

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

January 29, 2023

Virtual Bulletin with Holy Communion, Setting III

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

Steve Rose, Assistant Minister

Sue Rose, Lector

Order of the Liturgy

Prelude

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

arr. Jason Tonioli

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who makes all things new, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

Holy One, source of our renewal,

we confess that we are wrapped up in sin, and cannot free ourselves. We have not practiced your righteousness. Our hearts have turned away from you. For the sake of the world you so love, forgive us, that we may be reconciled to one another for the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

Thus says our God: "The former things have come to pass and new things I now declare."

God's mercy makes us new. We are forgiven in the name of ✚ Christ our Savior.

Amen.



Hill Ave Grace
Lutheran Church

OPENING HYMN

For the Beauty of the Earth

ELW 879



1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
 2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
 3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
 4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
 5 For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
 hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
 for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
 friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
 for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n:



Refrain
 Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

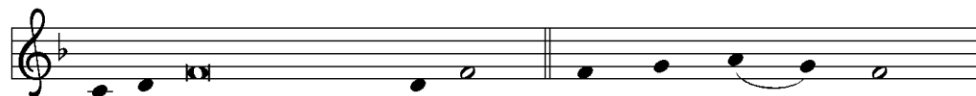


Text: Follitt S. Pierpoint, 1835–1917, alt.
 Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

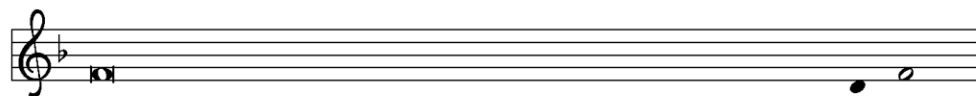
GREETING

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.**

KYRIE
(Lord Have Mercy)



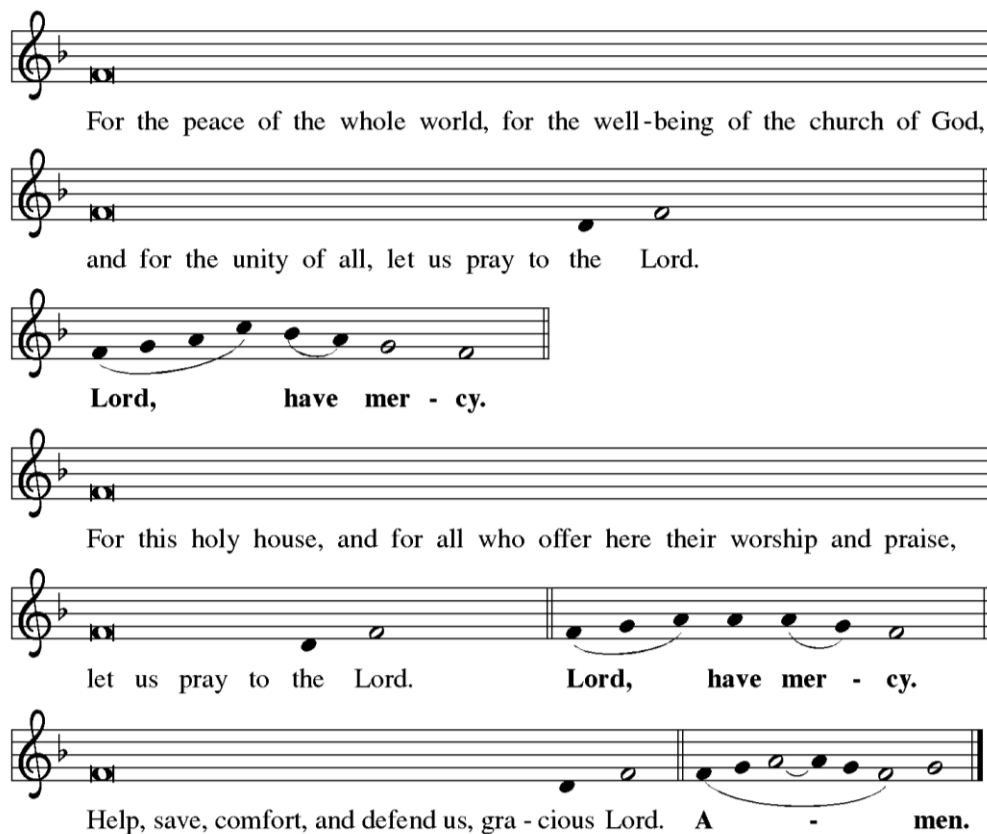
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb
who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and
strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of
 God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,
 glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain
 This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was
 slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain
 This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Micah 6:1-8

¹Hear what the LORD says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
 and let the hills hear your voice.

²Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth;
 for the LORD has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel.

³"O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

⁴For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery;
 and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

⁵O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
 what Balaam son of Beor answered him,

and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

⁶“With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?

⁷Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

⁸He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you

but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

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

PSALM: Psalm 15 *The congregation responds with the bold verses.*

¹LORD, who may dwell in your ^l tabernacle? Who may abide upon your ^l holy hill?

²**Those who lead a blameless life and do ^l what is right,
who speak the truth ^l from their heart;**

³they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil ^l to their friends;
they do not cast discredit up- ^l on a neighbor.

⁴**In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who ^l fear the LORD.
They have sworn upon their health and do not take ^l back their word.**

⁵They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes a- ^l gainst the
innocent. Those who do these things shall never be ^l overthrown.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1: 18-31

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

²⁵For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

²⁶Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

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

SERMON

"Blessed Are You!"

Guest Pastor Tom Ford

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Blest Are They"

ELW 728

1. Blest are they, the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of God.
Blest are they, full of sorrow; they shall be consoled.

Refrain:

Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you!

Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!

2. Blest are they, the lowly ones; they shall inherit the earth.
Blest are they who hunger and thirst; they shall have their fill. *Refrain*
3. Blest are they who show mercy; mercy shall be theirs.
Blest are they, the pure of heart; they shall see God. *Refrain*
4. Blest are they who seek peace; they are the children of God.
Blest are they who suffer in faith; the glory of God is theirs. *Refrain*
5. Blest are you who suffer hate, all because of me.
Rejoice, be glad, yours is the kingdom; shine for all to see. *Refrain*

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 "Merciful God". The assembly responds with "receive 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 *"Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling"* - Doug Shabe, Bass-Baritone

OFFERING PRAYER - *All speak the prayer together.*

Liberating God, you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior, Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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. Ho-san-na. Ho-san-na. Ho-san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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, 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.

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.

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.

Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor’s rod ✠ bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Blessed Assurance

ELW 638

1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
 2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
 3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,

Heir of sal - va - tion, pur - chase of God, born of his Spir - it, washed in his blood.
 an - gels de - scend - ing bring from a - bove ech - oes of mer - cy, whis - pers of love.
 watch - ing and wait - ing, look - ing a - bove, filled with his good - ness, lost in his love.

Refrain

This is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long:

this is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
 Music: ASSURANCE, Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830–1908

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“Voluntary V”

John Stanely

*This week’s altar flowers are given by Karen DeGilio in loving memory of my husband Mike’s Jan. 27th birthday; also in honor of Pr Tom Ford’s Jan. 24th birthday.
 Thanks be to God for these 2 special men.*

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Calendar This Week		
Every Sunday	10:00 AM	Virtual & In-Person Worship
Thurs 2/2/23	7:00 PM	Choir Practice
Sat 2/4/23	9:30 AM	Food Shelf Open

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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!!

Our annual Congregational Meeting will be held after service on February 26th. Please plan to attend! We will be voting on updates to the constitution to allow for electronic communications and meetings, electing the church council, and more.

We have several opportunities to **serve on the Church Council in 2023.** Please prayerfully consider joining a committee or serving as a Chair of a committee. Reach out to the church

office, or Tina Antypas by emailing president@hillavenuegrace.org for more information.

This year's **Stewardship drive** is underway. Please help us prepare our 2023 budget by completing the pledge card sent to you via email or regular mail and return it in the offering plate or sending it to the church office. Please contact the church office if you need a pledge form. Thank you for your continued support of this special place we call HAGL!!

The **St. Olaf Choir** will be performing the 2023 Winter Concert at the First United Methodist Church on Colorado on Wednesday, February 1, 2023. Ticket information for both the choir and band concerts can be found at stolaf.edu/tickets or by calling 800-363-5487.

The **St. Olaf Band**, conducted by Timothy Mahr, will be joined by the Arcadia High School Wind Ensemble for their performance at Arcadia High School, on Wednesday, February 1 at 7:00 pm during its 2023 Winter Tour. Tickets are free for folks of all ages! We encourage you to register for yours in advance to ensure admittance.

The **Amazon Smile program** is winding down and will close on February 20th. We can continue to accrue donations through Amazon Smile until the program officially closes. If you haven't already used Amazon Smile to direct donations to HAGL, consider doing so for the next month! Just go to smile.amazon.com and follow the instructions to pick HAGL as your charity.

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

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

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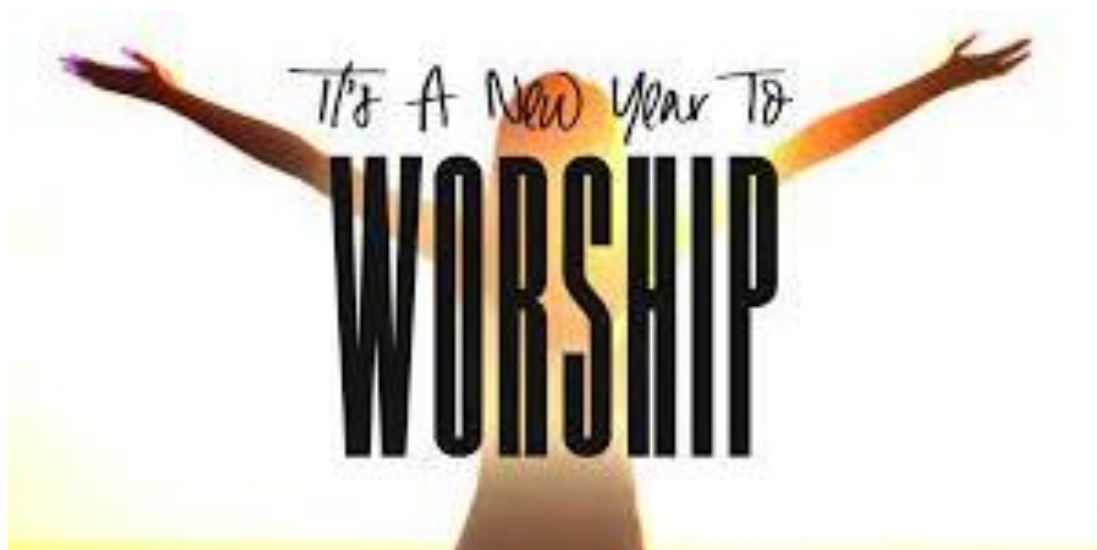
+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

+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. 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!