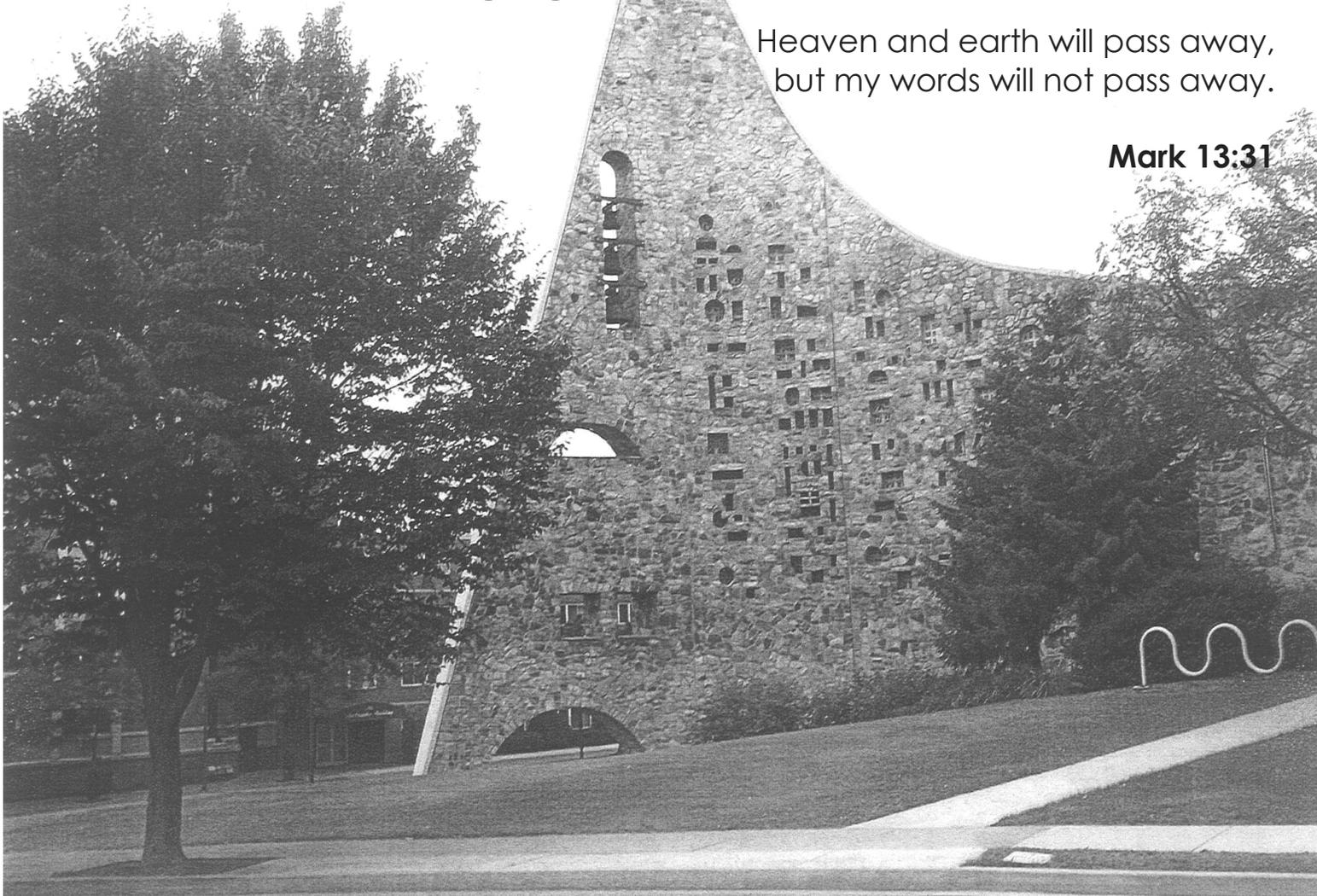


Welcome to **GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

A congregation of the ELCA

Heaven and earth will pass away,
but my words will not pass away.

Mark 13:31



SUNDAY, Nov. 29, 2020
1st Sunday of Advent

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

phone: 814-238-2478

email: churchoffice@glcpa.org

web address: www.glcpa.org

8:30 a.m. drive-in worship service tune in on 102.3 FM

10:30 a.m. radio worship service
WRSC 1390 AM and 93.3 FM

A Video Edition will be available at
Grace's website, Facebook page and YouTube
channel as well.



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... Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

ABOUT THE LESSONS.... **The First Lesson:** This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past. **The Second Lesson:** As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord. **The Gospel Lesson:** Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.

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. They connect significant occasions in people's lives with their ongoing journey of faith. A Milestone brings family, friends, and congregation together to mark a special time and acknowledge and affirm God's presence in their midst. It connects home and church in the child 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. **Learn more** by visiting www.glcfaithformation.org

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Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church State College, Pennsylvania

PRELUDE

(8:30) *Wake, Awake, A Voice Is Calling*.....arr. P. Manz

Zion Hears the Watchman Singing.....arr. W. Wold

(10:30) *Wake, Awake, A Voice Is Calling*.....J. S. Bach

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Pastor: We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the first candle on this wreath rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels. Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose day draws near.

C: Amen

ADVENT PRAISE.....*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

***O come, o 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.***

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever.

C: Amen

P: Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

Silence is kept for reflection

P: Loving and forgiving God,

C: we confess that we are held captive by sin. In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger; we have not loved our neighbor; we have not been Christ to one another. Restore us, O God. Wake us up each day in the light of Christ. Amen.

P: People of God, hear this glad news: by God's endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free - free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God's love, + comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

GATHER

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

GATHERING HYMN *Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying.....*ELW # 436

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

1 Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing, the watch-men
2 Zi - on hears the watch-men sing - ing, and all her
3 Glo - ri - a! Let heav'n a - dore you! Let saints and

on the heights are cry - ing; a - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, at last.
heart with joy is spring - ing. She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom.
an - gels sing be - fore you, with harp and cym - bal's clear - est tone.

Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es, and at the
Her dear friend comes down, all glo - rious, the strong in
Gates of pearl, twelve por - tals gleam - ing, lead us to

thrill - ing cry re - joic - es: "Come forth, you maid - ens! Night is past.
grace, in truth vic - to - rious: her star is ris'n; her light is come.
bliss be - yond all dream - ing, with an - gel choirs a - round your throne.

The bride - groom comes! A - wake; your lamps with glad - ness take!"
 Now come, O Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son.
 No eye has caught the light, no ear the thun - d'ring might

Al - le - lu - ia! Rise and pre - pare the feast to share;
 Sing ho - san - na! Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all,
 of such glo - ry. There we will go: what joy we'll know!

go, meet the bride - groom, who draws near.
 and fol - low to the ban - quet hall.
 There sweet de - light will ev - er flow.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608; tr. composite
 Music: WACHET AUF, Philipp Nicolai
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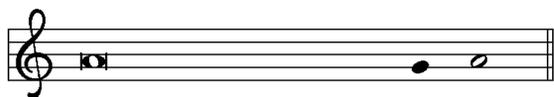
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P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

KYRIE

(ELW p. 147)



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.



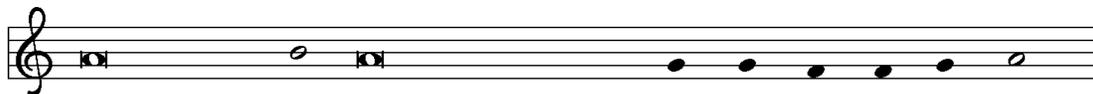
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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

P: Let us pray

C: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, 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

FIRST LESSON.....Isaiah 64:1-9

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence— ²as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil— to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! ³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. ⁴From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. ⁵You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed.

⁶We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. ⁷There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. ⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

PSALM 80 Please sing responsively by selected verses



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
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P: Restore us, O | God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

C: Let your hand be upon the one at | your right hand,
the one you have made so strong | for yourself.

P: And so will we never turn a- | way from you;
give us life, that we may call up- | on your name.

C: Restore us, O LORD | God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

SECOND LESSON.....1 Corinthians 1:3-9

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

(10:30) DISCUSSION OF THE LESSONS

HOLY GOSPEL.....Mark 13:24-37

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 13th chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] ²⁴“In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

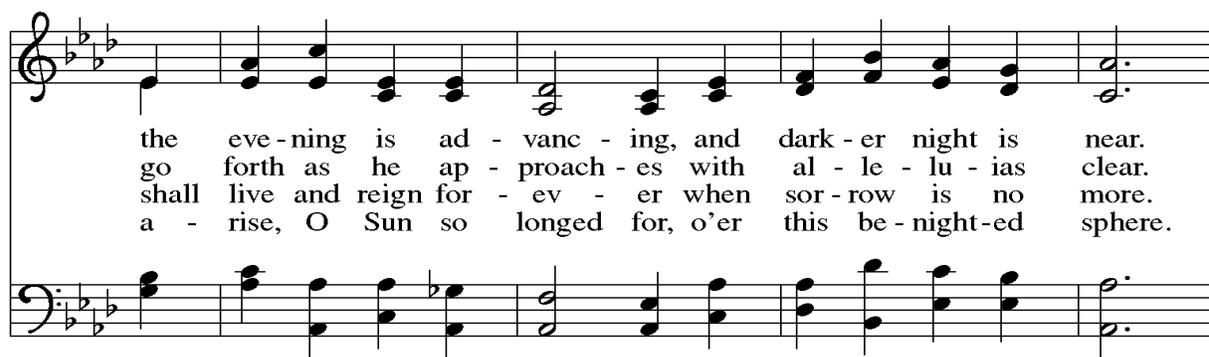
SERMON.....Pastor Hetrick

HYMN OF THE DAY *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*ELW # 244

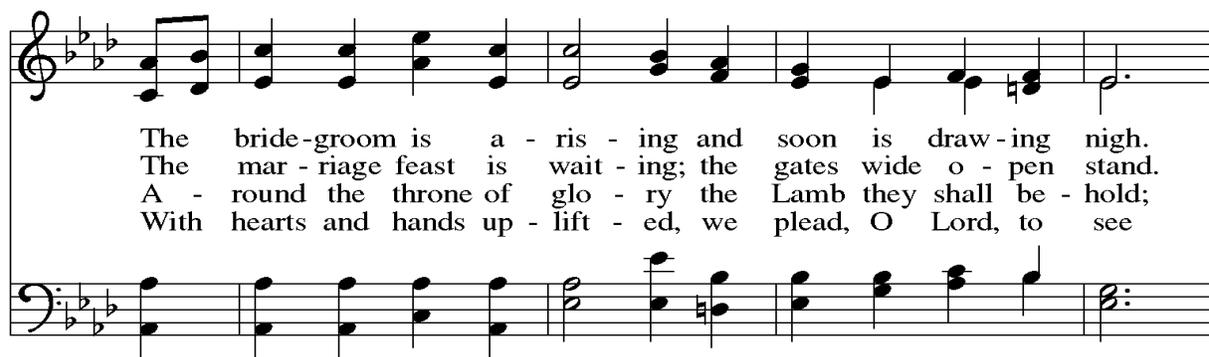
Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



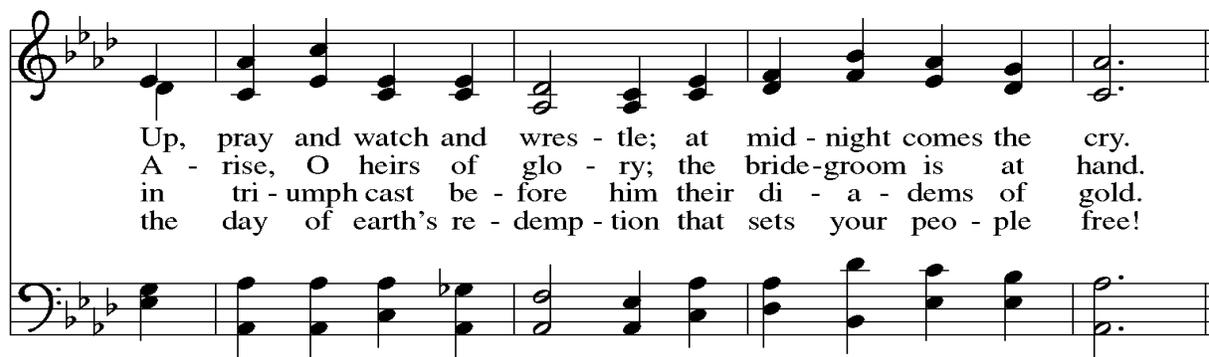
1 Re - joi - ce, re - joi - ce, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ring bore,
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



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

**C: 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 THE CHURCH

P: 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.

(8:30) OFFERTORY MUSIC

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus.....arr. M. Burkhardt

*During the offertory, take a moment to thank God for all that
God has provided to you. Ask God to reveal how God is
calling you to share your time, treasures, and talents.*

(8:30 & 10:30) OFFERING PRAYER

P: Generous God, you have created all that is, and you provide for us in every season. Bless all that we offer, that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing. In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray.

C: Amen.

(10:30) REFER TO PAGE 15

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

(8:30)P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

(8:30) C:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 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.

(8:30)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.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your
light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

C: Amen.

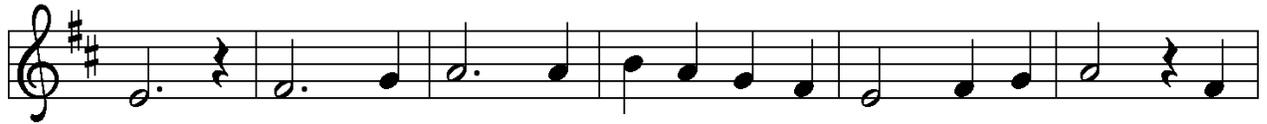
(8:30) **C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

C:

ELW p.154



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.

(8:30) P: The body and blood of Christ, given and shed for you.

You may now consume the communion wafer. During the communion music reflect upon how Christ has come to you in Holy Communion and the many ways Christ comes to you in the ordinary course of each day. Please take the wafer baggie home; it can be recycled.

(8:30) COMMUNION MUSIC

O Come, O Come Emmanuel.....arr. J. Leavitt

(8:30) P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

(8:30) POST COMMUNION CANTICLE

(ELW # 207)

C:



Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let



ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.



Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

(8:30) PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Gracious and abundant God, you have done great things for us, and we rejoice. In this bread and cup you give us life forever. In your boundless mercy, strengthen us and open our hearts to the world's needs, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen

(10:30) A PRAYER WHILE WE ARE UNABLE TO CELEBRATE COMMUNION

P: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, thanks be to you for all your works and all your gifts. You called creation out of chaos, filled it with life and light, brought forth grain and vine, and set us as stewards over your good work.

You called Israel to be your particular treasure, comforting and correcting them in love. When exile took them from your temple, you did not abandon them, but accompanied them, blessing them with your Word, enlivening them with your Spirit, and consoling them with your promise of return.

When the time had fully come, you sent your Son to be our Immanuel. In the night in which he was handed over, he gave us a Meal to remind and sustain us, to give voice to our praise of you and, by your Spirit, to bring us to your eternal life of joy, peace, and service.

Even while unable to share that Meal together, we receive that life by remembering our Lord Jesus Christ: the isolation of his death; his burial in a borrowed tomb; the wonder of his resurrection; and his promise to be with us always. We remember his birth far from home, his ministry without a place to lay his head; his welcoming of the lonely and excluded; his healing and feeding; his walking, unrecognized, with his dispirited disciples; and his ascension to be present wherever your right hand is active.

Especially in this time of separation, send your Holy Spirit to connect us while we are scattered, to enliven our imagination for service; to proclaim your Gospel in new ways; and to revel in your unexpected blessings. May that Spirit be our companion and advocate until the day we gather once more around your Table, and until the Day when you gather us into your heavenly feast.

We thank you with our lives, holy, mighty, and immortal God, praying in your Spirit, through your Son, with your Church, trusting in your love which no distance of time, space, or mortality can diminish.

C: Amen.

(10:30) **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.**

(8:30 & 10:30)

SEND

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

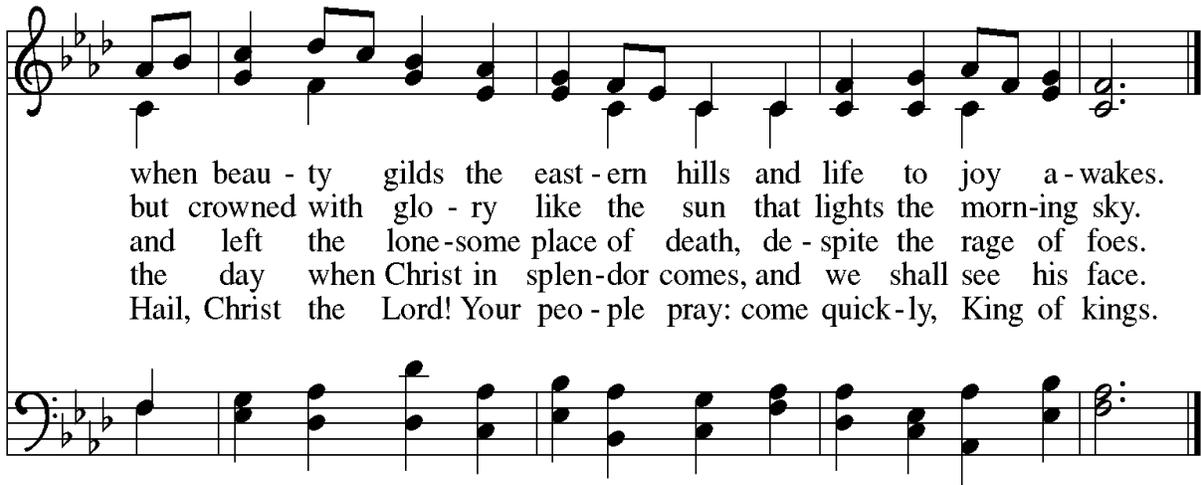
P: The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting, the long-expected Savior fill you with love, the unexpected Spirit guide your journey, + now and forever.

C: Amen.

The King Shall Come



1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phant breaks,
2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,
3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic - to - rious, rose
4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race
5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.



when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.
but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky.
and left the lone - some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes.
the day when Christ in splen - dor comes, and we shall see his face.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick - ly, King of kings.

Text: John Brownlie, 1859-1925
Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929-2003
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P: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

(8:30) *The King Shall Come*.....arr. A. K. Organ

(10:30) *Fling Wide the Door*.....arr. J. Behnke



Today's bulletin is sponsored by Greg & Kathy Weimer
Dedicated to the Glory of God

Today's radio broadcast on WRSC—1390 AM & 93.3 FM is sponsored
by June Miller
Dedicated to the Glory of God

The Rev. Scott E. Schul, Senior Pastor.....pastorschul@glcpa.org

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Nathan Glocke.....Adult Choir Director

Ryan Ditmer, Pat Lloyd, June Miller,

Adam Smith & Chris Wilhelm.....Pianists/Organists

Joan Kovalchik.....Flute

Anna Carol Buffington.....The Bells of Grace Director

The Rev. P. Stevens Lynn.....Pastor Emeritus

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ELW 634 - All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!
ELW 432 The Head that Once Was Crowned with Thorns
ELW 434 Jesus Shall Reign

At Pastor Schul's invitation, Rev. Dr. Mark Oldenburg of United Lutheran Seminary wrote "A Prayer While we are Unable to Celebrate Communion" to remind us of the many ways Jesus Christ calls us, feeds us, and is present with us even when we are unable to receive Holy Communion. We are grateful to Rev. Dr. Oldenburg for his gracious permission to use this prayer as part of our liturgy and to reprint it in our bulletin.

PRAYER CONCERNS for Nov. 29, 2020

All Military & Nat'l Guard and all
serving in war-torn countries
Theresa Alves, friend of
Brenda Kim
Deb Baysinger's cousin
Sylvia Belanger, mother of
Joe Belanger
Debbie Bolthouse
Mary & Phil Bucher
Sandy Cassady
Denise Centini
Nancy Chapa
Scott Cocolin
Carol Confer
Cathy Cutter
William Davies
Marie Dallery mother of
Sharon Shurgalla
Eti Dvir, mother-in-law of
Rachel Wolkenhauer
Patrick Dugan, grandson of
Paul & Kathryn Mackes
Laurel Sanders and family, upon
the death of Laurel's cousin
John Elliott
Steve Ellis
Craig Evanego
Jane Gamble, sister-in-law of
Holly Stoltzfus
Darrell Engelhardt, father of
Lisa Wiedemer

Vicki Garvin
Alice Griffin
Mary Ann Hanelly and family,
friends of Betsy Will
Shawn Hintosh
Dick Houtz
Bob Igoe
Cindy Keith
Kate Kempf, daughter of
Pete And Angie Kempf &
granddaughter of Merle &
Kathy McCalips
June Krumrine
Paul & Sandy Larson
Paul Lloyd, son of
Pat Lloyd
Shirley Lucas
Tom Lucas
Paul Mackes
Carol Major, friend of
Brenda Palmgren
Dennis McClure
Danielle McHenry
Kim Marsh
The family of Gertrude Mentzer,
upon her death
Bob Miller, father of
Julie Miller
Amy Nevling
Dottie Niklos, mother of
Bob Igoe

Allison Peretin, friend of
Elaine Ebeling
Zach Pfeil, brother of
Megan Widener
Margie Prothro, sister of
Ed Jenkins
Sophia Reutzel
Dottie Roberts
Becky Rogers
Bruce, Lynn & Becky Rogers upon
the death of Bruce's father Bill
Margaret Schrock, mother of
Kathy Weimer
Nancy Schuchert, mother of
Joe Schuchert
Ken Shultz
William D. Snape Sr., brother
of Phyllis Favorite
Emily & Charlotte Spearly
Jack Sylves and family and
grandparents Tom and Marj Eakin
Tom & Claudette, friends of Helen
and Dick Brenneman
Karen Tupman, cousin of
Phyllis Favorite
Brenda & Ken Walsh
The family of Thomas Watschke
upon his death
Greg Weimer
Janet Zerbe

Members in the hospital



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.*

As we begin the season of Advent, we pray: Holy God, the Beginning and the Ending, our Hope as we wait, we praise you for joining us to your people of old. We bless you for your prophets who call us to righteousness and promise a new earth with peace for all. For the Word of your covenant, we thank you, O God. Amen.

Worship Opportunities at Grace

In December, Grace Lutheran will offer our regular live radio broadcast each Sunday morning at 10:30 am on WRSC 1390 AM and 93.3 FM and on smart devices, as well as our prerecorded video worship services, which are available by 7:00 am every Sunday morning on our website, Facebook page and YouTube channel.

In “Pocketful Of Grace” podcast each Wednesday Pastor Schul and Pastor Hetrick discuss the upcoming Sunday lessons. It is available on our website or through Spotify, Tune In/Alexa, and iTunes. Wherever you go, take along a Pocketful of Grace.



We will offer “**Hopeful Disruptions**”: **Midweek Advent Prayer** live at 5:30 on Wednesday’ Dec. 2, 9 and 16. Join Pastor Schul and Pastor Hetrick for a brief time of prayer and contemplation, streaming live on Grace’s YouTube channel at <https://tinyurl.com/GLCYouTube>. Use this time to consider all of the ways Jesus is coming to us in life’s “hopeful disruptions”.

If you are feeling lost in the night, may God’s peace be yours with our “**Virtual Blue Christmas**” Tune in Saturday night, December 19th at 5:30 pm on Grace’s YouTube channel.



Christmas Eve we will offer an “Old Bethlehem Christmas,” which is a 30 minute Drive In Service with Live Nativity and communion. The “Old Bethlehem Christmas” services will take place at 2 pm, 3 pm, 4 pm, 5 pm, 8:30 pm, 9:30 pm, and 10:30 pm. The 2 pm & 3 pm services are geared towards children. If you plan to attend a later service please bring a flashlight, a battery operated candle or use your cellphone for the candlelight portion of our service. You will enter from Garner Street, park for the service and leave by driving around the circle to observe the live nativity before leaving by way of Garner Street. Grace will also broadcast a live one hour Christmas Eve service on WRSC 1390 AM and 93.3 FM at 7 pm. It will be a traditional service featuring music from Grace’s “virtual choirs.”



Christmas day we will have a Live Radio Broadcast at 10 am on WRSC 1390 AM and 93.3 FM



Sign up to help with Christmas Eve Living Nativity on Dec. 24 in Grace parking lot

Help us tell the Good News of Jesus' birth in a new way as a living nativity scene along with live animals this Christmas Eve in front of the building at Grace. We have costumes or can give you DIY options and more information as you sign up. Please go to our Sign Up Genius link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10cod48aeaf2ea4f5c52-christmas> Review the available slots and click on the button to sign up. While most participants can distance, Joseph and Mary do need to come from the same house. Thank you! Contact pastorhetrick@glcpa.org or faithformation@glcpa.org with any questions.



Harvest Home

Harvest Home continues to be celebrated during this season of Thanksgiving as a way to share our bounty with those who are in need.

Through your generosity, you help ALSM fulfill its mission and touch the lives of those we serve throughout our eight-county region. Checks may be made payable to Grace Lutheran with the memo portion indicating you gift designation for **Harvest Home**. You may also make your gift directly to ALSM online at alsm.org/donate or by mail to 998 Logan Boulevard, Altoona, PA 16602.



Support Grace's Ministry: Grace's church building may be closed, but Christ's Church remains vibrantly open! Grace needs your continued financial support in order to fund all of our ministries. You may continue to mail your offerings to Grace. Tithe.ly also provides a secure way to provide your offering via any major credit card. Visit www.glcpa.org and click on the GIVE button at the top of the page. If you set up an account with Tithe.ly using your Visa, MasterCard, American Express, JCB, Discover, or Diners Club card, you can support our ministries even when you cannot be present. Finally, a form for Direct Debit giving (via your bank) is available on our website at <https://tinyurl.com/yx8andkj>; just mail it to **Grace Lutheran Church at 205 South Garner Street, State College, 16801**. That is the absolute best way to provide for the regular funding of all that we do here at Grace to the glory of God and the service of our neighbors. Thank you for your commitment to our ministries during this challenging time.

Adult Forum Sundays 9:30-10:30 am via Zoom

Any adult is welcome to join us anytime—no preparation needed. Contact Dotty Delafield (readoooodles@me.com) for a zoom link to the class.

November 22 and 29: break for Thanksgiving

Garden of Readin' Dec. 15 - The December meeting of Garden of Read-in' (women's book club) will be Tuesday, December 15 at 9:30 am remotely via Zoom. (Please note time change.) The next book is *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* by Barbara Robinson. The discussion will be facilitated by Susan Hirth. Contact Laura Pauley (llp1@psu.edu) or Lois Lynn (loissteve@comcast.net) for more info.

The Jana Marie Foundation is the recipient of the **November Bucket Collection**. Our Faith Formation team, using an ELCA grant, teamed with the foundation to have programming focused on youth depression, anxiety, and suicide prevention. Some of the training included adults and many of us took advantage of the programs. As a congregation we hope to work with The Jana Marie Foundation again. You may donate through Tithe.ly by going to the church website and clicking on the 'Give' button or by mailing a check with "Jana Marie Foundation" in the memo line to the church at 205 South Garner Street, State College, PA 16801



Due to the ongoing pandemic, the Knit Wits will **NOT** be sponsoring a Mitten, Hat and Scarf tree this Christmas season. However, donations of winter clothing items for local children and youth can be dropped off at the YSB office, located at 325 West Aaron Drive, State College 16803. Face masks are required. YSB's phone number is 814-237-5731.



So many of you have contributed to the State College Food Bank via Grace during the ongoing pandemic. It's our response to Jesus' love, isn't it? For now, we'll continue with monetary donations only. Please donate via Tithe.ly at glcpa.org. Click on the 'give' button at the top of the page OR send a check to church with 'food bank' written in the memo line and mail it to 205 S. Garner St., State College, PA 16801.

Bell Ringing for IHS!



Interfaith
Human Services

The Interfaith Human Services Wishing Well Campaign will run November 27th through December 23rd. Grace Lutheran has always been a part of this event by ringing bells at Meyer Dairy. Our date is **Tuesday, December 15th**. Bell ringing is fun, will be outside, bundled up, masked, and no singing.

Sign-up for hours between 9am to 8pm. Children may help, but must be accompanied by an adult. Please contact Sue Forster at sue58521@gmail.com to sign up for an hour of this enjoyable activity while helping to support the programs at IHS.

Masks Needed-Centre Volunteers in Medicine is in need of homemade masks. Solid and/or masculine are especially needed. If you can help, please contact Cheryl White at cwhite@cvim.net or 814-231-4043.

Word in Season devotional booklets available – If you would like to receive a copy of the Word in Season devotional booklets for October, November and December, you can pick up a copy in a basket on the waiting area bench inside the main entrance at Grace. Alternatively, Sally Keiser-Bankert will be happy to mail you a copy upon request. Please contact her via email at sallykb@verizon.net.



Substitute Teacher Positions for 2020-2021

Grace Lutheran Preschool and Kindergarten (GLPK) is searching for substitute teacher's aides and teachers for the 2020-2021 school year. No experience is necessary for the substitute teacher's aides positions. Substitute teachers with a bachelor's degree in elementary education or early childhood education is beneficial, but not required. Send cover letter and resume to Cathy Smarkusky, GLPK Director, at csmarkusky@glcpa.org or call her at 238-8110 for more information.



Faith 5™



SHARE

a "high" and a "low" – what's been the best part of your day, and what's been the hardest part of your day.



READ

from God's Word. A Scripture verse or story will be provided and read by the glow of the fire.



TALK

about the meaning of God's living Word and how it speaks to your life – maybe even your highs and lows – at this time.



PRAY

with and for one another and the world, lifting one another in prayer and praising the God of life and love.



BLESS

with simple words and a cross traced upon each others' foreheads, we remind one another that we belong to the living God.

NOVEMBER 29, 2020
FIRST SUNDAY
OF ADVENT



Stay awake, for God is coming with power.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Mark 13:24-37	The day and hour unknown
Monday	Isaiah 64:1-9	A communal prayer for help
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 1:3-9	God is faithful
Wednesday	Revelation 22:12-21	Jesus is coming soon
Thursday	Micah 4:1-5	Peace and prosperity
Friday	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11	Children of light
Saturday	Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19	Prayer for Israel's restoration
Sunday	Mark 1:1-8	The beginning of the good news

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Mark 13:26 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Deliver us from harm, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine on us, that we may be saved through Christ our Lord. Amen. (Psalm 80:3, 7, and 19)

Mealttime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this food; may it strengthen us that we may await your coming with power and glory through Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you be blessed with hope and peace through our Lord Jesus Christ.



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NOVEMBER 29, 2020

HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Awake, Awake, and Greet
the Morn*

WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- When have you had a challenging or scary experience?
- What are some dangerous or alarming situations we face in our world today?
- Sometimes it seems easier to deny the dangers we face and pretend they are not really a problem. How does faith in Jesus give us hope and help us to face scary times?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Mark 13:24-37.

Advent begins with an awareness of the frailty of life. We may come up with short-term fixes like finding shelter, warmth, and food. There is always the challenge of the unforeseen storm that can flood our lives with devastation, when the whole world seems to be falling down around us (vv. 24-25). No generation escapes these trials and sufferings (vv. 29-30). It happened to the people who returned from Babylonian captivity (Isaiah 64); it happened to the first Christians as noted by Mark in chapter 13; and, it happens all around the world today. What we need is the God who promises to show up and be the difference-maker. This Advent we are reminded to be alert to this God who shows up in Jesus of Nazareth. In Jesus we have hope because we have the one in whom the truth of his words will never pass away, never end, never fail (v. 31). So live life with gusto, with courage, with hope, and stay awake, keep alert, don't give up (vv. 33, 35, and 37). How does public worship, reading the Bible and prayer help you stay awake to Jesus' coming into our lives?

Pray: Almighty and living God, give us hope and confidence to await your coming into our lives with faith in your healing and renewing power through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SERVICE

Advent is a time to recall the basic needs of life: a loving and gracious God and justice and mercy that all may have enough to live. In what ways can you "stay awake" this Advent season by caring for the needs of others and providing needed resources for the homeless?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The church year begins on the first Sunday in Advent. This coming year, the Gospel readings will be from Mark. To launch the new church year, gather together all the Bibles in your home. If you have an Advent wreath, place the Bibles near the wreath. As you light the first candle, the candle of hope, use this prayer of blessing: Almighty God, we thank you for the Bible, and especially for the good news about Jesus our Savior. Give us hope as we read, listen to, and think about what the Bible says to us in this new church year. Make us into people who are strong in our faith and full of love. Amen.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org