

## Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 19, 2023

### Virtual Bulletin with Holy Communion, Setting IV

Hill Avenue Grace Lutheran Church

Rev. Zachary W. Johnson, Pastor

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

Douglas Shabe, Director of Music

Hannah Lee, Organist

Kate Radford, Soprano

Anita Mork, Assistant Minister

Dave Cuatt, Lector

### Order of the Liturgy

Prelude

*"No Greater Love"*

arr. Craig Curry

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace. **Amen.**

Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Holy God,

**we confess to you our faults and failings. Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we spoil rather than steward your creation; we cause hurt though you call us to heal; we choose fear over compassion. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen.**

Hear the good news: God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that all may receive life. This promise is for you! God embraces you with divine mercy, ✚ forgives you in Christ's name, and revives you in the Spirit's power. **Amen.**

### OPENING HYMN

ELW 843

#### Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness



1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;  
 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;  
 3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;

praise the One who frees the pris-'ners, turn-ing blind-ness in - to sight.  
praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc-ing, two-edged sword.  
Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.

Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal-ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,  
Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn-ing sand;  
Let us sing for joy and glad-ness, see-ing what our God has done.

calm - ing storms and feed-ing thou-sands with the ver - y bread of peace.  
from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench-ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.  
Praise the one re - deem-ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

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## 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

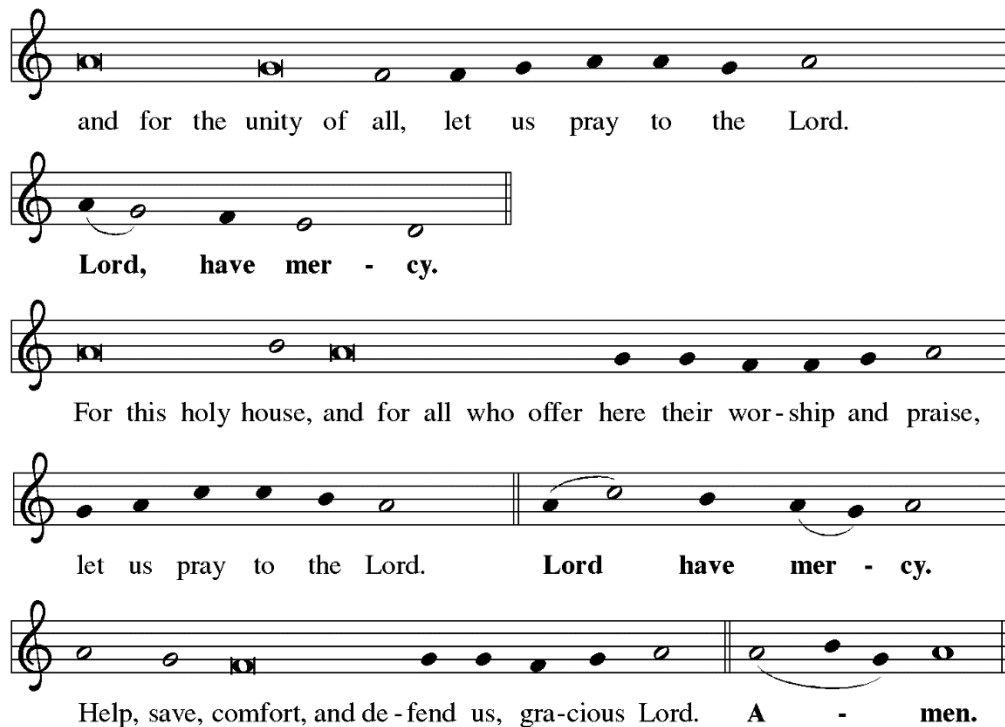
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mer - cy.**

For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, 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 wor-ship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.

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

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” <sup>2</sup>Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the LORD said, “Take a heifer with you, and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’” <sup>3</sup>Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” <sup>4</sup>Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, “Do you come peaceably?” <sup>5</sup>He said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

<sup>6</sup>When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the LORD’s anointed is now before the LORD.” <sup>7</sup>But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.” <sup>8</sup>Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” <sup>9</sup>Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” <sup>10</sup>Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen any of these.” <sup>11</sup>Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and

bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.”<sup>12</sup> He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.”<sup>13</sup> Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

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

**PSALM: Psalm 23** *The congregation responds with the bold verses.*

<sup>1</sup>The LORD<sup>l</sup> is my shepherd; I shall not<sup>l</sup> be in want.

<sup>2</sup>**The LORD makes me lie down<sup>l</sup> in green pastures and leads me be-<sup>l</sup> side still waters.**

<sup>3</sup>You restore my<sup>l</sup> soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways<sup>l</sup> for your name’s sake.

<sup>4</sup>**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall<sup>l</sup> fear no evil;  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they<sup>l</sup> comfort me.**

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence<sup>l</sup> of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is<sup>l</sup> running over.

<sup>6</sup>**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days<sup>l</sup> of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the<sup>l</sup> LORD forever.**

**SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:8-14**

<sup>8</sup>Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—<sup>9</sup>for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. <sup>10</sup>Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; <sup>13</sup>but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, <sup>14</sup>for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,  
“Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

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

**GOSPEL  
ACCLAMATION**



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,



slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

**GOSPEL: John 9:1-41**

<sup>1</sup>As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. <sup>4</sup>We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” <sup>6</sup>When he had said this, he

spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes,<sup>7</sup> saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see.<sup>8</sup> The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?"<sup>9</sup> Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man."<sup>10</sup> But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?"<sup>11</sup> He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight."<sup>12</sup> They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

<sup>13</sup>They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind.<sup>14</sup> Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes.<sup>15</sup> Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see."<sup>16</sup> Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided.<sup>17</sup> So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

<sup>18</sup>The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight<sup>19</sup> and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?"<sup>20</sup> His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind;<sup>21</sup> but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself."<sup>22</sup> His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue.

<sup>23</sup>Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

<sup>24</sup>So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner."<sup>25</sup> He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."<sup>26</sup> They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?"<sup>27</sup> He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?"<sup>28</sup> Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses.<sup>29</sup> We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from."<sup>30</sup> The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes.<sup>31</sup> We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will.<sup>32</sup> Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind.<sup>33</sup> If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."<sup>34</sup> They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

<sup>35</sup>Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"<sup>36</sup> He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him."<sup>37</sup> Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he."<sup>38</sup> He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him.<sup>39</sup> Jesus said, "I came into this world for

judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.”

<sup>40</sup>Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” <sup>41</sup>Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

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

## SERMON

Pastor Zach Johnson

## HYMN OF THE DAY

## God, Whose Almighty Word

ELW 673

1 God, whose al - might - y word cha - os and dark - ness heard  
 2 Christ, who once came to bring, on your re - deem - ing wing,  
 3 Spir - it of truth and love, life - giv - ing, ho - ly dove,  
 4 Ho - ly and bless - ed three, glo - ri - ous Trin - i - ty,

and took their flight: hear us, we hum - bly pray, and where the  
 heal - ing and sight; health to the trou - bled mind, sight where il -  
 speed forth your flight; move on the wa - ter's face bear - ing the  
 Wis - dom, Love, Might: bound - less as o - cean's tide, roll - ing in

gos - pel day sheds not its glo - rious ray, let there be light.  
 lu - sions blind; oh, now to hu - man - kind let there be light.  
 lamp of grace, and in earth's dark - est place let there be light.  
 full - est pride, through the earth, far and wide, let there be light.

Text: John Marriott, 1780–1825, alt.  
 Music: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, 1716–1796

## 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

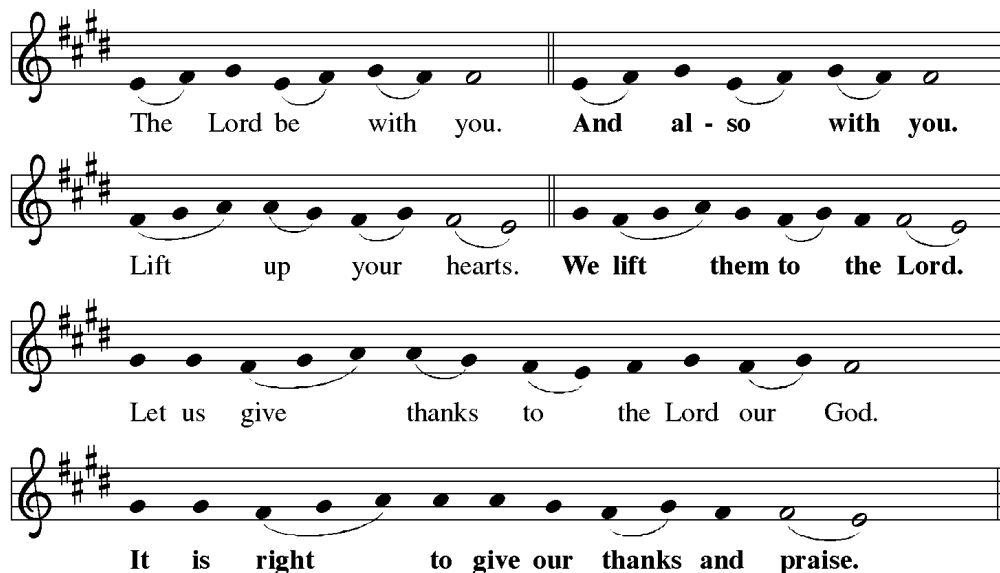
"How Like the Lovely Rose Tree"

- Gordon Young

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

God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. Amen.

### GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

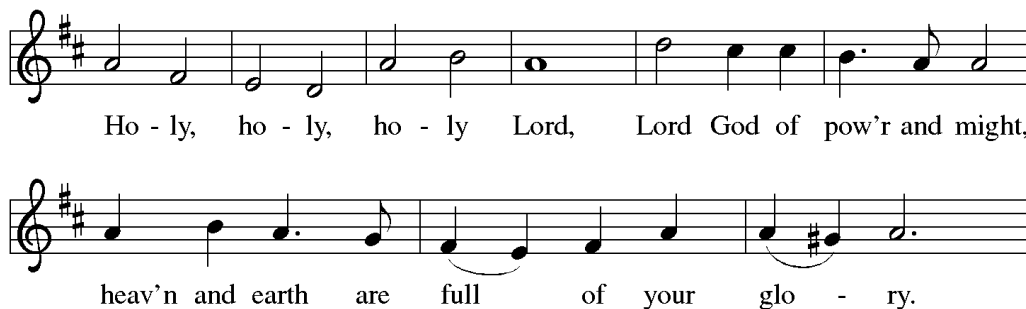
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

### PREFACE

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

### HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

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

Blessed are you, O God of the universe....With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence. **Come Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread...Send us forth, burning with justice, peace and love. **Come Holy Spirit.**

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. **Amen.**

### 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**

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

#### 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.



## 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.

Embodied God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love. **Amen.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BLESSING

You are children of God, anointed with the oil of gladness and strengthened for the journey. Almighty God, motherly, majestic, and mighty, ✝ bless you this day and always. **Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

ELW 339

### Christ, the Life of All the Living

The musical score is written for a soprano or alto voice and a piano accompaniment. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are as follows:

1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of death, our foe,  
 2 You have suf - fered great af - flic - tion and have borne it pa - tient - ly,  
 3 Then, for all that bought my par - don, for the sor - rows deep and sore,

Christ, your - self for me once giv - ing to the dark - est depths of woe:  
 e - ven death by cru - ci - fix - ion, ful - ly to a - tone for me;  
 for the an - guish in the gar - den, I will thank you ev - er - more;

through your suf-f'ring, death, and mer - it life e - ter - nal I in - her - it.  
 for you chose to be tor-ment-ed that my doom should be pre-vent-ed.  
 thank you for the groan-ing, sigh-ing, for the bleed-ing and the dy - ing,

Thou-sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.  
 Thou-sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.  
 for that last tri - um - phant cry, praise you ev - er - more on high.

Text: Ernst Christoph Homburg, 1605–1681; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.  
 Music: JESU, MEINES LEBENS LEBEN, *Das grosse Cantional*, Darmstadt, 1687

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

*“Angel's Song”*

Iouri Grichetchkine

*This week’s altar flowers are dedicated by Kris Pilon & Dave Cuatt.*

+++++

Calendar This Week		
Every Sunday	10:00 AM	Virtual & In-Person Worship Service
Wed 3/22/23	10:00 AM	Bible Study in the Chapel
Wed 3/22/23	7:00 PM	Mid-Week Lent Virtual & In-Person Service
Thurs 3/23/23	7:00 PM	Virtual Bible Study
Thurs 3/23/23	7:00 PM	Choir Practice
Sat 3/25/23	9:30 AM	Food Shelf Open

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Property Cleanup** – We will be cleaning out the 2nd floor of the Education building in preparation for possible rental space. We need help removing old items, gathering items for give-away, changing light bulbs, cleaning, plastering, painting, etc. Can't help with the physical cleanup but want to help? Sponsor an activity! Contact Dave Cuatt to help out!

**Bible Study** is back with 2 opportunities to participate: Wednesdays at 10 AM in the chapel & Thursdays at 7 PM via Zoom. Contact Pastor for the zoom link at [Pastor@hillavenuegrace.org](mailto:Pastor@hillavenuegrace.org)

We will have **Mid-week Lent services at 7 PM through March 29**, both in person and available via Zoom and FB live. We hope you will join us as we welcome the season of Lent and prepare to journey through Lent to the joy of Easter. The theme for Lent this year will be: "**Living Out Our Baptismal Promises**". Mid-week Lent worship will focus on the 5 baptismal promises made when we affirm our baptisms. Watch for the devotional "**Water & Spirit**" in the narthex and pick up a copy, or contact the office for a copy.

We will be using the **Holden Evening Prayer** for the mid-week Lent services. We will also have a short bulletin which will include the theme of the day, the reading of the day, and the hymn of the day.

### Upcoming Events:

Midweek Lent services—Wednesdays through Wednesday, March 29

Palm Sunday—April 2, Virtual & In-Person Worship Service at 10 AM

Maundy Thursday—April 6, Virtual & In-Person Worship Service at 7 PM

Good Friday—April 7, Virtual & In-Person Worship Service at 7 PM

Easter Vigil – April 8, **at Trinity Lutheran Church** at 7 PM

Easter Sunday—April 9, Virtual & In-Person Worship Service at 10 AM

If you'd like to **participate in the Easter Virgil**, Trinity is looking for helpers to read scripture or sing with the choir. Let Pastor Zach know, and he'll contact Pastor Richter.

**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)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

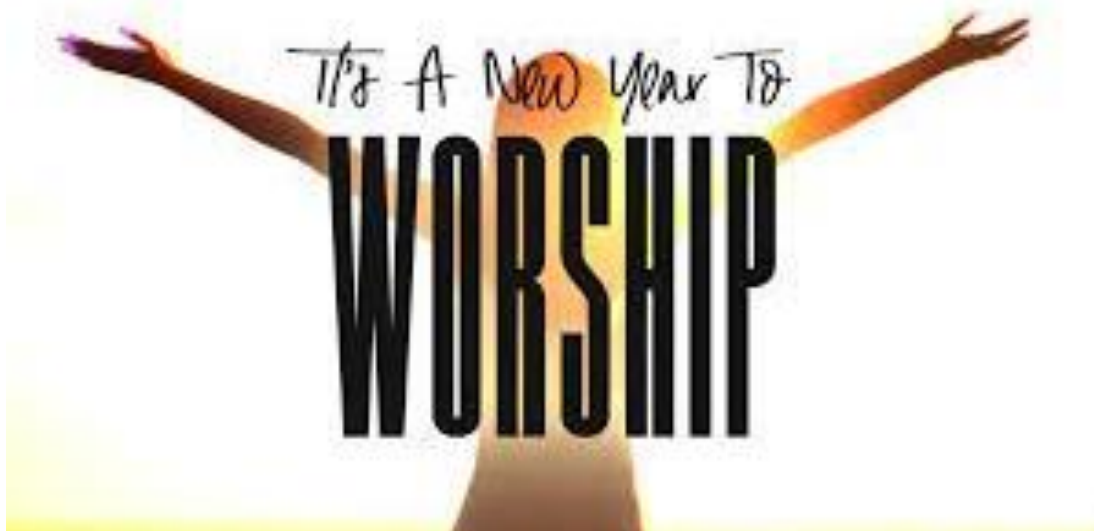
+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

+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. 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!

# EASTER LILIES

We will decorate our sanctuary for Easter!

If you wish to purchase an Easter Lily plant, please complete the following form and place it **AND your check** (made payable to Hill Avenue Grace Lutheran) in an envelope and place it in the offering basket or mail it to the church office.

Please mark your checks for **EASTER LILIES** in the memo line. The cost per plant will be \$15.00.



Please complete the following form by **Wednesday, April 5th.** 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:

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

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

**Questions? Please call the church office at 626-792-4169**

**or email to [office@hillavenuegrace.org](mailto:office@hillavenuegrace.org)**

