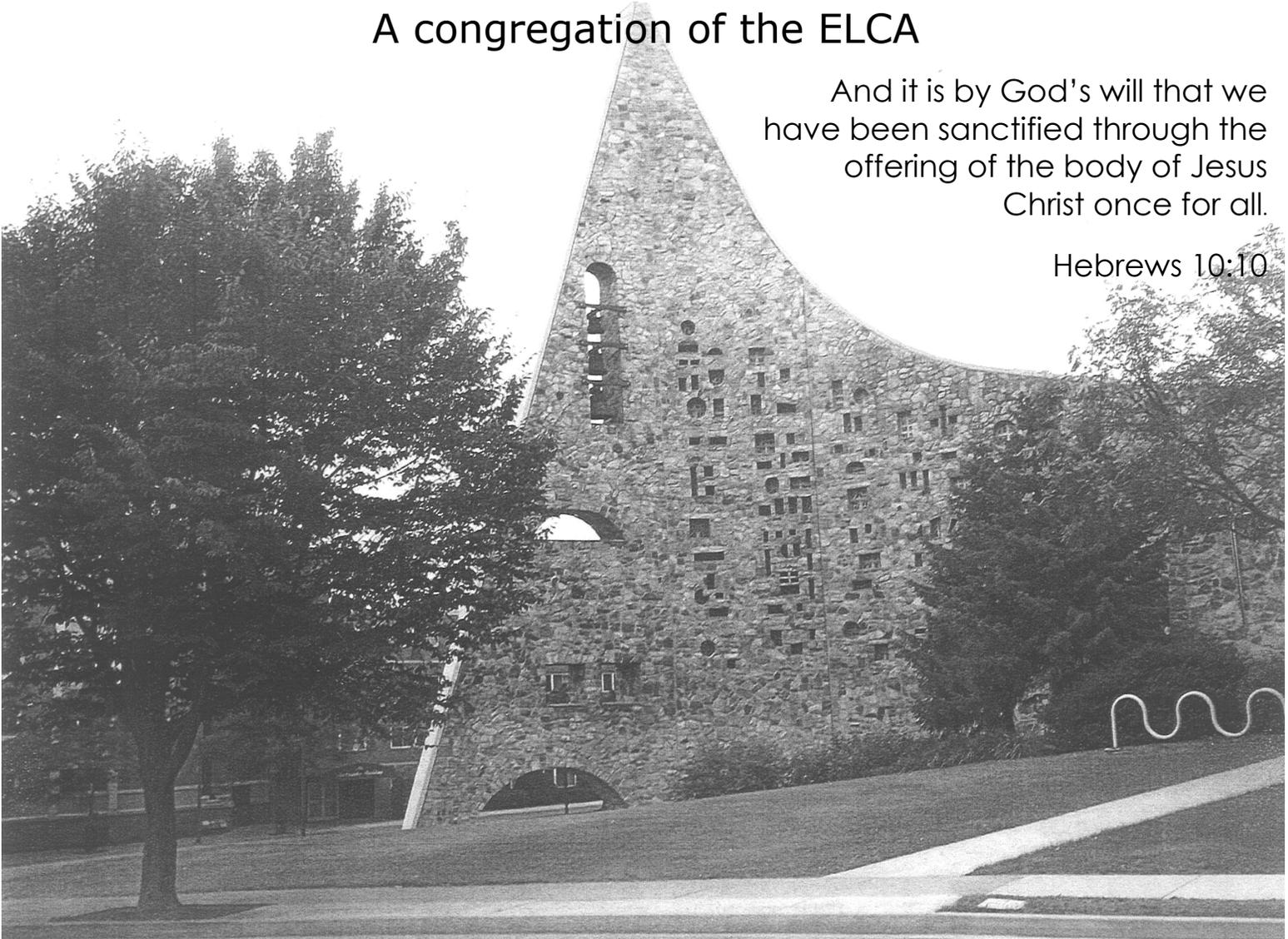


Welcome to **GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

A congregation of the ELCA

And it is by God's will that we
have been sanctified through the
offering of the body of Jesus
Christ once for all.

Hebrews 10:10



SUNDAY, December 23, 2018
Fourth Sunday of Advent

205 S. Garner St., State College, PA 16801

phone: 814-238-2478

email: churchoffice@glcpa.org

web address: www.glcpa.org

9:00 and 10:30 a.m. worship service

Today's Hymns

#ELW 263

#ELW 251

#ELW 267

Distribution

#ELW 272

#ELW 245



Our Mission Statement: "Grace Lutheran Church is energized by the Holy Spirit and nurtured through God's Word and Sacrament to **gather, feed, and send** people in the name of Jesus Christ."

ABOUT TODAY'S THEME... Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and the blessed virgin Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in the holy communion—with high delight—"we proclaim the Lord's death."

ABOUT THE LESSONS... **The First Lesson:** The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. (Ephrathah refers to the area around Bethlehem.) This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus. **The Second Lesson:** The author of Hebrews uses the image of religious sacrifice to convey the significance of Christ's coming. Through obedient acceptance of God's will, Christ allows his own body to become the greatest sacrifice of all, one through which we are made a holy people.

The Gospel Lesson: We are presented with Elizabeth, John's mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. In Elizabeth's inspired greeting and Mary's song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things.

Forgot your checks? Not carrying cash? No worries! You can still make an offering. Go to www.glcpc.org and click the word "**GIVE**" on the far right to make an online credit card donation. Thank you!

MILESTONE MINISTRY AT GRACE

At Grace we celebrate milestones. Milestones are designed to connect significant occasions in people's lives with their ongoing journey of faith. A Milestone Moment brings family, friends, and congregations together to mark a special time in their lives and acknowledge and affirm God's presence in their midst. It is a tool to connect home and church in the child's and family's faith life. In addition to naming (the occasion), blessing (the person) and gifting (the gift), we send along an "At Home" sheet to reinforce the milestone with caring conversation.

↑ = Please stand as you are able
↓ = Please be seated

Follow Grace on Social Media

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/glcstatecollege

Twitter:
[@GraceLCPA](https://twitter.com/GraceLCPA)

Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church - State College, Pennsylvania

PRELUDE *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*.....Walcha

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES



P: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. You call all nations to walk in your light and to seek your ways of justice and peace, for the night is past, and the dawn of your coming is near. Bless us as we light four candles of this wreath. Rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes and welcome him into our hearts and homes, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.

Congregation: Amen.

P: The Spirit and the church pray:

C: Come, Lord Jesus.

P: All who yearn for his appearance call:

C: Come, Lord Jesus.

P: All of creation cries:

C: Come Lord Jesus.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: The Son of righteousness shall rise with shining beams of healing.

Let us gather under the wings of God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Gracious God,

C: we acknowledge that we are sinners and we confess our sins. Forgive us for those sins known to us that burden our hearts, and those unknown to us but seen by you. We know that before you nothing remains hidden, and in you everything is revealed. Free us from the slavery of sin; liberate us from the bondage of guilt; work in us that which is pleasing in your sight; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P: In the advent of Christ, the light from on high breaks in upon us with direction and healing. Through the life of the one born of Mary, God looks with favor upon us and calls us to discipleship. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Jesus Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

INTROIT (9:00)

My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord (ELW 573)(Heinrich Schütz, arr. L. Sanders)
Anne Whitney, soprano; Anna Carol Buffington, hand bells

GATHER

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

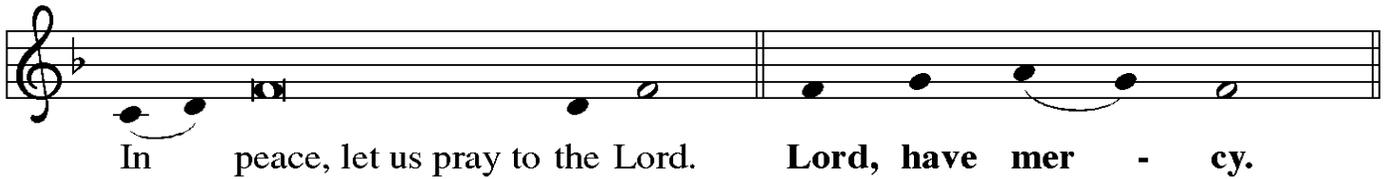
PROCESSIONAL HYMN *Savior of the Nations, Come*.....ELW # 263

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

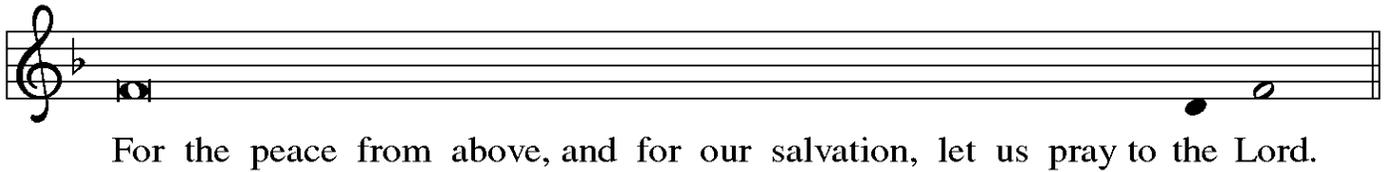
C: And also with you.

KYRIE

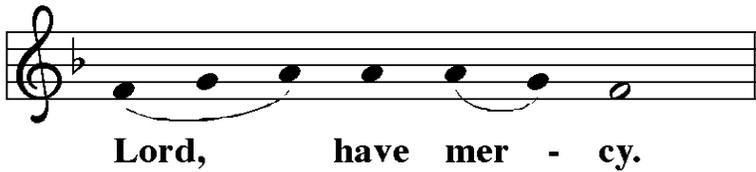
(ELW p. 138)



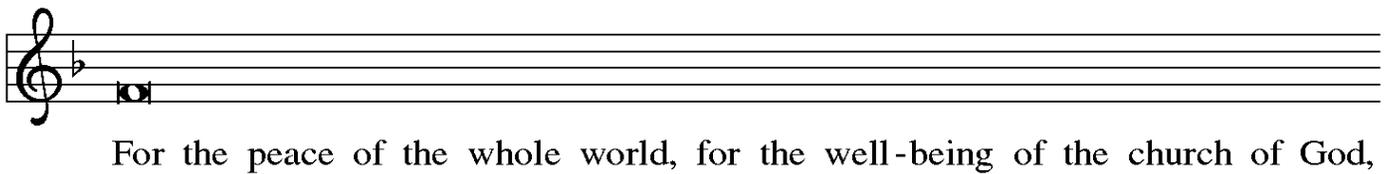
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



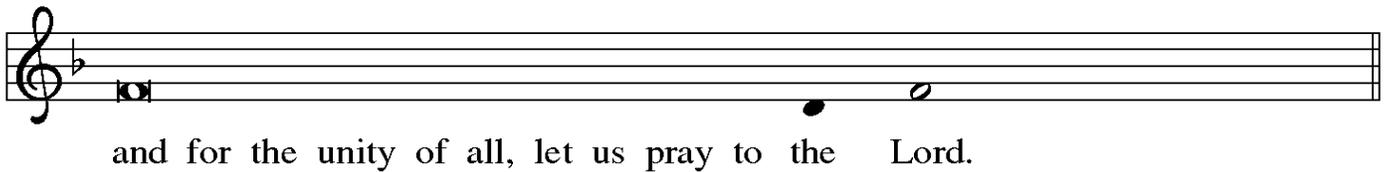
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



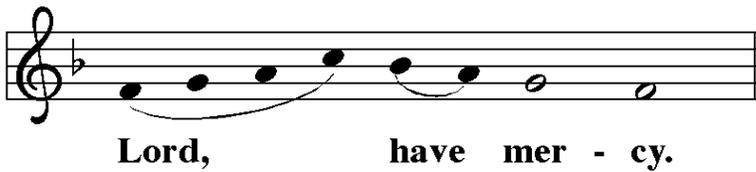
Lord, have mer - cy.



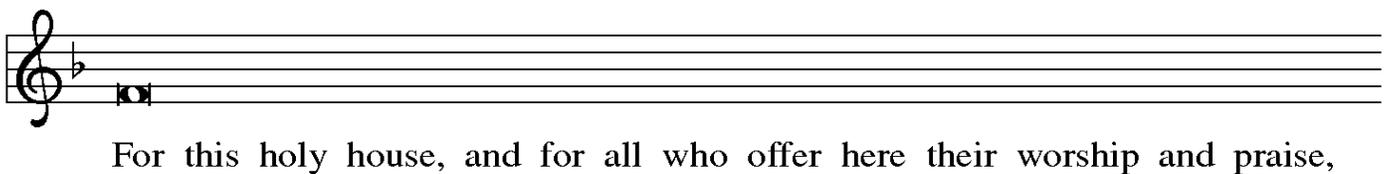
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



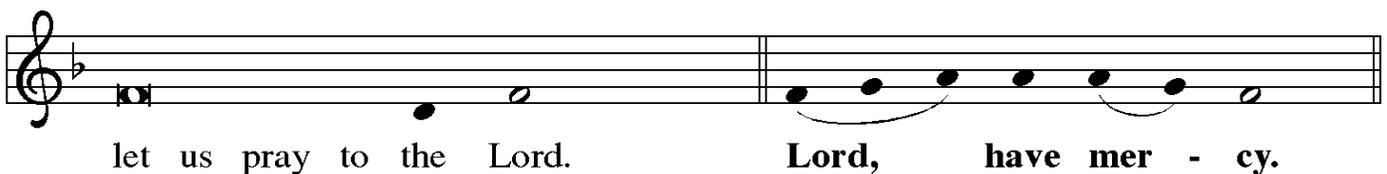
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

ADVENT PRAISE.....Oh, Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel

**Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appears.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

**Oh, come, oh Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh;
In strength and beauty come and stay; teach us your will and guide our way.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel.**

**O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times you gave the law in cloud, and majesty, and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel.**

**O come, O Branch of Jesse, free your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

**C: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and
might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and
serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

FEED

*God speaks to us in scripture reading,
and feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE.....Amy Evanego



*We welcome everyone to worship and encourage children of all ages to participate fully in our
service. Qualified nursery care is available as needed. The nursery is located in room 204.*

FIRST LESSON.....Micah 5:2-5a (pew Bible p. 756)

²But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from
of old, from ancient days. ³Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she
who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the
people of Israel. ⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now
he shall be great to the ends of the earth; ^{5a}and he shall be the one of peace.

The Magnificat from Luke 1 —*Please sing responsively from the selected verses.*



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
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L: My soul proclaims the greatness | of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in | God my Savior,
C: for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your | lowly servant.
From this day all generations will | call me blessed:
L: you, the Almighty, have done great | things for me
and holy | is your name.
C: You have mercy on | those who fear you,
from generation to | generation.
L: You have filled the hungry | with good things
and sent the rich | away empty.
C: You have come to the aid of your | servant Israel,
to remember the prom- | ise of mercy,

SECOND LESSON..... Hebrews 10:5-10 (pew Bible p. 976)

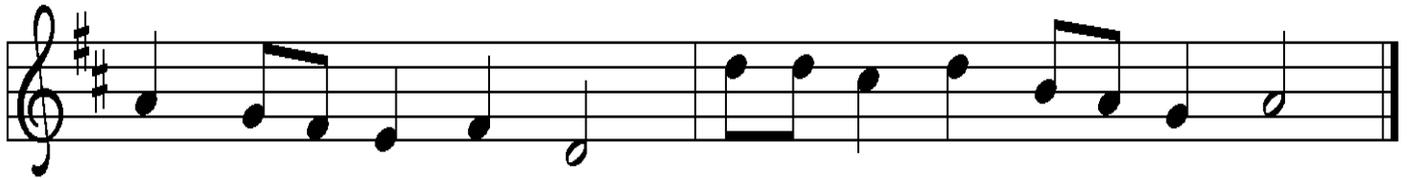
⁵Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, “Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; ⁶in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. ⁷Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’ (in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”
⁸When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), ⁹then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

↑ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(ELW p. 142a)



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.

HOLY GOSPEL..... Luke 1:39-45 (pew Bible p. 831)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 1st chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.** (*spoken*)

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ (spoken)



SERMON.....Pastor Louder



HYMN OF THE DAY *My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness*.....ELW # 251

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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Response after each petition:

L: Lord, in your mercy

C: Hear our prayer.

WE SHARE THE LORD'S PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.



OFFERTORY

(9:00) *O magnum mysterium*.....Victoria

Text: O great mystery, and wonderful sacrament, that animals should see the newborn Lord, lying in a Manger! Blessed is the virgin whose womb was worthy to bear the Lord, Jesus Christ. Alleluia!

(10:30) *Gabriel to Mary Came*.....14th century Irish Melody arr. Alan Bullard
Adult Choir

↑ OFFERTORY SONG.....(ELW #182)

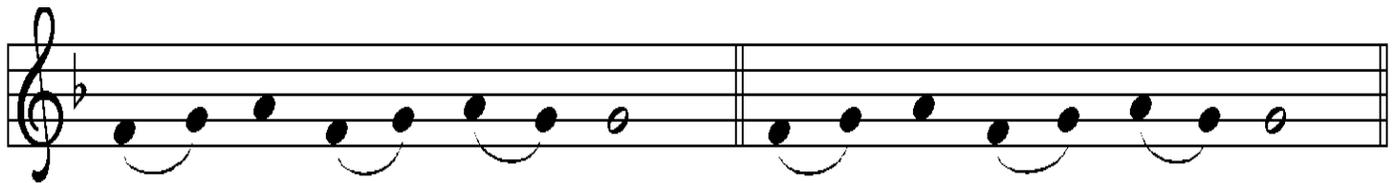
C: Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing, Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

P: God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

(ELW p. 144a)



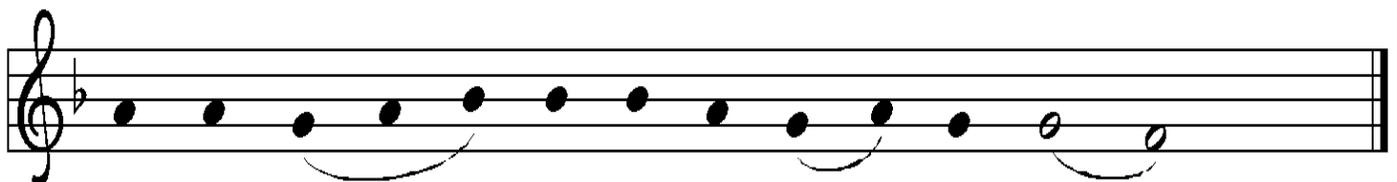
P: The Lord be with you. **c:** And al - so with you.



P: Lift up your hearts. **c:** We lift them to the Lord.



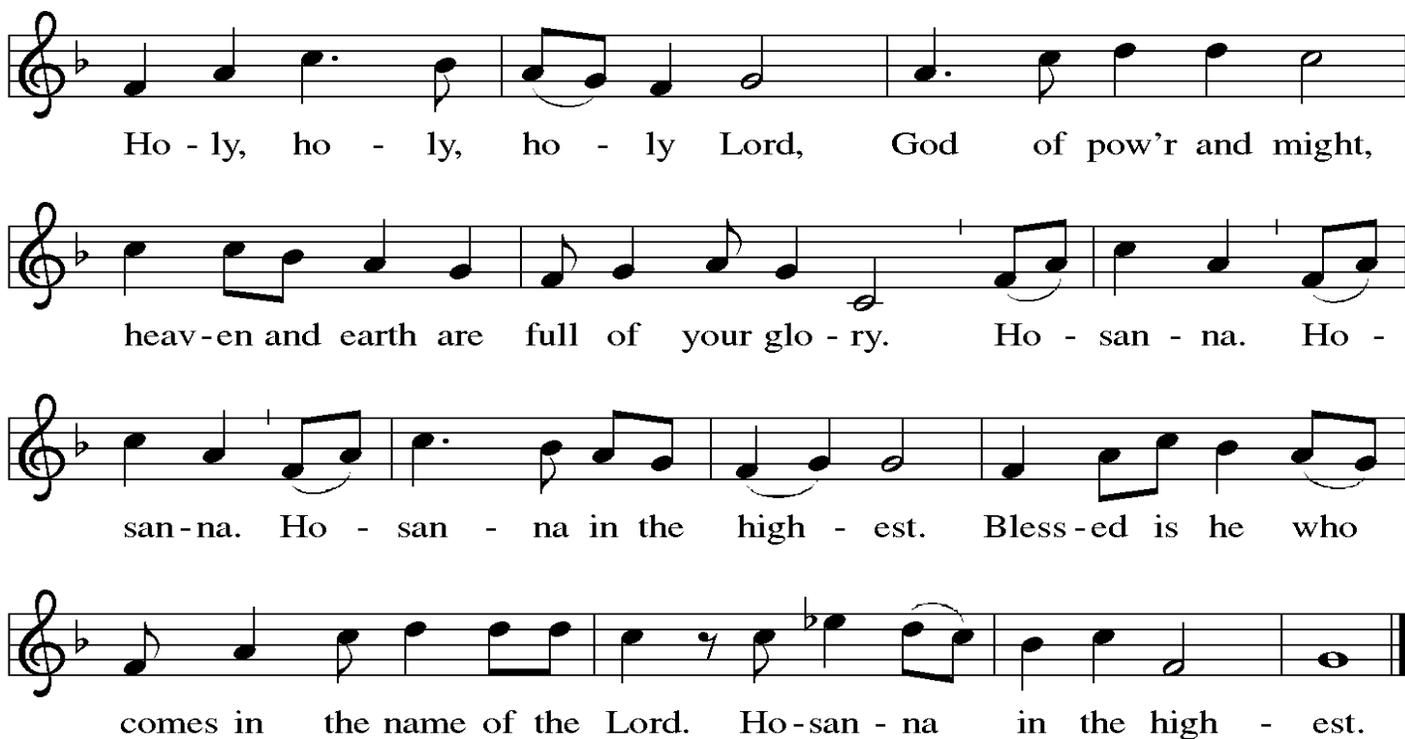
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

C: (ELW p. 144b)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are 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 in the high - est.

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: God of salvation and resurrection, pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and grace. And to you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be praise and honor, now and forever.

C: Amen.

C: 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.

P: The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, the meal is ready.

C: Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION:

↓
All who are baptized are invited to join the congregation in receiving the Savior's Body and Blood. Children not yet receiving Communion are invited forward for a blessing. Rice wafers and grape juice are available for those who have sensitivities to wheat or alcohol. An acolyte has a special tray with these alternative communion elements.

Instructions: Upon receiving the bread, move to the chalice and dip the bread in the consecrated wine.

C: (ELW p.146)

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.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

(9:00) *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* (ELW 272)..... arr. M. Praetorius
Angela Hardyk, soprano; Spencer Hardyk, alto; Ethan Hardyk, tenor; Drew Hardyk, bass

(10:30) *O magnum mysterium*.....Victoria

COMMUNION HYMNS:

ELW #272-- *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

ELW #245 -- *Creator of the Stars of Night*

↑
P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

C:

(ELW # 135)

Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful-
 filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -
 pared in the sight of ev-'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the
 na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

P: Holy One, we give you thanks that in this bread and cup we have feasted again on your endless love. Let that love overflow more and more in our lives, that we may be messengers to prepare your way, harvesters of justice and righteousness, and bearers of your eternal Word, our Savior Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

SEND

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C: Amen.

HYMN *Joy to the World*.....ELW # 267

A: Go in peace; serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude *Lift Up Your Heads*.....arr. J. Behnke



The Rev. Scott E. Schul, Senior Pastor.....pastorschul@glcpa.org
 Cindy Fritz, & Peter Horn, Faith Formation.....faithformation@glcpa.org
 Laurel Sanders, Music & Arts Ministry Coordinator.....lsanders@glcpa.org
 Jayne Glocke.....Adult Choir Director
 Erik ClaytonOrganist
 Pat Lloyd & June Miller.....Pianists
 Joan Kovalchik.....Flute
 Anna Carol Buffington.....The Bells of Grace Director
 The Rev P. Stevens Lynn.....Pastor Emeritus

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Grace Lutheran

Announcements for the Week of Sunday, December 23, 2018

A FRIENDLY GREETING TO ALL...who have joined us today to worship and praise our Lord & Savior. May this time of worship bless us to be a blessing to others. If you are a guest this morning please complete the beige contact card in the pew pocket where you are seated and place it in the offering plate. Thank you.

HOLIDAY COLLECTION FOR CENTRE SAFE....Now through December, Grace will collect donations for adults and children who receive services through Centre Safe (formerly Centre County Women's Resource Center). Centre Safe provides free professional counseling, advocacy, shelter and more for single adults and families who have experienced domestic violence, assault, etc. Needed items include regular size bed pillows, dish sets for 2-4 persons, sweats and tees in all sizes, cans of soup and pasta sauce, umbrellas, and \$10-\$25 gift cards to Weis, Giant, Wal-mart, Sheetz, or Target. Checks payable to Centre Safe are also accepted. Leave donations on the Commons area collection table. Contact Jennifer Pencek at 867-2174 or e-mail j06374@yahoo.com with questions and information about other needed items.

ACOLYTES NEEDED...We are looking to expand our roster of acolytes for all services. The commitment is typically one service per month and we work around your family schedule. It is also a great way to involve kids in the worship service. Please contact Stephanie Fozard at steph@fozards.com if interested.

LECTORS...The January sign-up sheets are in the narthex. Thanks to those who have served as lectors in the past.

USHERS NEEDED... We are looking for ushers for the 3rd Sunday of each the month at the 10:30 am service. If you are interested please let Sheri in the church office know by calling 814-238-2478.

The next book for the **Garden of Readin' is** *My Jesus Year: A Rabbi's Son Wanders the Bible Belt in Search of His Own Faith by Benyamin Cohen*. This is the selection of Cindy Keith and she will be facilitating the discussions on Tuesday January 15 at 10:30 am in the Stinson Library and 6:00 pm in Fireside. There is no December meeting

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO.....DeeAnn Wylie & Roy Evert for the Advent Wreath, Roy Evert, John Palmgren, Dennis Snider, & Don Coine for setting up the Christmas trees, Sally Keiser-Bankert, Carl Bankert, Brian Bills, & Mirabella Bills for decoration the Christmas trees, Deb Stewart for decoration the railings and hanging wreaths.

HELP WANTED.....Meals on Wheels is looking for a Meal Coordinator. Responsible for activities that support the successful preparation, packaging, and delivery of daily meals. Work activities include: the organization and cleanliness of kitchen and other work areas, daily meal counts, cold meals preparation, meal supplies inventory, operation of Meal Lines, dishwashing, and assistance to the Cook. Although the position is part-time, it has the potential to become full-time. We operate Monday through Friday. Please email resume to scmealsonwheels@gmail.com.

LARGE JUICE CANS NEEDED FOR ALTAR FLOWER MINISTRY....Each week, our altar flowers are taken to Grace members who are in the hospital, homebound, or in need of some tangible love from the congregation. We are in need of empty large juice cans to use as vases for the flowers. You may bring empty cans to the office. Thank you!

Congratulations to Rev. Carolyn Hetrick, who Grace called on 12/2/18 to be our Associate Pastor! She expects to begin her service to Grace in mid-January.

Worship Assistants for Sunday, December 23, 2018

	8:00 A.M.	9:00 A.M.	10:30 A.M.
Lectors	Dotty Delafield	Erin Luley	Brian Christain
Greeters	Nancy Reinert	Gary & Dotty Delafield	Anne Rohrbach
Acolytes		Jacob Fritz	Lincoln Hockenberry Emilio Schul
Deacons	Don Widener	Carl Bankert Sally Keiser-Bankert	Paul & Leslie Wagner
Worship Assistant	George Weigand		
Cantor		Lester Griel	Lester Griel
Ushers		Dan Bright Del Bright Erin Kauffman Shawn Kauffman Ken Tamminga Nancy Tamminga	Harold Cassady Pete Forster Jeya Chandra Kurt Gibble
Radio Ministry; Sound			Richard Brenneman
Coffee Hour Hosts 10:00-10:30 a.m.			Dave & Joyce Arbutina
Welcoming Center Hosts		Joann McCormick	Sue Forster



The *altar flowers* are sponsored by Susan Bardo & Curtis Johnson
Dedicated in Memory of Frank L. Bardo Jr.

This morning's *bulletin* is sponsored by Joyce Sipple
Dedicated in Memory of Bill & Scott Sipple

Today's *radio broadcast* on WRSC - 1390 AM is sponsored by Helen & Dick
Brenneman
Dedicated to the Glory of God

PRAYER CONCERNS for December 23, 2018

All Military & Nat'l Guard and those serving in war-torn Countries	Dick Houtz Darlene Jenkins Ruth Kistler	Kyle Steffens college roommate of Laurel Sanders Ken Shultz
Susan Antle	Larry Kuhns	William D. Snape Sr. brother of Phyllis Favorite
Celeste Barnes & family of Ed Jenkins	Ryan Louder Tuckey Louder	Jack Sylves and family and grandparents Tom and Marj Eakin
Scott Cocolin	Phil Lucas	Michele Thal
Marion & Winnie Deppen	Danielle McHenry	Lisa Thomas, Sally & Carl's friend
Sherri Ebeling & family daughter of Elaine Ebeling	Jo Anne Miller Maryann Newcomb	Karen Tupman, Cousin of Phyllis Favorite
Vicki Garvin	Chuck Noel	
Cay Griel	Robert Schlegel	
Donna Pedersen Hershey niece of Gina Leon	Craig Peery Margie Prothro sister of Ed Jenkins	
Sharron & Carl Hintosh		Members in the hospital



Weekly Prayer Letter of Encouragement

"Don't pray when you feel like it. Have an appointment with the Lord and keep it. A person is powerful on their knees." ~ Corrie ten Boom

We at Grace strive to be a people of prayer. Each week in our bulletin we list Grace members or people connected to our Grace family who are in need of our prayers. Each week, one person is selected to receive a special letter of encouragement. Please sign the letter in the Upper Commons or Narthex and pray for that person this week.

This week the Prayer Letter will be sent to Barbara Soder.



Prayer is a powerful gift and tool God gives to us. *Please pray for the request each day of the week during your daily prayer time. Just think how powerful it would be if all our members prayed for the same thing each day.*

Please pray that we might all enjoy a Christmas season surrounded by loved ones and focused on Jesus.

ONLINE GIVING AVAILABLE NOW VIA OUR WEBSITE – In response to member requests and societal preferences, we now have online giving options on our website. This is envisioned as a place for members, guests and visitors to make donations for bucket collections (such as for Out of the Cold, which you can do now) or extra donations to our General Fund (for programs and outreach) or our Building Fund to pay off the wonderful additions to our property and facilities. Visit www.glcpc.org and look for the GIVE button on the upper right-hand side at the top. Set up an account with Tithe.ly (our provider, serving more than 6,000 churches worldwide with secure online gift processing), enter your credit card information (Visa, MasterCard, American Express, JCB, Discover, or Diners Club), and you're ready to go!

Costumed Magi to appear in worship on Epiphany Sunday, January 6 – Since Epiphany (always on January 6) falls on a Sunday this year, we will celebrate the holiday in a special way. Three costumed Magi – all excellent male singers from Crossfire – will sing about following the light and worshipping the Christ Child at the 9 and 10:30 services. King Cake (a global tradition) will be served in Harkins Hall during coffee hour (10:00 – 10:30) and carols of the season will be played in the circular stairwell. Join the Magi as they worship God incarnate!

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL, FOR ALL AGES, THRU JANUARY 6TH



If you are new to Sunday School and would like more information, please contact Cindy Fritz or Peter Horn for more information

faithformation@glcpc.org).

Room assignments are as follows:

Ages 3 & 4: Room #201

Kindergarten: Room #200

Grades 1 & 2: Room #103

Grades 3, 4, & 5: Room #105

Middle School: Youth Room in the Miller Center

High School: Meet in the Narthex and walk to Starbucks

We are still looking for teachers to help with Preschool, Kindergarten, and Grades 3, 4, & 5. Please contact Cindy or Peter if you are available to help.

All are welcome to our weekly “Coffee Hour” in Harkins Hall following the 9 AM Service!

**No Super Wednesday activities till
January 9th. Please have a joyous
Christmas and a safe and happy New
Year.**



Sunday morning sponsorships

Thank you to all who have signed up to sponsor the altar flowers, bulletins or radio broadcast. To help you and the church office keep track of your payment for the sponsorships, please take an envelope located in the niche at the sign up sheets to remind you of the date you selected and the amount due Grace Lutheran by your sponsorship date. A new procedure was implemented effective July 1, 2018 that if payment has not been received by the church office by the sponsorship date, a friendly reminder will be sent the following week to the person(s) who signed up to be a sponsor. If you feel you have received the friendly reminder in error, please by all means contact the church office (238-2478; churchoffice@glcpa.org) so we can straighten out the matter. *Thank you*



“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.”
1 Peter 2:9

Dear Friends,

May God be with you and may you know the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ in this season of Advent and as we walk toward the celebration of the Christmas season.

This is the time of year when we remember and thank God for the gift of Jesus Christ. The great and eternal Word of God became flesh save us from sin, death, and the devil. We thank God for Jesus who saves us and brings us into the eternal life of God.

At this time of year generosity, charity, and love are on our hearts. Many of you will support the ministries and organizations that help care for people in our communities and in our world. Ministries such as our partners ALSM, Camp Sequanota, and Lutheran Campus Ministry at Penn State as we move toward the end of the year.

I write to ask you to remember a place that continually reaches out to your community, that shares the love and mercy of Jesus, and works to bring hope and comfort to this world: your congregation. Your congregation is a place where Christ Jesus has called you into community, and week after week Jesus is with you as you gather to worship and celebrate the meal that our Lord gave us.

As you enter into this time of year when you are supporting organizations and ministries that do good and worthwhile work, please remember your congregational home. Consider making an additional Advent or Christmas gift to the mission of your congregation. You could decide to increase your weekly offering \$10, \$25, or \$50 a week during Advent. Or, you could make a special Christmas gift to the congregation of \$100, \$250, or \$500. Any gift will go toward continuing the ministry and outreach of your congregation. These gifts are all about helping us to reach out together to share the love of Christ with the world around us.

May God continue to bless you in the seasons of Advent and Christmas. May you have safe travels. May you be comforted by the presence of our Lord Jesus and by those you love.

Happy Advent and may Christ’s blessings be with you,

+Bishop Michael Rhyne
Allegheny Synod, ELCA



This week at Grace

Sunday, Dec.23

- 8:00 a.m.....Worship with Holy Communion, Sanctuary
- 9:00 a.m.....**NO** Sunday School
- 9:00 a.m.....Worship with Holy Communion, Sanctuary
- 10:30 a.m.....Worship with Holy Communion, Sanctuary
- 11:45 a.m.Christmas Eve Rehearsal, Choral ensemble, piano, bells, Sanctuary
- 4:00 p.m.....Psalm 151 Setup & Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 6:00 p.m.....Casual Worship with Holy Communion, Sanctuary

Monday, Dec. 24

- 4:30 p.m.....Christmas Eve Service with Live Nativity, Sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m.....Christmas Eve Service, Sanctuary
- 9:00 p.m.....Christmas Eve Service, Sanctuary
- 11:00 p.m.....Christmas Eve Service, Sanctuary

Tuesday, Dec. 25

Church Office Closed

- 10:00 a.m.....Christmas Day Service, Sanctuary

Wednesday, Dec. 26

Church Office is Closed

- 10:00 a.m.....Munchkin Brunchkin, Miller Center

Thursday, Dec. 27

Bulletin Announcements Due

- 7:00 a.m.....Women’s Breakfast Prayer Group, Waffle Shop North

Friday, Dec. 28

No scheduled church activities

Saturday, Dec. 29

No scheduled church activities