

## Third Sunday of Advent – Music Sunday

December 15, 2024

Virtual Bulletin with Holy Communion, Every Day God

Hill Avenue Grace Lutheran Church

Rev. Garry Mohr, Interim Pastor

Douglas Shabe, Director of Music

Hannah Lee, Organist

Jessica Sandidge, Soprano

Anita Mork, Assistant Minister

Bonnie Henry, Lector

Natalie Russell and Shirley Gudal, Sunday School

### Order of the Liturgy

### GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude

*"The Holly and The Ivy"*

arr. Robert Schultz

### 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.**

### SPECIAL MUSIC

*"Candlelight Carol"*

- John Rutter

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS FOR ADVENT

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, 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 sin against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God,

**we confess to you with our whole heart our neglect and forgetfulness of your commandments: our wrong thinking, speaking, and acting; the hurts we have done to**



Hill Ave Grace  
Lutheran Church

others; and the good we have left undone. O God, forgive us, for we have sinned against you. Raise us to newness of life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hear this promise of Almighty God: He prepares in our hearts a royal highway for his Son's near approach, and cleanses us from all our sins. He drives away the darkness of sin and death, that we may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## OPENING HYMN

## Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

ELW 242



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for  
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -  
 3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when  
 4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for  
 man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is  
 all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so  
 dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.  
 qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;  
 qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.  
 crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -  
 mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -  
 Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in  
 Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and  
 kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to  
 won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and  
 sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.  
 shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.  
 weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.  
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

**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 preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **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*

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

*"The Wexford Carol"*

- Trad. Irish/arr. Helvey

**FIRST READING: Zephaniah 3:14-20**

<sup>14</sup> Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!

<sup>15</sup> The LORD has taken away the judgments against you; he has turned away your enemies.  
The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more.

<sup>16</sup> On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Do not fear, O Zion;  
do not let your hands grow weak.

<sup>17</sup> The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory;  
he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will renew you in his love;  
he will exult over you with loud singing <sup>18</sup> as on a day of festival."  
I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it.

<sup>19</sup> I will deal with all your oppressors at that time.

And I will save the lame and gather the outcast,  
and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.

<sup>20</sup> At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you;  
for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth,  
when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

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

**PSALM: Isaiah 12:2-6** *The congregation responds with the bold verses.*

<sup>2</sup> Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not <sup>1</sup> be afraid,  
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become <sup>1</sup> my salvation.

<sup>3</sup> **With joy you <sup>1</sup> will draw water from the wells <sup>1</sup> of salvation.**

<sup>4</sup> And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call <sup>1</sup> on God's name; make known the  
deeds of the LORD among the nations; proclaim that this name <sup>1</sup> is exalted.

<sup>5</sup> **Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done <sup>1</sup> gloriously; let this be known in <sup>1</sup> all the earth.**

<sup>6</sup> Shout aloud and sing for joy, O <sup>1</sup> royal Zion,  
for great in your midst is the Holy <sup>1</sup> One of Israel.

**SECOND READING: Philippians 4:4-7**

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be known to  
everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer  
and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace  
of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ  
Jesus.

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

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
 words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**GOSPEL: Luke 3:7-18**

<sup>7</sup> John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup> Therefore, bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup> Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

<sup>10</sup> And the crowds asked him, “What, then, should we do?” <sup>11</sup> In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none, and whoever has food must do likewise.” <sup>12</sup> Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” <sup>13</sup> He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.”

<sup>14</sup> Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

<sup>15</sup> As the people were filled with expectation and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup> John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

<sup>18</sup> So with many other exhortations he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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

**SERMON**

Pastor Garry Mohr

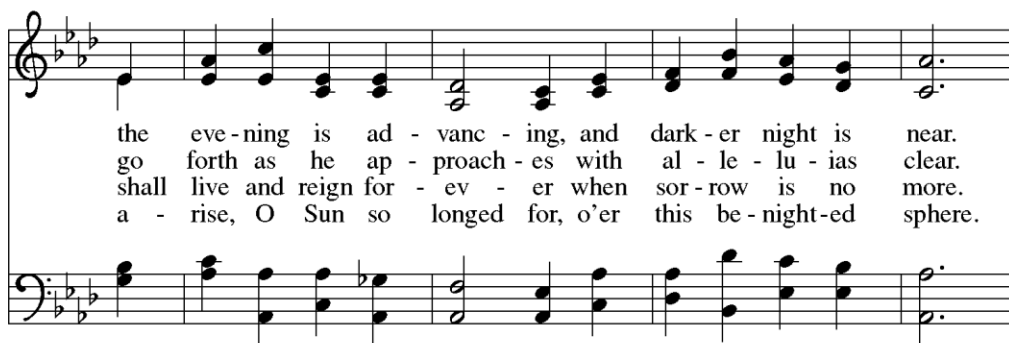
## HYMN OF THE DAY

## Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

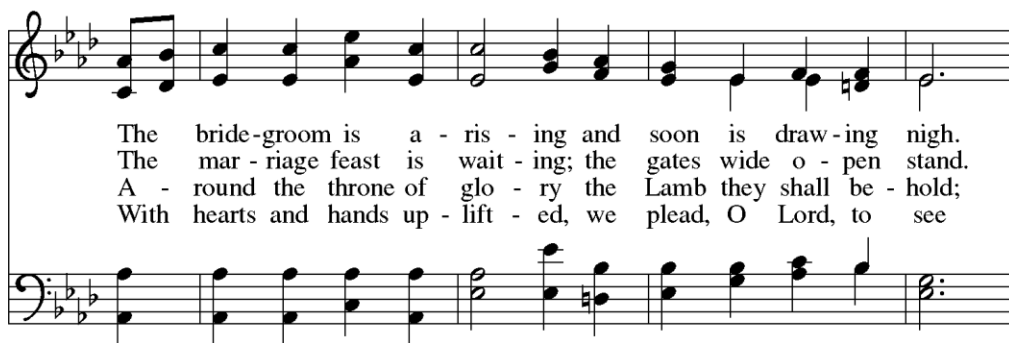
ELW 244



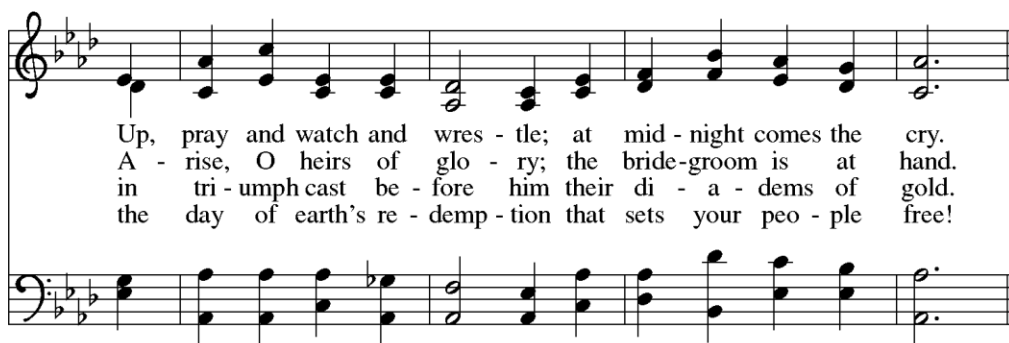
1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;  
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;  
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ings bore,  
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



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 nigh.  
 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

## 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

"Silent Night"

-Mohr, Gruber/arr. Polay

Douglas Shabe, Jessica Sandidge, soloists

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

Holy God, receive these tokens of our love for you. Make them holy, and use them as you desire, for the glory of your coming Kingdom, and for the well-being of the people you long to redeem. This we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our 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.

## 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.

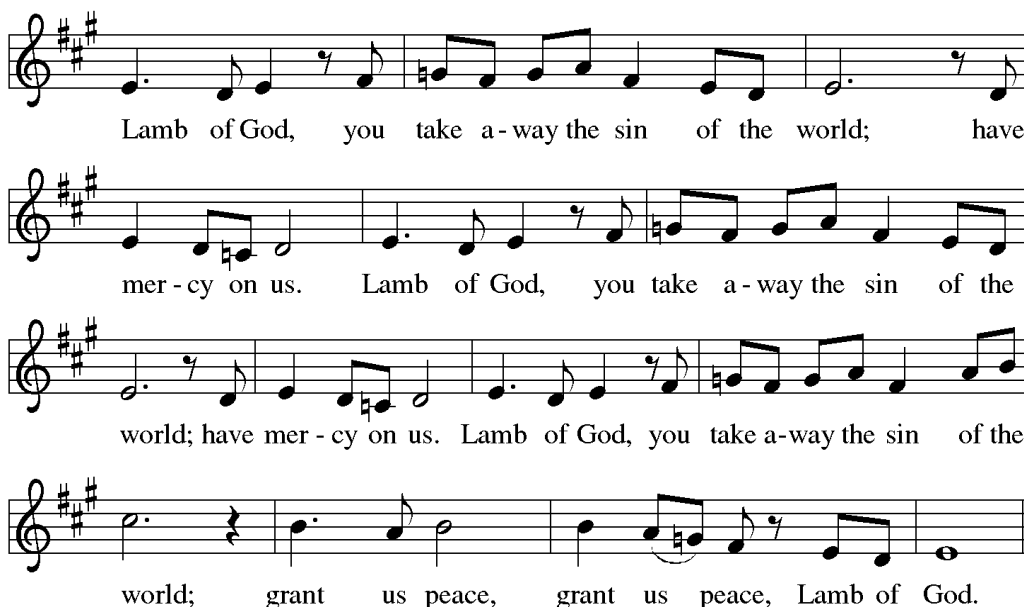
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,

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.

#### 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.*

**Almighty and ever-living God, we give you thanks for these heavenly gifts. Kindle in us the fire of your Spirit. When your Christ comes again, make us shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and forever. Amen.**

#### SPECIAL MUSIC

*"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"*

-Picardy/arr. Holst



## 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  $\text{†}$  Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

### SENDING HYMN

## As the Dark Awaits the Dawn

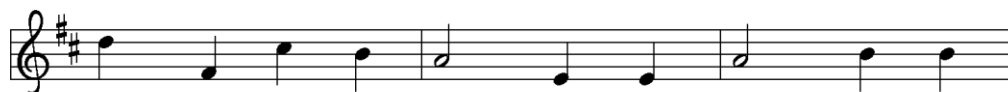
ELW 261



1 As the dark a - waits the dawn,  
2 As the blue ex - pec - tant hour  
3 As the moon re - flects the sun  
4 Shine your fu - ture on this place,



so we a - wait your light. O Star of  
be - fore the sil - v'ring skies, we long to  
un - til the night's de - crease, may we your  
en - light - en ev - 'ry guest, that through us



prom - ise, scat - ter night, lov - ing bright, lov - ing  
see your day a - rise, whole and wise, whole and  
heal - ing light re - lease, liv - ing peace, liv - ing  
stream your ho - li - ness, bright and blest, bright and



bright, till shades of fear are gone.  
wise, O lu - cent Morn - ing Star.  
peace, un - to your ho - ly dawn.  
blest; come dawn, O Sun of grace.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953  
Music: LUCENT, Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929  
Text © 1996 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress.  
Music © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Postlude

“Toccatina”

arr. Anthony Grmanco

*This week's altar flowers are donated by Ken & Gretchen Sterling in celebration of the Advent season... and anticipation of our Lord's birth this Christmas season.*

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Calendar This Week		
Every Sunday	10:00 AM	Virtual & In-Person Worship

Wed 12/18/24	10:00 AM	Bible Study in the Chapel
Wed 12/18/24	7:00 PM	Mid-week Advent Service – Virtual and In-Person
Thurs 12/19/24	7:00 PM	Choir Practice
Sat 12/21/24	9:30 AM	Food Shelf Open

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**Join us for mid-week Advent worship services at 7 pm, for the first 3 Wednesdays of December, either in person or online!**

**Our annual Advent Dinner** was a wonderful time filled with good food, fellowship and fun. A **big Thank You** to Fred and Anita who organized the event and Tina for arranging the food and Scott and Tina for music and sound, Steve Rose for setting up the tables and chairs, plus all the helpers who decorate, wash dishes, serve food and clean up!

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!

If you are **interested in participating in the bell choir for Christmas Eve service**, please contact Bonnie Henry or the office for details.

**The 2025 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 2025, 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! 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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**+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)**

**+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)**

**Meeting ID: 950 0759 0439**

**Passcode: 4584517**

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### 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 **SUNDAY, December 22ND.**  
**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 \_\_\_\_\_