

## Second Sunday in Lent

February 25, 2024

### Virtual Bulletin with Holy Communion, Setting IV

Hill Avenue Grace Lutheran Church

Rev. Garry Mohr, Interim Pastor

Douglas Shabe, Director of Music

Hannah Lee, Organist

Kate Radford, Soprano

Steve Rose, Assistant Minister

Steve Rose, Lector

Natalie Russell & Shirley Gudal, Sunday School

### Order of the Liturgy

Prelude

*"Purify My Heart"*

arr. Jeff Nelson

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son  $\text{✝}$ , and of the Holy Spirit: **Amen.**

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,

**Have mercy and hear us. Though we are poor sinful creatures, have mercy and hear us.**

**Though we have turned from you and grieved you, have mercy and hear us. Though we have hardened our hearts against you and against our sisters and brothers, have mercy and hear us. Though we deserve judgment, wrath, and condemnation, for the sake of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy and hear us. Forgive us, heal us, and save us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

God hates nothing that he has made and forgives the sins of all those who are penitent. He shall create in us new and contrite hearts, so that we who worthily lament our sins and acknowledge our wretchedness, may receive from him, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness. This he promises through Jesus Christ, his Son, who is our Lord, our Savior, and our righteousness forever. **Amen.**



Hill Ave Grace  
Lutheran Church

## OPENING HYMN

## Chief of Sinners Though I Be

ELW 609

1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed his blood for me,  
 2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love! High - er than the heav'ns a - bove,  
 3 On - ly Je - sus can im - part balm to heal the wound - ed heart,  
 4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in all to me;  
 5 O my Sav - ior, help af - ford by your Spir - it and your word!

died that I might live on high, lives that I might nev - er die.  
 deep - er than the depths of sea, last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty.  
 peace that flows from sin for - giv'n, joy that lifts the soul to heav'n,  
 all my wants to him are known, all my sor - rows are his own.  
 When my way - ward heart would stray, keep me in the nar - row way;

As the branch is to the vine, I am his, and he is mine.  
 Love that found me—won - drous thought—found me when I sought him not.  
 faith and hope to walk with God in the way that E - noch trod.  
 He sus - tains the hid - den life safe with him from earth - ly strife.  
 grace in time of need sup - ply while I live and when I die.

Text: William McComb, 1793–1870  
 Music: GETHSEMANE, Richard Redhead, 1820–1901

## GREETING

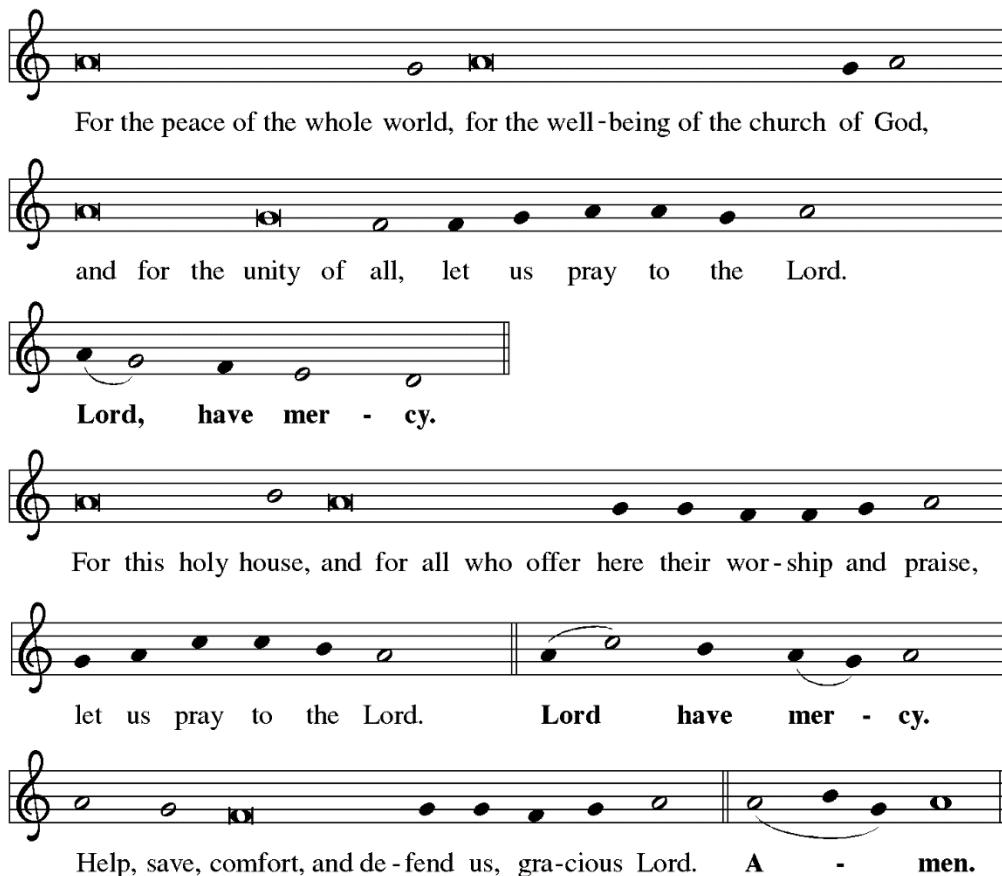
The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ; the love of God; and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

## 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

O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### FIRST READING: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

<sup>1</sup>When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. <sup>2</sup>And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." <sup>3</sup>Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, <sup>4</sup>"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>5</sup>No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>6</sup>I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. <sup>7</sup>I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you."

<sup>15</sup>God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. <sup>16</sup>I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

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

**PSALM: Psalm 22:23-31** *The congregation responds with the bold verses.*

<sup>23</sup>You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's <sup>1</sup> line, give glory.

Stand in awe of the LORD, all you off- <sup>1</sup> spring of Israel.

<sup>24</sup>**For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the LORD's face hid- <sup>1</sup> den from them; but when they cry out, <sup>1</sup> the LORD hears them.**

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the <sup>1</sup> great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who <sup>1</sup> fear the LORD.

<sup>26</sup>**The poor shall eat <sup>1</sup> and be satisfied,**

**Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts <sup>1</sup> live forever!**

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn <sup>1</sup> to the LORD;

all the families of nations shall bow <sup>1</sup> before God.

<sup>28</sup>**For dominion belongs <sup>1</sup> to the LORD, who rules o- <sup>1</sup> ver the nations.**

<sup>29</sup>Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow <sup>1</sup> down in worship;

all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel be- <sup>1</sup> fore the LORD.

<sup>30</sup>**Their descendants shall <sup>1</sup> serve the LORD,**

**whom they shall proclaim to genera- <sup>1</sup> tions to come.**

<sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people <sup>1</sup> yet unborn,

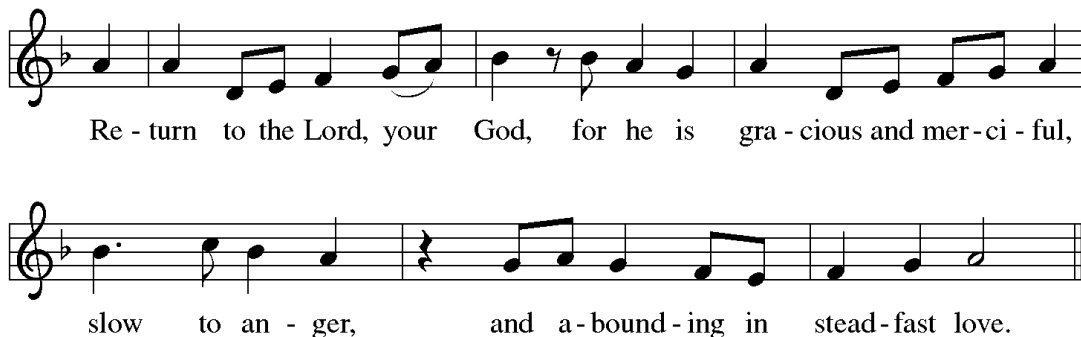
saying to them, "The <sup>1</sup> LORD has acted!"

## **SECOND READING: Romans 4:13-25**

<sup>13</sup>The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup>If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

<sup>16</sup>For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup>as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. <sup>18</sup>Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." <sup>19</sup>He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. <sup>20</sup>No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, <sup>21</sup>being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. <sup>22</sup>Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." <sup>23</sup>Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, <sup>24</sup>but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, <sup>25</sup>who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

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: Mark 8:31-38**

<sup>31</sup>[Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup>He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup>But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

<sup>34</sup>He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. <sup>36</sup>For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup>Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup>Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

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

**SERMON**

Pastor Garry Mohr

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

ELW 729

### The Church of Christ, in Every Age



1 The church of Christ, in ev - 'ry age be - set by  
2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the vic - tims  
3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a car - ing  
4 For he a - lone, whose blood was shed, can cure the  
5 We have no mis - sion but to serve in full o -

change, but Spir - it - led, must claim and test its  
of in - jus - tice cry for shel - ter and for  
church that longs to be a part - ner in Christ's  
fe - ver in our blood, and teach us how to  
be - dience to our Lord; to care for all, with -

her - i - tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.  
bread to eat, and nev - er live be - fore they die.  
sac - ri - fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.  
share our bread and feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.  
out re - serve, and spread his lib - er - at - ing word.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000  
Music: WAREHAM, William Knapp, 1698–1768  
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## 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

*"God So Loved the World"*

- John Stainer

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

**O Lord, let all I say and do be done as you want. Give me what you want; put me where you want; and use me freely in all things. Lord, may your holy will be behind all my actions and desires. May I always want and seek what is most pleasing to you. Amen.**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

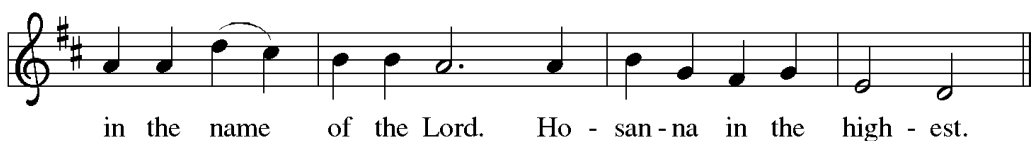
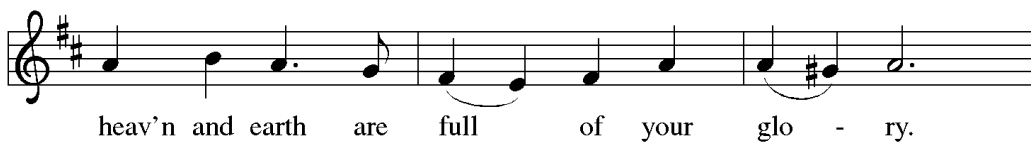
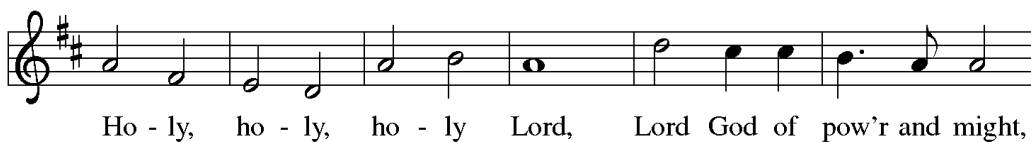
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**PREFACE**

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

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY****HOLY COMMUNION****WORDS OF INSTITUTION****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.**

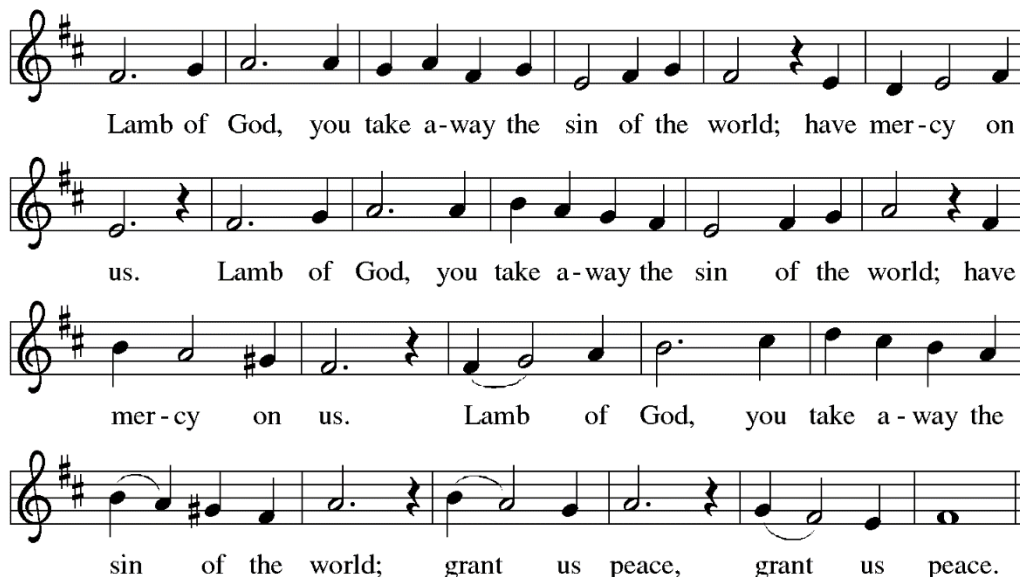
**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,**

**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.**

**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.*

**You have given your only Son to be for us both a sacrifice for sin and also an example of godly life. Give us grace that we may always most thankfully receive these his precious gifts, and also daily endeavor to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.**



## 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!

**DISMISSAL**

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

**Postlude**

*“Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing”*

arr. Terry Osman

*This week’s altar flowers are given by Ken & Gretchen Sterling, in celebration of the beginning of our 106th year ahead at Hill Avenue and spreading our Spirit throughout the community. All are God's children here in this Place.*

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Calendar This Week		
Every Sunday	10:00 AM	Virtual & In-Person Worship Service
Wed 2/28/24	10:00 AM	Bible Study in the Chapel
Wed 2/28/24	7:00 PM	Mid-Week Lent Virtual & In-Person Service
Thurs 2/29/24	7:00 PM	Choir Practice
Sat 3/2/24	9:30 AM	Food Shelf Open

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Lent began on Wednesday, February 14.** We will have Mid-week Lent services at 7 PM, both in person and available via Zoom and FB live, **Wednesdays from 2/21 through 3/20.**

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 "Journey with Jesus."

**Dick Branson joined the Church Triumphant** on 2/10/24. He passed away peacefully to be with His Lord, surrounded by family and friends who encouraged each other with love and faith. Dick will be cremated, and a memorial service is being planned for Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup>. Stay tuned for details on how you can help, or contact the office to volunteer!

**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 **February 25th!**

**Upcoming Events:**

Palm Sunday—March 24

Maundy Thursday—March 28

Good Friday—March 29

Easter Sunday—March 31

**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 email [foodshelf@hillavenuegrace.org](mailto:foodshelf@hillavenuegrace.org).

**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**

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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!

# 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 \$16.50.



Please complete the following form by **Sunday, March 24th.** 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)**

