

Welcome to Worship

Grace Lutheran Church
40 N. Main St., Hatfield, PA 19440
GraceLutheranHatfield.org

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



December 3, 2023
First Sunday of
Advent
8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

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

Stir up your power and come! Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. He cries 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. 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.

Prelude: Sleepers Awake!

J.S. Bach

Lighting of the Advent wreath: Hope

8 a.m.: acolyte; 10:30 a.m., choir

N. Raabe

Solo, then all

We light the Ad - vent can - dle! The love of Christ so dear il -
lu - mi - nates our dark - ness: God's king - dom has drawn near. To -
day we light one can - dle bright, for pro - phe - cy ful - filled the night that
Je - sus Christ was born, that Je - sus Christ was born.

Please stand.

GATHERING

P. The Lord be with you. **C. And also with you.**

P. At Grace Lutheran Church, we gather:

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

CONSESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
who opens the heavens
and draws near to us with salvation.

God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance.
Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Everlasting God,
you love justice and you hate wrongdoing.
We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness
that make us reluctant to work against oppression.
We are complicit in systems of exploitation.
We choose comfort over courage.
We are careless with creation's bounty.
Look upon us with mercy.
Turn our hearts again to you.
Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways
for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.

Hear these words of assurance:
God clothes you with garments of salvation
and covers you with robes of righteousness.
In the tender compassion of ✠ Jesus Christ,
your sins are forgiven.
God's covenant is eternal,
and God's blessing rests upon us all.
Amen.



GATHERING HYMN: People Look East

ELW 248

GREETING

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: “For The Troubles and the Sufferings”

ACS 1051

For the trou - bles and the suf - f'rings of the world,
 God, we call up - on your mer - cy: the
 whole cre - a - tion's la - bor - ing in pain! Lend an
 ear . . . to the ris - ing cry for help from op -
 pressed and hope - less peo - ple: Come! Has - ten your sal -
 va - tion, heal - ing love! We pray for peace,
 the bless - ed peace that comes from mak - ing
 jus - tice, to cov - er and em - brace us.
 Have mer - cy, Lord! We pray for pow'r,
 the pow'r that will sus - tain your peo - ple's wit - ness:
 un - til your king - dom comes. *Ky - ri - e - e - le - i - son!*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P. 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. **C. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: Wishing or hoping?

WORD



FIRST READING: 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.

Word of God, word of life. **C. Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19



- ¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph [|] like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- [|] on the cherubim.
- ²**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, [|] and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and [|] come to help us.**
- ³Restore [|] us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we [|] shall be saved.
- ⁴**O LORD[|] God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your [|] people pray? R**
- ⁵You have fed them with the [|] bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of [|] tears to drink.
- ⁶**You have made us the derision [|] of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh [|] us to scorn.**
- ⁷Restore us, O [|] God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we [|] shall be saved.
- ¹⁷**Let your hand be upon the one at [|] your right hand,
the one you have made so strong [|] for yourself. R**
- ¹⁸And so will we never turn a- [|] way from you;
give us life, that we may call up- [|] on your name.
- ¹⁹**Restore us, O LORD[|] God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we [|] shall be saved. R**

SECOND READING: 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.

Word of God, word of life. **C. Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

ELW 172

GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-37

P. The gospel of our Lord, according to 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.**

Please be seated.

APOSTLES' CREED

P. Let us love one another, that with one mind we may confess the faith of the church, the faith in which we baptize.

**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

To the petition "Merciful God," please respond "receive our prayer."

GREETING OF THE PEACE

Please be seated.

OFFERING *We rely on your gifts to sustain Grace and all its ministries. Please be generous – all that we do is possible only because of you.*

There are many ways to make your gift: Offerings may be placed in the plates at the sanctuary entrances; you may choose various forms of electronic giving by recurring credit card, using this QR code, or by direct deposit (ask Pastor Raabe for help with this).



Music at the Offering: Ancient Words
(10:30 am)

Lynn DeShazo, Arr. John Purifoy

*Holy words long preserved, for our walk in this world,
They resound with God's own heart, Oh, let the Ancient words impart.*

*Words of Life, words of Hope, Give us strength, help us cope
In this world, where e'er we roam, Ancient words will guide us Home.*

*Ancient words ever true, Changing me, and changing you.
We have come with open hearts, Oh let the ancient words impart.*

*Holy words of our Faith, Handed down to this age.
Came to us through sacrifice, Oh heed the faithful words of Christ.*

*Ancient words ever true, Changing me, and changing you.
We have come with open hearts, Oh let the ancient words impart.*

Please stand.

OFFERTORY: As the Grains of Wheat

ELW 465

Refrain As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill
were gathered into one to become our bread;
so may all your people from all the ends of earth be gathered into one in you.

Verse As this cup of blessing is shared within our midst,
may we share the presence of your love. **Refrain**

OFFERING PRAYER

A. Let us pray.

God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and
bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and
faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. **C. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P. The Lord be with you. **C. And also 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 God thanks and praise.



P. It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord, our God.

Ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y, gift - ing us with Christ the Word.

God of pow - er, God of might, break - ing chains, re - stor - ing sight:

Come, Em-man - u - el, most ho - ly, strength-en hearts, lift up the low - ly!

P. Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father....

In the night in which he was betrayed....

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C. Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

LORD'S PRAYER

P. Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

C. Our Father, who art in heaven....

Invitation to Communion

P. In this meal, righteousness and peace meet. Come, take your place at the table.

Please be seated.

Our communion bread is gluten-free. Cups in the outer circles of the communion tray contain red wine, and

those in the center contain white grape juice. Please follow the usher's directions.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you come to save us from the bond - age of our
sin. Free our hearts to seek your grace and let God's Spi - rit ent - er in! In - fant
low - ly, child most ho - ly, bind our wounds that, oh so slow - ly we are
healed in Christ, the Lord, deep - ly root - ed in your word.



COMMUNION HYMN: All Earth is Hopeful

ELW 266



- 1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!
- 2 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;
- 3 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task: this, the
new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most
This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our



la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how
here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All
world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our



God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.
clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!
Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A. Let us pray.

God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C. Amen

Prayer for Peace

Henry W. Baker/David Cherwien



1. O God of love, O King of
2. Re - mem - ber, Lord, thy works of
3. Whom shall we trust but thee, O



peace, Make wars through-out the world — to
old, The won - ders that thy peo - ple
Lord? Where rest but on thy faith - ful



cease; The wrath of na - tions now re -
told; Re - mem - ber not our sin's dark
word? None ev - er called on thee in



strain. Give peace, O God, give peace — a - gain.
stain. Give peace, O God, give peace — a - gain.
vain. Give peace, O God, give peace — a - gain.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand.

BLESSING

P. The blessing of Almighty God, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever. **C. Amen.**



SENDING HYMN: Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning ACS 949



- 1 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your
- 2 Dark - er mid - night lies be - fore us, dark - er
- 3 Lo, the morn - ing soon is break - ing, lo, the
- 4 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your



lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps
mid - night lies be - fore us, dark - er mid - night
morn - ing soon is break - ing, lo, the morn - ing
lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps



trimmed and burn - ing, for this work's al - most done.
lies be - fore us, for this work's al - most done.
soon is break - ing, for this work's al - most done.
trimmed and burn - ing, for this work's al - most done.

DISMISSAL

P. Go in peace to love and serve as Christ. **C. Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: Prince of Peace

Emma Louise Ashford

Jump into Music



Virtual Pipe Organ: Romsey Abbey. JW Walker organ, located in the town of Romsey in Hampshire, UK. This virtual organ was recently recorded and produced by Richard McVeigh for Beauty in Sound Co.

Please join us in the fellowship hall on **Sunday, December 10**
after the 10:30 service for a **congregational meeting** at which we will
discuss and approve the 2024 budget.

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Ancient Words.. Lynn DeShazo, Arr. John Purifoy, 2009 Integrity's Hosanna! Music/ASCAP

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Postlude: Prince of Peace, Emma Louise Ashford, The Organist, vol2,No4, E.S. Lorenz, 1897

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Serving Today:

Preacher and Presider, Rev. Nancy M. Raabe
Minister of Music, Kevin Freaney
Lector: 8:00am, P. Schmidt;
10:30am, B. Krout
Ushers: 8:00am, P. Schmidt & D. Ball;
10:30am, J. Krout & K. Deussing
Altar Guild: 8:00am, W. Walter;
10:30am, K. Stone & T. Sarm
Communion Asst: 8:00am, B. Schmidt;
10:30am, C. MacDonald
Acolyte: 8:00am, Usher; 10:30am, E. Krout
Coffee Hour: Don Capanear
Council Offering & Lockup: 8:00am, P. Schmidt;
10:30am, J. Krout
Video Team: Harold Schaefer, Dan & Tami Sarm

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Isaiah 40:1-11

Good news of God's coming to a people in exile

Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13

Righteousness shall prepare a pathway for God

2 Peter 3:8-15a

Waiting for and hastening the day of God

Mark 1:1-8

John appears from the wilderness

COFFEE HOUR is served in **FELLOWSHIP HALL** each Sunday following our services. Please join us for coffee, tasty snacks and conversation. Also, the nursery is available for parents and children; please make use of the "Busy Bags" for young children.



Pastoral Care If you are ill, seeking pastoral care or need a helping hand for any reason, please contact Pastor Raabe through the office. Talk with her about prayer requests, illnesses, hospital stays, weddings, funerals, baptisms, and the joys in your life.

Save Paper! Early access! Receive your Parish News by email! Add your address to the list by contacting Lynn in the office.



Grace Lutheran Church

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