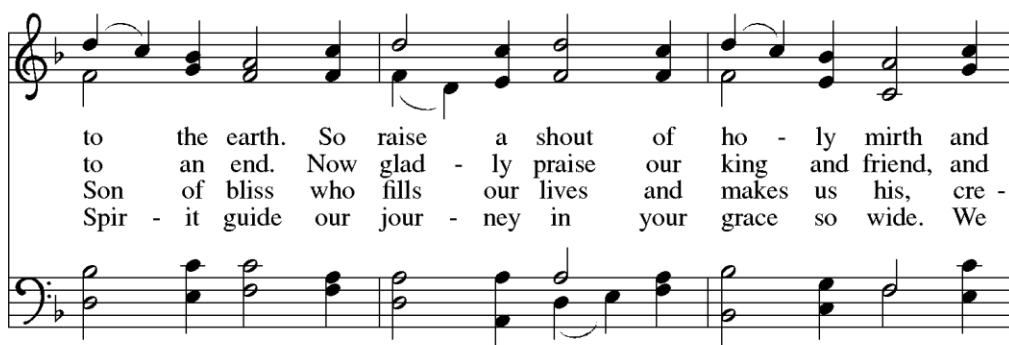
1 Fling wide the door, un - bar the gate; the King of glo - ry  
 2 He is the rock of our be - lief, the heart of mer - cy's  
 3 Oh, hap - py towns and bless - ed lands that live by their true  
 4 Come, Lord, our Sav - ior, Je - sus Christ; our hearts are o - pen



comes in state; the Lord of lords and King of kings, the  
 gen - tle self. His king - ly crown is ho - li - ness; his  
 king's com - mands. And bless - ed be the hearts he rules, the  
 wide in trust. Oh, show us now your love - ly grace, up -



Sav - ior of the world who brings his great sal - va - tion  
 scep - ter is his love - li - ness; he brings our sor - rows  
 hum - ble plac - es where he dwells. He is the right - ful  
 on our sor - rows shine your face, and let your Ho - ly



to the earth. So raise a shout of ho - ly mirth and  
 to an end. Now glad - ly praise our king and friend, and  
 Son of bliss who fills our lives and makes us his, cre -  
 Spir - it guide our jour - ney in your grace so wide. We



praise our God and Lord, Cre - a - tor, Spir - it, Word.  
 wor - ship him with song, for sav - ing us from wrong.  
 a - tor of the world, our on - ly strength for good.  
 praise your ho - ly name, from age to age the same!

Text: Georg Weisell, 1590-1635; tr. Gracia Grindal, b. 1943

Music: MACHT HOCH DIE TÜR, J. A. Freylinghausen, *Geistreiches Gesangbuch*, 1704; arr. hymnal versionText © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Arr. © 2006 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>  <b>Everyday God</b>  <i>Loving Maker</i>  <b>O Jesus</b>  <i>You who shaped us</i>  <b>O spirit,</b>  <i>Recreate us,</i>  <b>Come be with us.</b></p>	<p><i>God of laughter,</i>  <b>Everyday God</b>  <i>God of sorrow,</i>  <b>O Jesus,</b>  <i>God of shelter,</i>  <b>O Spirit,</b>  <i>Strong and patient,</i>  <b>Come be with us.</b></p>	<p><i>Alleluia,</i>  <b>Everyday God</b>  <i>Now and always,</i>  <b>O Jesus,</b>  <i>Alleluia,</i>  <b>O spirit,</b>  <i>Through the ages.</i>  <b>Come be with us.</b></p>
<p><i>In your presence,</i>  <b>Everyday God</b>  <i>We are gathered.</i>  <b>O Jesus,</b>  <i>You have called us,</i>  <b>O Spirit,</b>  <i>To restore us,</i>  <b>Come be with us.</b></p>	<p><i>Word of gladness,</i>  <b>Everyday God</b>  <i>Word of mercy,</i>  <b>O Jesus,</b>  <i>Word of friendship,</i>  <b>O Spirit,</b>  <i>Word of challenge,</i>  <b>Come be with us.</b></p>	<p><i>Bernadette Farrell</i>  <i>Restless is the Heart</i></p>
<p><i>In our dreaming,</i>  <b>Everyday God</b>  <i>In our daring.</i>  <b>O Jesus,</b>  <i>In our searching.</i>  <b>O Spirit,</b>  <i>In our sharing,</i>  <b>Come be with us.</b></p>	<p><i>Our beginning,</i>  <b>Everyday God</b>  <i>Our Unfolding,</i>  <b>O Jesus,</b>  <i>Our enduring,</i>  <b>O Spirit</b>  <i>Journey's ending,</i>  <b>Come be with us.</b></p>	

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**LIGHTING OF THE FOUR CANDLES**

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.**

### ADVENT HYMN

### *“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”*

ELW 257

*Congregation sings verse 7 & 8 only*

7 O come, O King of nations, come, O Cornerstone that binds in one:  
refresh the hearts that long for you; restore the broken, make us new.

*Refrain*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

8 O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 7:10-16

<sup>10</sup>The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, <sup>11</sup>Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. <sup>13</sup>Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. <sup>15</sup>He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup>For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

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

**PSALM: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19** *The congregation responds with the bold verses.*

<sup>1</sup>Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph <sup>1</sup> like a flock;  
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- <sup>1</sup> on the cherubim.

<sup>2</sup>**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, <sup>1</sup> and Manasseh,  
stir up your strength and <sup>1</sup> come to help us.**

<sup>3</sup>Restore <sup>1</sup> us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we <sup>1</sup> shall be saved.

<sup>4</sup>**O LORD <sup>1</sup> God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your <sup>1</sup> people pray?**

<sup>5</sup>You have fed them with the <sup>1</sup> bread of tears; you have given them bowls of <sup>1</sup> tears to drink.

<sup>6</sup>**You have made us the derision <sup>1</sup> of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh <sup>1</sup> us to scorn.**

<sup>7</sup>Restore us, O <sup>1</sup> God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we <sup>1</sup> shall be saved.

<sup>17</sup>**Let your hand be upon the one at <sup>1</sup> your right hand,  
the one you have made so strong <sup>1</sup> for yourself.**

<sup>18</sup>And so will we never turn a- <sup>1</sup> way from you;  
give us life, that we may call up- <sup>1</sup> on your name.

<sup>19</sup>**Restore us, O LORD <sup>1</sup> God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we <sup>1</sup> shall be saved.**

**SECOND READING: Romans 1:1-7**

<sup>1</sup>Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup>which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, <sup>3</sup>the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup>and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup>through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, <sup>6</sup>including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

<sup>7</sup>To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION***"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"***ELW 490**

*Congregation sings verse 1 only*

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,  
and with fear and trembling stand;  
ponder nothing earthly-minded,  
for with blessing in his hand  
Christ our God to earth descending  
comes full homage to demand.

**GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18-25**

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup>"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us."<sup>24</sup>When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, <sup>25</sup>but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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

**SERMON**

"Asleep or Awake?"

Pastor Tom Ford

## HYMN OF THE DAY

## Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

ELW 242



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for  
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -  
 3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when  
 4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing, Sing out your joy, for  
 man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is  
 all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so  
 dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.  
 qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;  
 qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.  
 crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -  
 mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -  
 Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in  
 Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and  
 kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to  
 won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and  
 sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.  
 shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.  
 weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.  
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen

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## APOSTLES' CREED

**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

*Each petition ends with "God, 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.**

## OFFERING

### OFFERTORY

*"O Harken Ye"*

Wilha Hudson/Alfred Burt

**OFFERING PRAYER** - *All speak the prayer together.*

**Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground.**

**Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior. Amen.**

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

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, 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, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy one, the beginning and the end, the giver of life...Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Word...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...one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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

## LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
 your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

## LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
 mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
 world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
 world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

## 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.**

Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS****BLESSING**

God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, ✠ bless you now and forever. Amen.

**SENDING HYMN****Christ, Be Our Light****ELW 715**

1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for  
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for  
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for  
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for  
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone  
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,  
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,  
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.  
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.  
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.  
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.  
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



*Refrain*  
 Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

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**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is near. **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

*"To God Be the Glory"*

arr. Mark Hayes

*This week's altar flowers are given by Karen McClure, in loving memory of Bill McClure.*

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Calendar This Week		
Every Sunday	10:00 AM	Virtual & In-Person Worship
Wed 12/21/22	10:00 AM	Dress for Success Event
Thurs 12/22/22	7:00 PM	Choir Practice
Sat 12/24/22	9:30 AM	Food Shelf Open
Sat 12/24/22	4:30 PM	Festive Prelude for Christmas Eve Service
Sat 12/24/22	5:00 PM	Christmas Eve Virtual & In-Person Worship Service

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

This year we are challenging the congregation and friends to participate in our **Chapter a Day Bible Challenge**. We encourage you to get together with a small group to talk about what you've read for the week. Share your progress and get others involved! Check out the separate links for an Introduction page and an informational page about the books we are reading. Share the link with family and friends!! Also be sure to watch Pastor Zach's videos on Facebook each week with details about the reading for the week. In December we are in the book of Revelation, which will take us to the 30<sup>th</sup>!

**Pastor Zach will be out starting Wednesday, December 14th.** We send Pastor and Kristin positive thoughts and prayers for a speedy recovery from their kidney operations - Kristin is a donor, and Pastor is a recipient! We will have visiting pastors while Pastor Zach recovers from his kidney transplant.

**Pastor Zach has a blog** which will be kept up to date as to how he and Kristin are doing, in their recovery, etc. Thank you for your continued prayers! If you'd like to follow along on the blog it can be found at <https://transplantedpastor.blogspot.com/>

**We thank Pastor Tom Ford for filling in this week!!**

**Adult Forum & Bible Study classes are done for the year.** Stay tuned for their return date!

We will be having **Christmas Eve service** in-person and online at 5 pm on the 24<sup>th</sup>, so please mark your calendar! We will have a musical prelude starting at 4:30 PM with musical offerings that you won't want to miss!

We will also have a **Christmas Day service** on the 25<sup>th</sup> at 10 am. We hope you will join us!

**Thanks to all** who helped make the Advent Dinner a great success!!

**Poinsettias for the Christmas Eve service** have been ordered to help decorate the sanctuary for Christmas! Plants are \$16.50 per plant. You can put your check in the offering plate, or mail your check to the office, with "Poinsettias" in the memo line. Complete the form at the end of this bulletin or call or email the office at [office@hillavenuegrace.org](mailto: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. Deadline date is December 20<sup>th</sup>!!

**An Accessory is Necessary!!** On December 21st there will be a **Dress for Success** event. While there is plenty of clothing, they could use accessories - - purses, wallets, scarves, bracelets, costume jewelry, earrings, belts, gloves, etc. Also handy are unused journals, unused cosmetics, & make-up bags. No Clothes or shoes please! Like-new items that are ready to wear or use only, please. Please contact Linda Koci-Biondolillo if you need further information.

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

**Check in a few minutes early and hear the prelude! You may also join us on Facebook Live. We look forward to seeing your faces and worshipping together!**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

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

**Meeting ID: 950 0759 0439**

**Passcode: worship**

**One tap mobile**

**+16699006833,,95007590439#,,,,\*4584517# US (San Jose)**

**+13462487799,,95007590439#,,,,\*4584517# US (Houston)**

**Dial by your location**

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**+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)**

**+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)**

**+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)**

**Meeting ID: 950 0759 0439**

**Passcode: 4584517**

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We ask that you follow these guidelines to ensure safety for everyone.

1. We ask that everyone wear a mask while in the sanctuary, including during worshipping and singing.
2. We will enter the church through the glass doors on Hill Avenue.
3. Pick up a communion set at the table and then proceed into the sanctuary. There will be 3 options for communion: bread and wine, bread and juice, and gluten-free bread and wine. Only take one set for yourself. Wait for communion instructions before opening the packet.

If you have any questions, please see one of our happy volunteers on the front patio, in the narthex, or in the sanctuary.

The service will still be available on Zoom and Facebook Live for those who prefer to remain at home. If you have questions, please let our church office know. We look forward to actually seeing you at church this Sunday!

### ALTAR GUILD ANNOUNCEMENT

It is time to begin thinking about decorating our sanctuary for Christmas!

If you wish to purchase a poinsettia plant, please complete the following form and place it **AND your check** (made payable to Hill Avenue Grace Lutheran) in an envelope.

You can mail it to the church office or place it in the offering plate.

Please earmark all checks for **POINSETTIAS**. The cost per plant this year will be \$16.50.

Please complete the following form and turn it in by **TUESDAY, December 20<sup>th</sup>**.

**That is the absolute deadline. Thank you!**

I am donating \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the following:

In memory of:

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In honor of:

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---

In thanksgiving for:

---

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Other:

---

---

Given by: (Please list names as you want them to appear in the bulletin)

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Envelope Number \_\_\_\_\_

