

Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2023

Virtual Bulletin with Holy Communion, Every Day God

Hill Avenue Grace Lutheran Church

Rev. Garry Mohr, Interim Pastor

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

Douglas Shabe, Director of Music

Hannah Lee, Organist

Kate Radford, Soloist

Angela Jorgensen, Assistant Minister

Katherine Johnson, Lector

Order of the Liturgy

Prelude *"The Holly and The Ivy"* arr. Robert Schultz

SPECIAL CHOIR MUSIC "Procession"
"Wolcum, Yole" - Benjamin Britten

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS FOR ADVENT

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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.



Hill Ave Grace
Lutheran Church

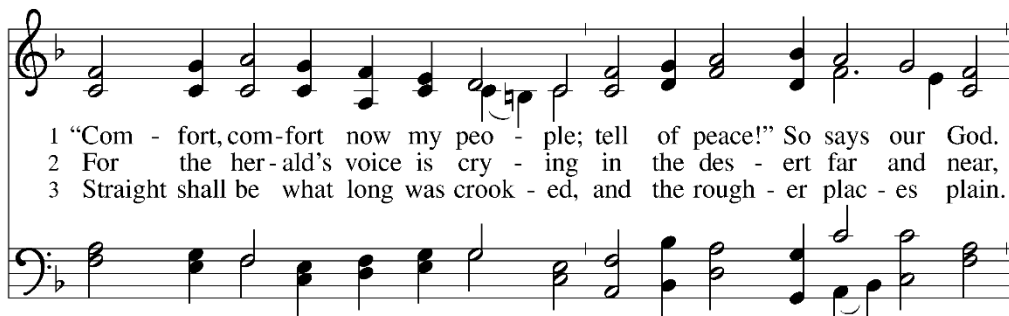
In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

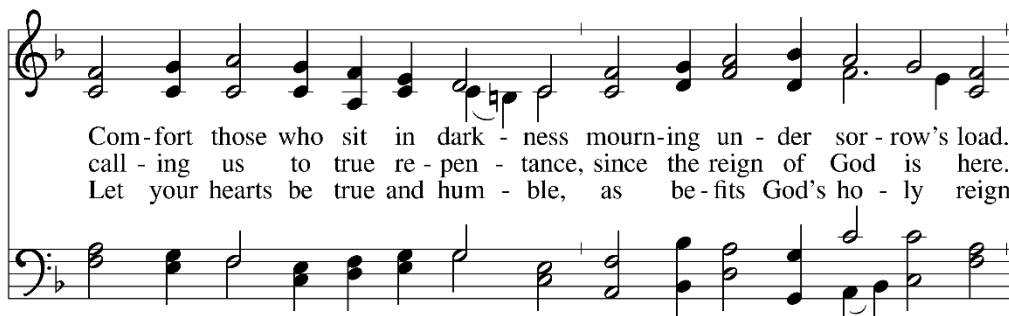
OPENING HYMN

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

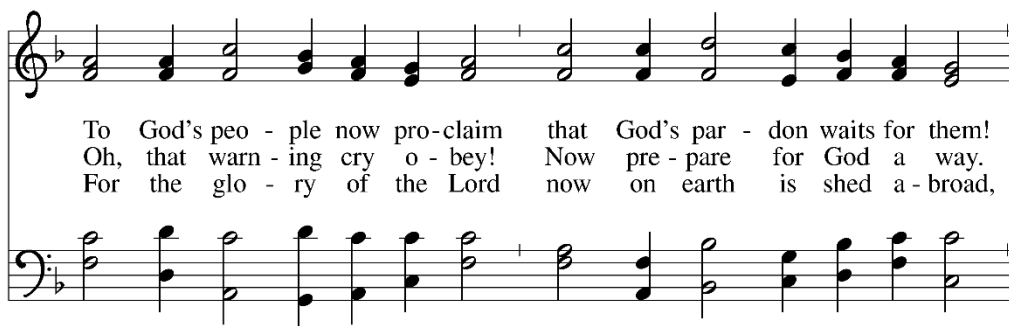
ELW 256



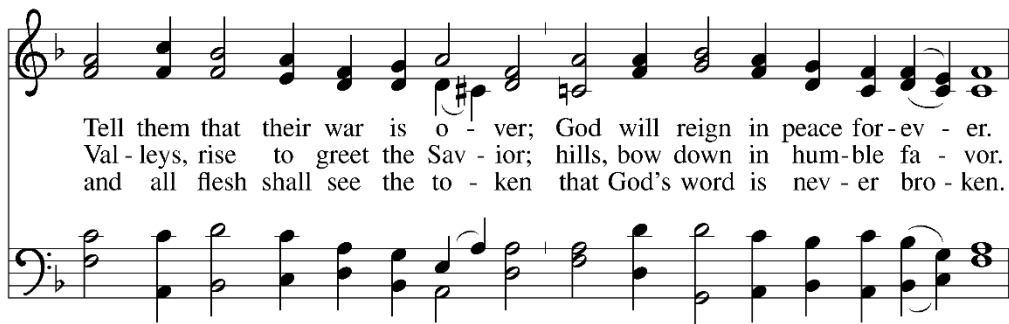
1 “Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!” So says our God.
2 For the her - ald’s voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row’s load.
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God’s ho - ly reign.



To God’s peo - ple now pro-claim that God’s par - don waits for them!
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for - ev - er.
Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum - ble fa - vor.
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God’s word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: FREU DICH SEHR, *Trente quatre psaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551

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: Every Day 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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE 2ND CANDLE

Praise to you, O God, who gives us courage to start again. You fasten righteousness around your waist and baptize with the Holy Spirit's fire. Bless us as we mirror your mighty fire in these simple flames, and teach us to mirror your justice in the paths we prepare. We ask that peace abound, until none hurt or destroy over all the earth. **Amen.**

SPECIAL CHOIR MUSIC

"There is no Rose of Such Virtue"

- arr. Britten

ADVENT HYMN**"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"****ELW 257***Congregation sings verse 3 & 4 only*

3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on Sinai's height

in ancient times you gave the law in cloud, and majesty, and awe.

Refrain

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

- 4 O come, O Branch of Jesse, free your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. *Refrain*

FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:1-11

¹Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her
that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

³A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?"
All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.

⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"

¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

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

PSALM: Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 *The congregation responds with the bold verses.*

¹You have been gracious to your ^l land, O LORD;
you have restored the good for- ^l tune of Jacob.

²**You have forgiven the iniquity ^l of your people and blotted out ^l all their sins.**

⁸I will listen to what the LORD ^l God is saying;
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their ^l hearts to you.

⁹**Truly, your salvation is very near to ^l those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell ^l in our land.**

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have | met together;
righteousness and peace have | kissed each other.

¹¹**Faithfulness shall spring up | from the earth,
and righteousness shall look | down from heaven.**

¹²The LORD will indeed | grant prosperity, and our land will | yield its increase.

¹³**Righteousness shall go be- | fore the LORD and shall prepare for | God a pathway.**

SECOND READING: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

⁸Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance.

¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

¹¹Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ^{15a}and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

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: Mark 1:1-8

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,
“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,’”

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and

he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

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

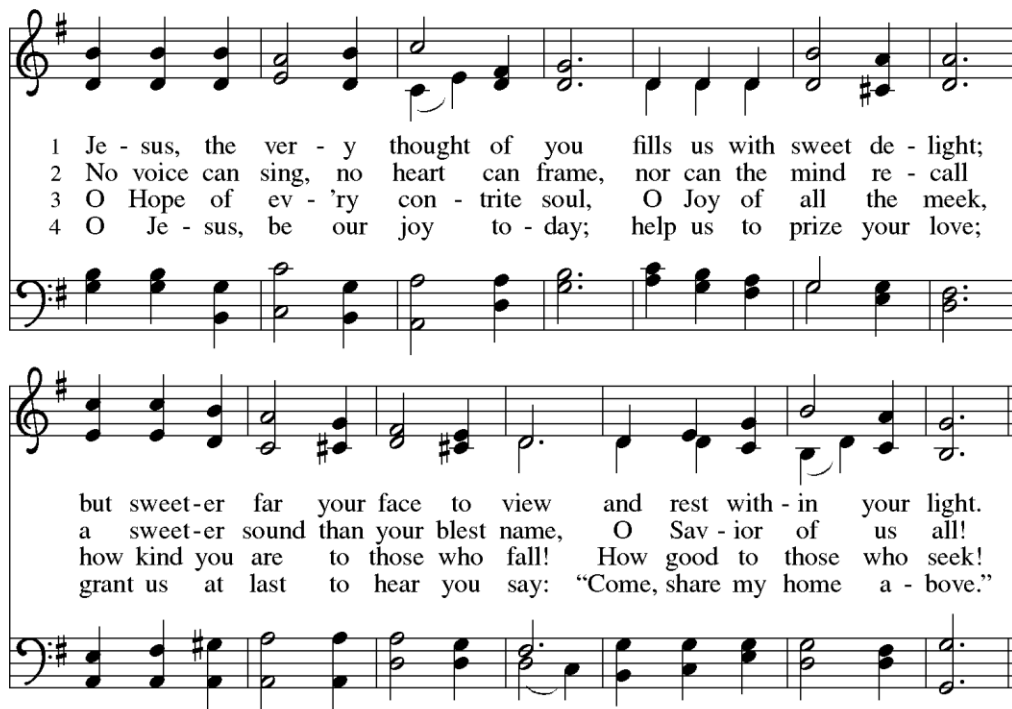
SERMON

Pastor Garry Mohr

HYMN OF THE DAY

Jesus, the Very Thought of You

ELW 754



1 Je - sus, the ver - y thought of you fills us with sweet de - light;
 2 No voice can sing, no heart can frame, nor can the mind re - call
 3 O Hope of ev - 'ry con - trite soul, O Joy of all the meek,
 4 O Je - sus, be our joy to - day; help us to prize your love;

but sweet-er far your face to view and rest with - in your light.
 a sweet-er sound than your blest name, O Sav - ior of us all!
 how kind you are to those who fall! How good to those who seek!
 grant us at last to hear you say: "Come, share my home a - bove."

Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–1878
 Music: ST. AGNES, John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

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***"This Little Babe"*

- Benjamin Britten

OFFERING PRAYER - *All speak the prayer together.*

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVINGThe 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

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and 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.

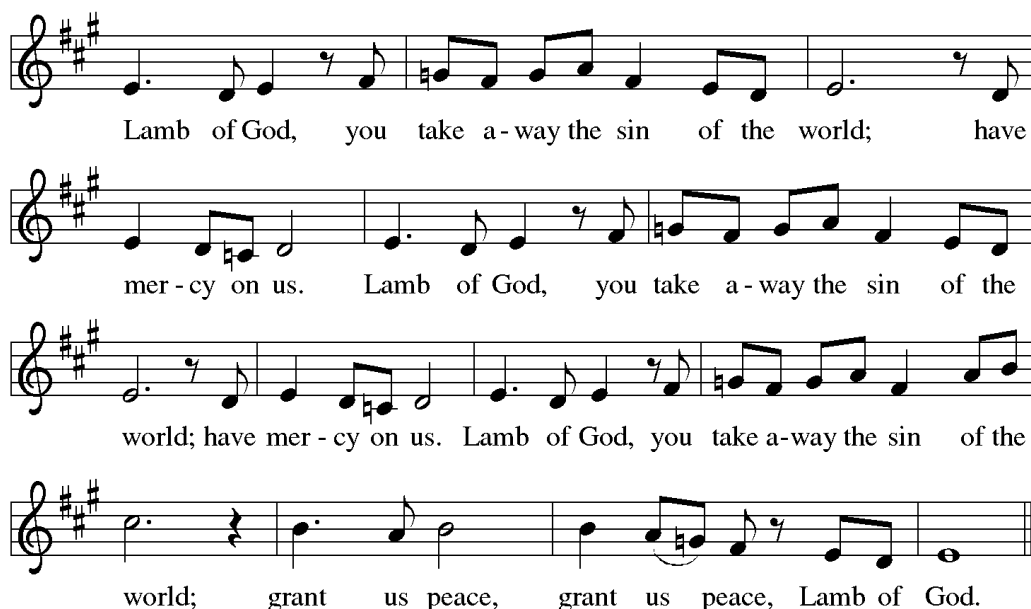
Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

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, 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."***

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Interlude"

- Benjamin Britten

Bonnie Mohr, Harp

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.

Gracious God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together.

Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of hope and salvation, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL BENEDICTION

"The Lord Bless You and Keep You"

- Peter Lutkin

SENDING HYMN

Savior, Again to Your Dear Name

ELW 534 vs 1 & 4

1 Sav - ior, a - gain to your dear name we raise
2 Grant us your peace up - on our home - ward way;
3 Grant us your peace, Lord, through the com - ing night;
4 Grant us your peace through - out our earth - ly life,

with one ac - cord our part - ing hymn of praise;
with you be - gan, with you shall end the day;
for us trans - form its dark - ness in - to light.
our balm in sor - row, and our stay in strife;

once more we bless you ere our wor - ship cease,
guard all the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
Keep us from harm and dan - ger till the dawn;
then, when your voice shall bid our con - flict cease,

then, low - ly bend - ing, wait your word of peace.
that in this house have called up - on your name.
your eve - ning pres - ence prom - ise to your own.
call us, O Lord, to your e - ter - nal peace.

Text: John Ellerton, 1826–1893, alt.
Music: ELLERS, Edward J. Hopkins, 1818–1901; arr. Arthur S. Sullivan, 1842–1900

DISMISSAL

Go in peace; Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God.**

SPECIAL CHOIR MUSIC*"Recession"***Postlude***"Recessional"*

John Turner

This week's altar flowers are given in celebration of the 50th wedding anniversary of Marsha and Steve Green on December 15th. We are Blessed to have wonderful children, Wendy and Eric Mendoza and Amanda Werner, 3 beautiful grandchildren, Alexander, Audrey and Elizabeth. We are grateful for our extended family, dear friends and a special church family.

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Calendar This Week		
Every Sunday	10:00 AM	Virtual & In-Person Worship
Tues 12/12/23	7:00 PM	Virtual Council Meeting
Wed 12/13/23	10:00 AM	Bible Study in the Chapel
Wed 12/13/23	7:00 PM	Mid-week Advent Service – Virtual and In-Person
Thurs 12/14/23	7:00 PM	Choir Practice
Sat 12/16/23	9:30 AM	Food Shelf Open

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Our dear, long-time member, **Shirley Korngiebel passed away to be with her Lord on November 19, 2023.** Her niece, Ilean, was with her and the Solheim staff. Shirley was able to celebrate her 90th birthday on 10/25/23, and she was doing well and enjoyed her special day. The family is grateful for our prayers and for all the wonderful care Shirley received at Solheim since 2015.

Thank you to everyone who helped decorate the sanctuary for this Advent season and the gym for the Advent dinner! It was a wonderful evening! Check out the pictures on our FB page!

Join us for mid-week Advent worship services at 7 pm, for the first 3 Wednesdays of December, either in person or online! We will use the Holden Evening Prayer for this service. The liturgy will be Holden Evening Prayer. The theme for this year's midweek Advent worship is Hopeful Anticipation.

We will be having **Christmas Eve service in-person and online at 5 pm on the 24th**, so please mark your calendar!

The Hill Avenue Grace Food Shelf needs volunteers! We're looking for new, friendly faces to help distribute food on Saturday mornings from 9:30 – 11:30 AM. You can help out as often or as little as you want. If you're open to hearing more, please contact Angela Jorgensen at foodshelf@hillavenuegrace.org.

The **2024 Offering books** are now available. If you received one last year, please look for your book in the narthex, or contact the office to arrange a pick-up. If you'd like an Offering book for 2024, contact the office and a book will find it's way to you!!

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

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+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

Meeting ID: 950 0759 0439

Passcode: 4584517

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We are back to joining at the altar for communion. We will be going up the center aisle and returning down the side aisles. If you are not comfortable with that, pick up a communion set at the table in the narthex 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.

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 **WEDNESDAY, December 20th**.

That is the absolute deadline. Thank you!

I am donating \$ _____ for the following:

In memory of:

In honor of:

In thanksgiving for:

Other:

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

Envelope Number _____