

## Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 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

Steve Rose, Assistant Minister

Kristin Johnson, Lector

### Order of the Liturgy

Prelude

*"In the Bleak Midwinter"*

arr. Daniel Light

### 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.**

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.**



Hill Ave Grace  
Lutheran Church

## OPENING HYMN

## Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;  
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;  
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ring bore,  
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.  
 go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.  
 shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.  
 a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.

The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing night.  
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.  
 A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;  
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.  
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.  
 in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.  
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907  
 Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

## 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>  <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 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 OF THE 3<sup>RD</sup> CANDLE**

Praise to you, O God, who holds our joy and sorrow. You bring water to parched ground and life out of death. Bless us as this light grows, and send sorrow and sighing to flee away. Give us strength and patience, trusting that you are true to your promises. Transform the lives of all who suffer with your wonders near at hand. **Amen.**

**ADVENT HYMN****“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”****ELW 257***Congregation sings verse 5 & 6 only*

5 O come, O Key of David, come, and open wide our heav'nly home;  
 make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.

*Refrain*

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

- 6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer; O Sun of justice, now draw near.  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*

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

- <sup>1</sup>The 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;  
<sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
<sup>3</sup>to 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.  
<sup>4</sup>They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.  
  
<sup>8</sup>For 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.  
<sup>9</sup>Their 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.  
<sup>10</sup>I 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.  
<sup>11</sup>For 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 verses.*

- <sup>1</sup>When the LORD restored the for- | tunes of Zion, then were we like | those who dream.  
<sup>2</sup>**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."**  
<sup>3</sup>The LORD has done great | things for us, and we are | glad indeed.  
<sup>4</sup>**Restore our for- | tunes, O LORD, like the watercourses | of the Negeb.**  
<sup>5</sup>Those who | sowed with tears will reap with | songs of joy.  
<sup>6</sup>**Those who go out weeping, carry- | ing the seed,**  
**will come again with joy, shoulder- | ing their sheaves.**

**SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**

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

<sup>23</sup>May 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. <sup>24</sup>The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

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: Luke 1:46b-55**

<sup>46</sup>And Mary said,  
"My soul magnifies the Lord,  
<sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
<sup>48</sup>for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
<sup>49</sup>for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.  
<sup>50</sup>His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.  
<sup>51</sup>He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.  
<sup>52</sup>He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;  
<sup>53</sup>he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.  
<sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
<sup>55</sup>according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

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

**SERMON**

Pastor Garry Mohr

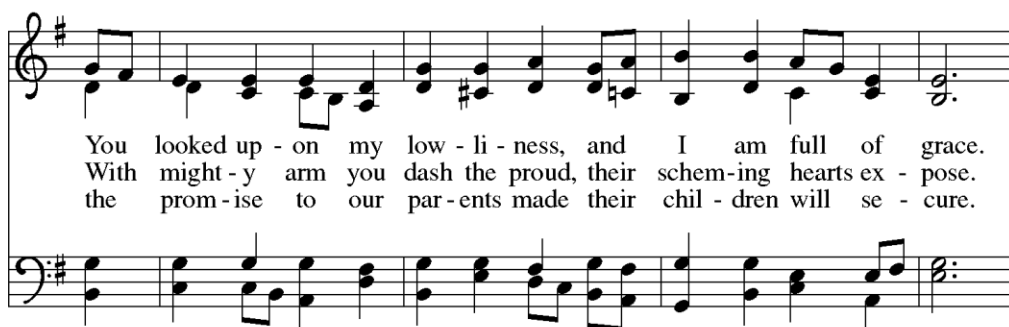
## HYMN OF THE DAY

## My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness

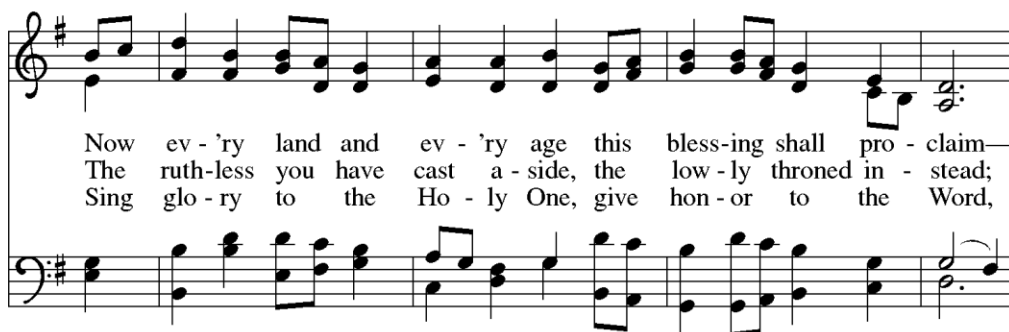
ELW 251



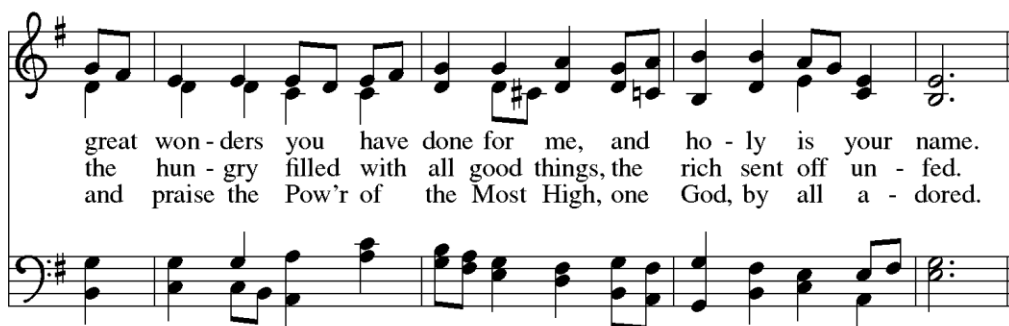
1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior's praise!  
 2 To all who live in ho - ly fear your mer - cy ev - er flows.  
 3 To Is - ra - el, your ser - vant blest, your help is ev - er sure;



You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.  
 With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem - ing hearts ex - pose.  
 the prom - ise to our par - ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.



Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless - ing shall pro - claim—  
 The ruth - less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;  
 Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,



great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.  
 the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.  
 and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

Text: *With One Voice*, 1995, based on the Magnificat  
 Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958  
 Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.  
 Outside USA: Arr. from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906. All rights reserved.

## 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

**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 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

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

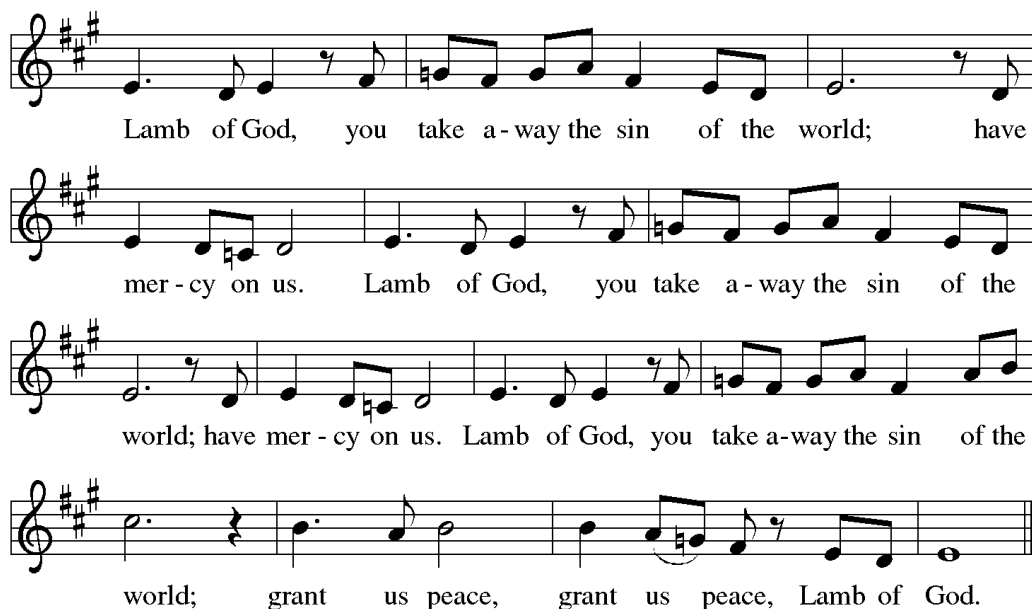
**Our Father, who art in heaven hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**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.”***



**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****BLESSING**

May the Lord bless you, may the Lord keep you, the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and grant you his peace. In the name of the Father, the  $\dagger$  Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN****On Our Way Rejoicing****ELW 537**


1 On our way re - joic - ing glad - ly let us go.  
2 Un - to God the Fa - ther joy - ful songs we sing;

Christ our Lord has con - quered; van - quished is the foe.  
un - to God the Sav - ior thank - ful hearts we bring;

Christ with - out, our safe - ty; Christ with - in, our joy;  
un - to God the Spir - it bow we and a - dore,

who, if we be faith - ful, can our hope de - stroy?  
on our way re - joic - ing now and ev - er - more.

*Refrain*

On our way re - joic - ing; as we for - ward move,  
 hear-ken to our prais - es, O blest God of love!

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811–1875, alt.  
 Music: HERMAS, Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace; Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

*“Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing”*

Johann Löhner

*This week’s altar flowers are given by Kris Pilon & Dave Cuatt in memory of Theodulf of Orleans (750–821), who wrote the hymn "All Glory Laud and Honor".*

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Calendar This Week		
Every Sunday	10:00 AM	Virtual & In-Person Worship
Wed 12/20/23	10:00 AM	Bible Study in the Chapel
Wed 12/20/23	7:00 PM	Mid-week Advent Service – Virtual and In-Person
Thurs 12/21/23	7:00 PM	Choir Practice
Sat 12/23/23	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.

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 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 24<sup>th</sup>**, 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](mailto:foodshelf@hillavenuegrace.org).

**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. 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 for submissions is December 20<sup>th</sup>!!

**Thank you to the ladies who participated in the Thank Offering collection.** Donations will be accepted until the end of year, and a meeting will be called in January to decide where to donate the money. The amount received has been overwhelming and heartening!!

**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 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 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:

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

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