Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

January 28, 2024 Virtual Bulletin with Holy Communion, Setting VI Hill Avenue Grace Lutheran Church Rev. Garry Mohr, Interim Pastor Douglas Shabe, Director of Music Hannah Lee, Organist Kate Radford, Soloist Angela Jorgensen, Assistant Minister Lija Kalejs, Lector Bonnie Mohr & Shirley Gudal, Sunday School

Order of the Liturgy

Prelude

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

arr. Victor Labenske

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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.**



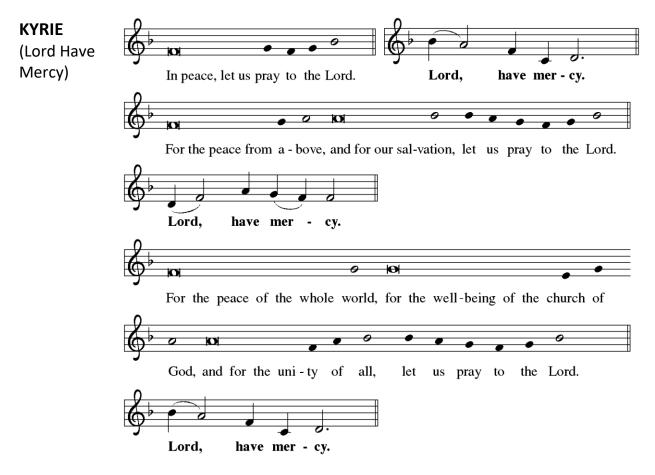
73 N. Hill Avenue • Pasadena, CA 91106 • 626-792-4169 • <u>www.hillavenuegrace.org</u> www.hillavenuegrace.org • Facebook.com/HillAvenueGrace Rise, Shine, You People!

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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.





PRAYER OF THE DAY

Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

[Moses said:] ¹⁵The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." ¹⁷Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 111 *The congregation responds with the bold verses.*

- ¹Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with ^I my whole heart,
 - in the assembly of the upright, in the ¹ congregation.
- ²Great are your [|] works, O LORD, pondered by all who de- [|] light in them.
- ³Majesty and splendor ¹ mark your deeds, and your righteousness en- ¹ dures forever.
- ⁴You cause your wonders to ¹ be remembered; you are gracious and full ¹ of compassion. ⁵You give food to ¹ those who fear you, remembering forev- ¹ er your covenant.
- ⁶You have shown your people the power ¹ of your works
 - in giving them the lands | of the nations.
- ⁷The works of your hands are faithful- ¹ ness and justice; all of your pre- ¹ cepts are sure.
- ⁸They stand fast forev-¹ er and ever, because they are done in ¹ truth and equity.
- ⁹You sent redemption to your people and commanded your cove-¹ nant forever; holy and awesome ¹ is your name.
- ¹⁰The fear of the LORD is the begin- ¹ ning of wisdom;
 - all who practice this have a good understanding. God's praise en- [|] dures forever.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

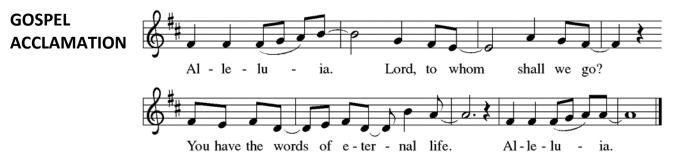
¹Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³but anyone who loves God is known by him.

⁴Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "no idol in the world really exists," and that "there is no God but one." ⁵Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—⁶yet for us there is one

God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

⁷It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸"Food will not bring us close to God." We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? ¹¹So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹²But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.



GOSPEL: Mark 1:21-28

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

¹⁶As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

The Gospel of our Lord. Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Pastor Garry Mohr

O Savior, Precious Savior

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Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879 Music: ANGEL'S STORY, Arthur H. Mann, 1850–1929

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 "Lord, in your mercy." The assembly responds with "hear 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

"To Thee O Lord"

- Sergei Rachmaninoff

OFFERING PRAYER - All speak the prayer together.

Merciful Father, the magi brought gifts to your Son, the Babe of Bethlehem. Graciously accept our gifts, given to glorify and worship Christ our Savior, and to bring healing and hope to the people he came to redeem. 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, Lord God of pow-er and might, full of your glo heav en and earth are ry. Ho san - na the high Bless - ed is he in est. who comes in the name of the Lord. 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,

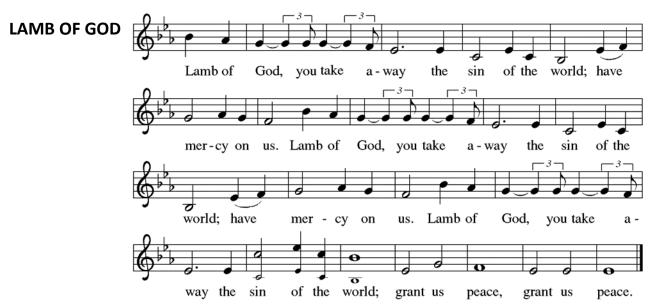
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

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.



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."**

COMMUNION HYMN

"Son of God, Eternal Savior"

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.

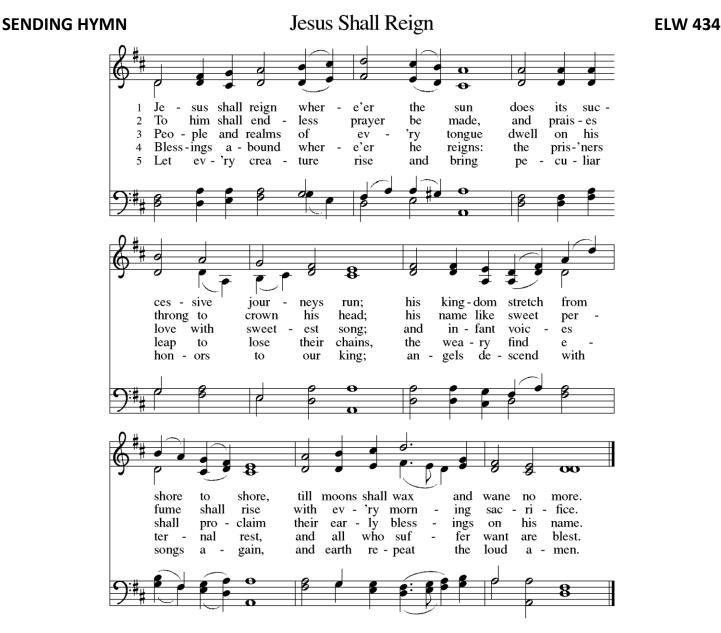
PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION - All speak the prayer together.

Gracious heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of your dear Son, given to us in this holy Sacrament. Strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you, and in fervent love toward one another. This we ask in the name of your Son Jesus Christ, our Light and our Life. 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 + Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**



Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt. Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

DISMISSAL

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

This Sunday's altar flowers are dedicated by Karen DeGilio to the Glory of God & in loving memory of my husband Mike's January 27th birthday!!

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Calendar This Week			
Every Sunday	10:00 AM	Virtual & In-Person Worship Service	
Sun 1/28/24	After Service	Annual Congregational Meeting	
Wed 1/31/24	10:00 AM	Bible Study in the Chapel	
Wed 1/31/24	7:00 PM	Bible Study - Virtual & in the Chapel	
Thurs 2/1/24	7:00 PM	Choir Practice	
Sat 2/3/24	9:30 AM	Food Shelf Open	

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Our **Annual Congregational Meeting is scheduled for Sunday January 28, 2024** immediately following our 10:00 AM worship service. Please mark your calendar, and plan to join us! At our Annual Meeting we'll **review our Financials and discuss and approve the Budget for 2024**.

We are also proposing a change to our Constitution to allow for flexibility in scheduling annual meeting dates (sometimes it's difficult to close out the financials for the year and have enough time to prepare), as well as a recommendation to add an additional Council position: Immediate Past President as an Ex Officio voting member. This position would help support the council in transition years, and offer historical knowledge and experience. As usual, we will also vote on the Council positions for 2024.

Please contact the office if you need a hard-copy of this year's annual report.

Complete the Time and Talent Survey for 2024! We ask our fellow HAGL members and friends to take a few moments to look at the opportunities to use your skills and gifts to serve. We all have an opportunity to share these gifts from God and help others in a variety of ways. Check out the survey in the narthex or contact the office for a copy! Please send in your responses in person, by mail or email to the office by January 31st!

This year's Stewardship drive is underway. Please complete 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. We also have blank pledge forms in the narthex along with envelopes so you can complete one today and drop it in the offering plate. Or contact the office for a copy! Thank you for your continued support of this special place we call HAGL!!

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.

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-toone care to those experiencing a difficult time in life, such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, or relocation.

A Stephen Minister typically has one care receiver at a time and meets with that person once a week for about an hour. **Training courses will be provided** so you have all the tools you need to bring Christ's love and care to people during a time of need.



Mark your calendars:

Wed	2/14/24	Ash Wednesday
Sun	3/24/24	Palm Sunday
Sun	3/31/24	Easter Sunday

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 worshiping together!

Join Zoom Meeting https://zoom.us/j/95007590439?pwd=M2NmMUZCZzhMOUY0SG8xeHpxcU5RUT09 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)
+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago) +1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

Meeting ID: 950 0759 0439

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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!