

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 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

Anita Mork, Assistant Minister

Bonnie Mohr, Lector

### Order of the Liturgy

Prelude *"The First Noel"* (Traditional English Carol) arr. Kevin Olson

#### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS FOR ADVENT

In the name of the Father, and of the  $\text{✝}$  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



Hill Ave Grace  
Lutheran Church

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

ELW 239

### Hark, the Glad Sound!

1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior  
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's  
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing  
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come

prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -  
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be -  
 soul to cure, and with the trea - sures  
 shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal

pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.  
 fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.  
 of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
 arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751  
 Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

## 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><br/> <b>Everyday God</b><br/> <i>Loving Maker</i><br/> <b>O Jesus</b><br/> <i>You who shaped us</i><br/> <b>O spirit,</b><br/> <i>Recreate us,</i><br/> <b>Come be with us.</b></p>           | <p><i>God of laughter,</i><br/> <b>Everyday God</b><br/> <i>God of sorrow,</i><br/> <b>O Jesus,</b><br/> <i>God of shelter,</i><br/> <b>O Spirit,</b><br/> <i>Strong and patient,</i><br/> <b>Come be with us.</b></p>     | <p><i>Alleluia,</i><br/> <b>Everyday God</b><br/> <i>Now and always,</i><br/> <b>O Jesus,</b><br/> <i>Alleluia,</i><br/> <b>O spirit,</b><br/> <i>Through the ages.</i><br/> <b>Come be with us.</b></p> |
| <p><i>In your presence,</i><br/> <b>Everyday God</b><br/> <i>We are gathered.</i><br/> <b>O Jesus,</b><br/> <i>You have called us,</i><br/> <b>O Spirit,</b><br/> <i>To restore us,</i><br/> <b>Come be with us.</b></p> | <p><i>Word of gladness,</i><br/> <b>Everyday God</b><br/> <i>Word of mercy,</i><br/> <b>O Jesus,</b><br/> <i>Word of friendship,</i><br/> <b>O Spirit,</b><br/> <i>Word of challenge,</i><br/> <b>Come be with us.</b></p> | <p><i>Bernadette Farrell</i><br/> <i>Restless is the Heart</i></p>   |
| <p><i>In our dreaming,</i><br/> <b>Everyday God</b><br/> <i>In our daring.</i><br/> <b>O Jesus,</b><br/> <i>In our searching.</i><br/> <b>O Spirit,</b><br/> <i>In our sharing,</i><br/> <b>Come be with us.</b></p>     | <p><i>Our beginning,</i><br/> <b>Everyday God</b><br/> <i>Our Unfolding,</i><br/> <b>O Jesus,</b><br/> <i>Our enduring,</i><br/> <b>O Spirit</b><br/> <i>Journey's ending,</i><br/> <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 would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.****LIGHTING OF THE 4<sup>TH</sup> CANDLE**

Praise to you, O God, who lives with us, sharing our flesh and bones. As Mary waited and Joseph dreamed, so we dream and wait for you. Bless us and let your face shine upon us, more radiant than these candles, and more dear than all else we seek. Restore us when we fail to refuse the evil and choose the good, and banish all our fears. We pray in the name of Emmanuel, your promised child and our Savior.

**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: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16**

<sup>1</sup>Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, <sup>2</sup>the king said to the prophet Nathan, “See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.” <sup>3</sup>Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you.”

<sup>4</sup>But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: <sup>5</sup>Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? <sup>6</sup>I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. <sup>7</sup>Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?” <sup>8</sup>Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; <sup>9</sup>and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. <sup>10</sup>And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup>from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. <sup>16</sup>Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

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

**PSALM: Luke 1:46b-55** *The congregation responds with the bold verses.*

<sup>46b</sup>My soul proclaims the greatness <sup>1</sup> of the Lord, <sup>47</sup>my spirit rejoices in <sup>1</sup> God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup>**for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your <sup>1</sup> lowly servant.**

**From this day all generations will <sup>1</sup> call me blessed:**

<sup>49</sup>you, the Almighty, have done great <sup>1</sup> things for me and holy <sup>1</sup> is your name.

<sup>50</sup>**You have mercy on <sup>1</sup> those who fear you, from generation to <sup>1</sup> generation.**

<sup>51</sup>You have shown strength <sup>1</sup> with your arm and scattered the proud in <sup>1</sup> their conceit,

<sup>52</sup>**casting down the mighty <sup>1</sup> from their thrones and lifting <sup>1</sup> up the lowly.**

<sup>53</sup>You have filled the hungry <sup>1</sup> with good things and sent the rich <sup>1</sup> away empty.

<sup>54</sup>**You have come to the aid of your** | **servant Israel, to remember the prom-** | **ise of mercy,**  
<sup>55</sup>the promise made | to our forebears, to Abraham and his chil- | dren forever.

## **SECOND READING: Romans 16:25-27**

<sup>25</sup>Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages <sup>26</sup>but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—<sup>27</sup>to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

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 1:26-38**

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth,  
<sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” <sup>35</sup>The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God.” <sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

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

## **SERMON**

Pastor Garry Mohr

## HYMN OF THE DAY

## Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

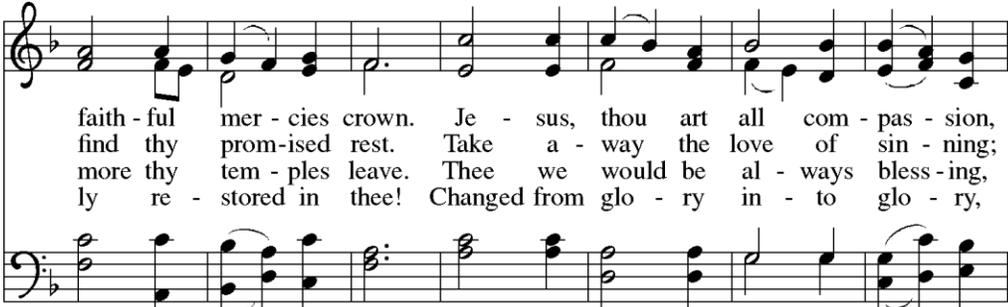
ELW 631



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to  
 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry  
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy  
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less



earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy  
 trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us  
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -  
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,  
 find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;  
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,  
 ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,



pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with  
 Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as  
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee  
 till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.  
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

## 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

*"Still, Still, Still"*

Traditional Austrian/arr. Norman Luboff

**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

ELW 267

### Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748  
 Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace; Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

*“Joy to the World”*

arr. Kevin Olson

*This week’s altar flowers are given by Karen McClure, to the Glory of God.*

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| Calendar This Week |          |   |
|--------------------|----------|---|
| Every Sunday       | 10:00 AM | Virtual & In-Person Worship               |
| Sun 12/24/23       | 4:30 PM  | Christmas Eve Virtual & In-Person Worship |
| Sat 12/30/23       | 9:30 AM  | Food Shelf Open                           |

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

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!!

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! Come early to hear the festive prelude.

**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).

**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!!

**Have you had training in the Stephen Ministries?** Would you like to learn more? Contact the office or Pastor Garry to find out how you can get involved! Stephen Ministers are lay congregation members trained to provide one-to-one care to those experiencing a difficult time in life, such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, or relocation.

**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**

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**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!