

Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church!



To glorify God, to grow in faith,
to give in service, together in Christ

gracelutheranhatfield.org

**The 1st Sunday of Advent
November 28, 2021**

Rev. Nancy M. Raabe, Pastor
Kevin Freaney, Minister of Music
Lynn Fasick, Office Administrator
Jessica Moran, Stepping Stones Director

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross as the presiding minister begins.

In the name of the Father,
and of the ✠ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Most merciful God,
we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.



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'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!

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.

“My Soul in Stillness Waits” (stanza 1)

The first candle on the Advent wreath is lit.

Refrain: All

Text: Psalm 95 and "O" antiphons

Tune: Marty Haugen



For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits, tru-ly — my hope is in you.

Cantor:

O Lord of Light, our only hope of glory,
Your radiance shines in all who look to you.
Come, light the hearts of all in dark and shadow.

Refrain: All

Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

First reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The LORD is our righteousness.”

Word of God, Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 25

Refrain (all):

To you, O God, I lift up my soul; my
spi-rit seeks re-fuge in you. From all sin and dis-grace keep me
shel-tered by your grace, for I trust that your pro-mise is true.

1 To | you, O Lord,

I lift | up my soul.

2 **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**

3 Let none who look to you be | put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.

4 **Show me your | ways, O Lord,
and teach | me your paths. R**

5 Lead me in your | truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.

6 **Remember, O Lord, your compas- | sion and love,
for they are from | everlasting. R**

7 Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;

remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

**8You are gracious and upright, O Lord;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

9You lead the lowly in justice
and teach the lowly your way.

**10All your paths, O Lord, are steadfast in love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies. R**

Psalm prayer

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Word of God, Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel: Luke 21:25-36

The Gospel of the Lord, according to Luke, the 21st chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ²⁵“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON: “Reading Signs”

Pastor Nancy Raabe



HYMN of the DAY: Signs of Endings All Around Us

Text: Dean W. Nelson

Music: Nancy Raabe



1. Signs of end - ings all a - round us, dark - ness, death and
2. Can it be that from our end - ings new be - gin - nings
3. Speak, O God, your word a - mong us, bar - ren lives your



win - ter days, shroud our lives in fear and sad - ness,
you cre - ate? Life from death, and from our rend - ings
pre - sence fill. Swell our hearts with songs of glad - ness,



numb - ing mouths that long to praise.
realms of whole - ness gen - er - ate?
ter - rors calm, fore - bod - ings still.



Come, O Christ, and dwell a - mong us! Hear our cries, come
Take our fears, then, Lord, and turn them in - to hopes for
Let your pro - mised realm of jus - tice blos - som now through -



set us free. Give us hope and faith and glad - ness.
life a - new. Fad - ing light and dy - ing sea - son
out the earth; your do - mi - nion bring now near us;



Show us what there yet can be.
sing their Glo - ri - as to you.
we a - wait the sav - ing birth.

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

To the petition "Hear us, O God" please respond, "Your mercy is great."

GREETING OF THE PEACE

You are invited to greet those around you but we request that you refrain from shaking hands.

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light! Shine in your church, gathered today.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of abundance,
you cause streams to break forth in the desert
and manna to rain from the heavens.

Accept the gifts you have first given us.
Unite them with the offering of our lives
to nourish the world you love so dearly;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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 God thanks and praise.

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:

Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.

You have filled all creation with light and life;

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age:

the promise to Israel,

the rescue from Egypt,

the gift of the promised land,

the words of the prophets;

and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son,

who proclaimed the good news in word and deed

and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.



LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven....

Invitation to Communion

All who hunger and thirst, come.

The table is ready.

Communion will be received in your seat.

We now offer gluten-free wafers; please indicate to Pastor Raabe if you would prefer this option.

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.

Prayer after Communion

Lord of life,

in the gift of your body and blood

you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation.

Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy,

bearing witness to the abundance of your love

in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Watchman, Tell of the Night

Grace Choir, Frank Stone, solo

Lowell Mason, Arr. Bruce Saylor

Watchman, tell us of the night, what its signs of promise are.
Trav'ler, o'er you mountain's height, see that glory-beaming star.
Watchman, does its beauteous ray aught of joy or hope foretell?
Trav'ler, yes; it brings the day, promised day of Israel.

Watchman, tell us of the night; higher yet that star ascends.
Trav'ler, blessedness and light. Peace and truth its course portends.
Watchman, will its beam alone gild the spot that gave them birth?
Trav'ler, ages are its own; See, it bursts o'er all the earth.

Watchman, tell us of the night, for the morning seems to dawn.
Trav'ler, darkness takes its flight, doubt and terror are withdrawn.
Watchman, let thy wand'rings cease; hie thee to thy quiet home.
Trav'ler, lo! the Prince of Peace, Lo! the Son of God is come!

Announcements

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor ☩ and give you peace.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude: Lift up your heads

A. Guilmant

Serving today

Preacher and presider, Rev. Nancy M. Raabe

Organist, Kevin Freaney

Lector, Richard Badman

Ushers, Kay Stone and Dave Kunkel

Communion Assistant, Jaime Snyder

Altar Guild, Emily Woltmann and June Detweiler

Acolyte, Cristiano Tula

Video Recorder, Harold Schaefer, Dan & Tami Sarm

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“To You, O Lord” (Psalm 25 refrain), music by Marty Haugen from *Holden Evening Prayer*. Used with permission under OneLicense #A-739245 (includes podcast/streaming).

“Signs of Endings All Around Us”: Text by Dean W. Nelson, 1988; music by Nancy Raabe, 2007. Used with permission.

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Music note: Dean Nelson, text writer of “Signs of Endings All Around Us,” is the retired Bishop of the Southwest California Synod of the ELCA. At the time he wrote this he was Bill and Nancy Raabe’s pastor at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Milwaukee, where he married them the following year. The text is based on today’s Gospel reading from Luke 21. The intent of the musical setting is to lift the difficult realities of the world in which we live (minor mode) into God’s hands (major mode), giving everything over in trust to the God who makes all things new.

Rejoice, Rejoice!

G	O	X	E	C	I	O	J	E	R	W	G	M	S
E	R	A	E	N	B	A	N	A	P	A	R	I	A
E	M	R	M	O	E	P	E	L	N	T	G	D	I
M	O	I	I	I	L	A	E	L	B	C	N	N	N
E	U	S	J	T	I	T	A	E	R	H	I	I	T
H	N	I	M	A	E	I	D	L	I	E	N	G	S
P	T	N	I	T	V	E	V	U	D	R	E	H	M
M	A	G	A	C	E	N	A	I	E	S	V	T	A
U	I	O	L	E	R	C	N	A	G	S	E	T	R
I	N	I	C	P	S	E	C	S	R	H	H	E	R
R	O	M	O	X	O	E	I	M	O	R	T	G	I
T	D	R	R	E	I	E	N	E	O	E	C	M	A
H	A	P	P	E	A	R	G	N	M	A	M	R	G
L	I	G	H	T	S	U	E	W	S	O	L	I	E

MOUNTAIN
 PROCLAIM
 BELIEVERS
 TRIUMPH
 THRONE
 BRIDEGROOM
 ARISING
 MARRIAGE
 ADVANCING
 ALLELUIAS
 WATCHERS
 REJOICE
 EXPECTATION
 PATIENCE
 EVENING
 MIDNIGHT
 LIGHTS
 APPEAR
 SAINTS

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/3032586/>

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We rely on your gifts to sustain Grace and all its ministries! Please leave your offering in the basket at the rear of the sanctuary, or sign up for electronic giving on the new online giving page at gracelutheranhatfield.org/give-to-grace. If you do not yet have offering envelopes and would like them, please ask.

If you are in need of pastoral care or need a helping hand for any reason, please contact Pastor Raabe by email; in the office at 215-855-4676; or anytime on her cell phone, 614.214.2639 (texting is good!). Talk with her about prayer requests, illnesses and hospital stays, weddings, funerals, baptisms, and joyful events in your life.

Coming up at Grace:

- ❖ Today is **Faith Build Sunday** here at Grace! You'll hear about our involvement in this effort on Cowpath Rd. to house new families in Hatfield. Join Thrivent and Habitat for Humanity representatives in the atrium after worship for a special coffee hour and to sign and bless 2 x 4s to be used in the construction!
- ❖ **No Sunday School** today but all children please meet with Pastor Raabe immediately after worship for a few minutes to practice our Christmas Eve song. Sunday School resumes at 9:15 (note new time) next Sunday, Dec. 5.
- ❖ **Saturday, Dec. 4 is the Hatfield Community Christmas starting here at Grace.** See the back of this bulletin, and please spread the word!
- ❖ **Two services return:** Starting on Dec. 5th, we will return to our worship schedule for Sundays at 8:00 and 10:30 am with communion on the first and third Sundays.

Next week's readings (2nd Sunday of Advent):

Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6

Hatfield Community Christmas Tree Lighting and Special Events

Hosted by Grace Lutheran Church and Cub Pack 510

Saturday, December 4th

**Events Start at Grace Lutheran Church
40 N. Main Street, Hatfield**



Something for Everyone!
Join the fun in this Cherished Hatfield Tradition!



**2:00 – 4:00 – Pet Pictures With Santa! A \$10.00
donation will go to the Pals For Life – A Non-
Profit Pet Therapy Organization**

**5:00 – Enjoy the Fun with a Hot Dog Meal, Hot
Drinks by Philly Espresso, and Games and
Letter Writing to Santa**



**6:00 – Walk down to the Railroad Plaza for
caroling and the arrival of Santa Claus!**

**6:30 – Lighting of the Hatfield
Community Christmas Tree!**



Note: In the event of inclement weather, we will virtually watch the tree lighting from the Social Room at Grace Lutheran Church