

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

December 15, 2024
3rd Sunday in Advent

Rev. Nancy M. Raabe, Pastor
Deacon Bruce W. Tonkin, Interim Minister of Music
Pat Keen, Organist
Annette Dittman, Director of Youth Ministries
Lynn Fasick, Office Administrator
Jessica Moran, Stepping Stones Director

P. God of might,
C. we confess that we have sinned.
We have turned away from our neighbors.
We have trusted false promises.

P. God in our midst,
C. we confess that we have sinned.
We plead: come to us.
Bring your mercy to birth in us.

P. A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,
in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.
By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God
through † Christ Jesus, whose day draws near. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN: Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn ELW 242

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

Bruce W. Tonkin

Ky-ri - e e - le - i - son, Lord have mer - cy. Chris - te e -
6 le - i - son, Christ have mer - cy. Ky - ri - e e -
10 le - i - son, Lord, have mer - cy on us.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P. Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of
John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one
God, now and forever. **C. Amen**

First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-20

¹⁴ Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel!

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

¹⁵ The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more.

¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak.

¹⁷ The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing ¹⁸ as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it.

¹⁹ I will deal with all your oppressors at that time.

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

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



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

Psalm: Isaiah 12:2-6



In your midst is the Ho - ly One of Is - ra - el.



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

³ **With joy you | will draw water
from the wells | of salvation. R**

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

⁵ **Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done | gloriously; let this be known in | all the earth.**

⁶ Shout aloud and sing for joy, O | royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy | One of Israel. **R**

Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

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

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

Children's Message

Annette Dittman

Please stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Listen for the Gospel! All Creation Sings 972

Refrain Leader

Lis - ten now for the gos - pel! Al - le - lu - ia! It is

God's word that chang - es us! Al - le - lu - ia!

1 Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, melt and break our hearts of stone,
 2 Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, root in us God's liv - ing word,
 3 Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, bind the bro - ken, find the lost,

Refrain
 un - til we give our lives to God, and God a - lone.
 that we may show the faith - ful - ness of Christ our Lord.
 con - firm in us the fire and love of Pen - te - cost.

Gospel: Luke 3:7-18

P. The Holy Gospel, according to Luke, the 3rd chapter.

C. Glory to you, O Lord.

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

¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” ¹¹ In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” ¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” ¹³ He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” ¹⁴ Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their

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

¹⁸ So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

P. The gospel of the Lord. **C. Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

Sermon: The Winnowing of Human Creativity

Pastor Nancy Raabe

HYMN of the DAY: Now the Heavens Start to Whisper

ACS 901



1 Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veil is grow - ing thin.
2 Heav - y clouds that block the moon - light now be - gin to drift a - way.
3 Christ, e - ter - nal Sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of wis - dom's seed,



Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten to the stir - ring, faint with - in:
Dia - mond bril - liance through the dark - ness shines the hope of com - ing day.
come to bless with fire and fra - grance hours of yearn - ing, hurt, and need.



seed of prom - ise, deep - ly plant - ed, child to spring from Jes - se's stem!
Christ, the morn - ing star of splen - dor, gleams with - in a world grown dim.
In the lone - ly, in the strang - er, in the out - cast, hid from view;



Like the soil be - neath the frost - line, hearts grow soft to wel - come him.
Heav - en's em - ber fans to full - ness; hearts grow warm to wel - come him.
Child who comes to grace the man - ger, teach our hearts to wel - come you.

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

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 "Lord, in your mercy," please respond, "Receive our prayer."



GREETING OF THE PEACE

P. The peace of Christ be with you always. **C. And also with you.**

Please be seated.

OFFERING

*Please leave your gifts in the offering plates at the rear of the sanctuary. You may also use this QR code to give using your credit card, or text a gift to Grace at our special number, **844-613-0815**. We rely on your gifts to sustain Grace and all its ministries. Forms for electronic giving are in the narthex or ask us for help.*



Music at the Offering:
8:00 am, In A Stable Bare
10:30 am, Advent Joy
Grace Choir

**Smith
H. Hopson**

Please stand.

The offering is brought forward as the Offertory is sung.

OFFERTORY: On Jordan's Bank, stanzas 4 & 5

ELW 249

Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,
And make us rise to fall no more;
Oh, let your face upon us shine
And fill the world with love divine.

All praise to you, Eternal Son,
Whose advent has our freedom won,
Whom with the Father we adore,
And Holy Spirit evermore.

OFFERING PRAYER

A. Let us pray.

Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **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.

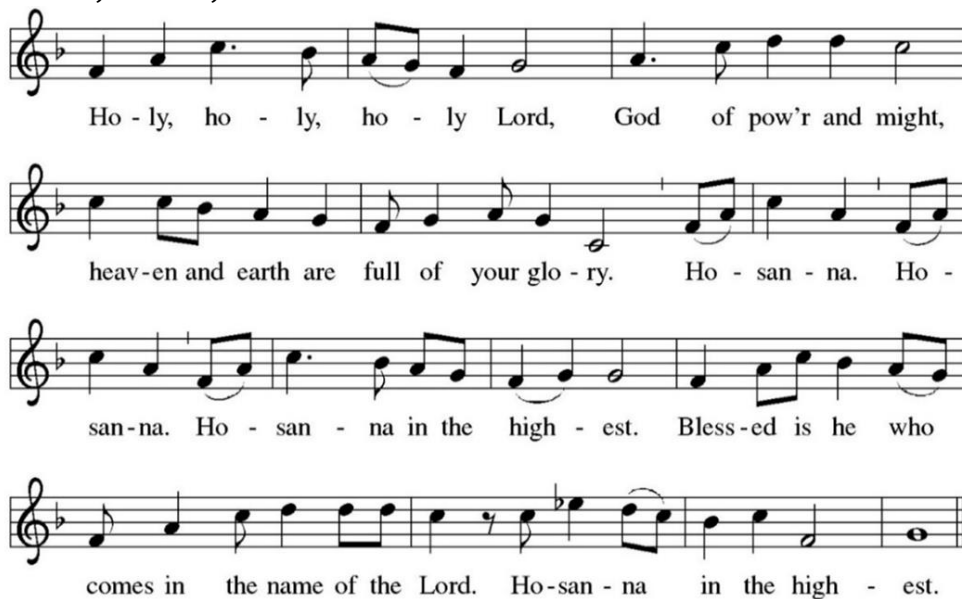
P. It is indeed right, our duty and our joy....

....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW Setting 3



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.

Holy one, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:...

In the night in which he was betrayed...

P. 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

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

Our Father, who art in heaven....

Invitation to Communion

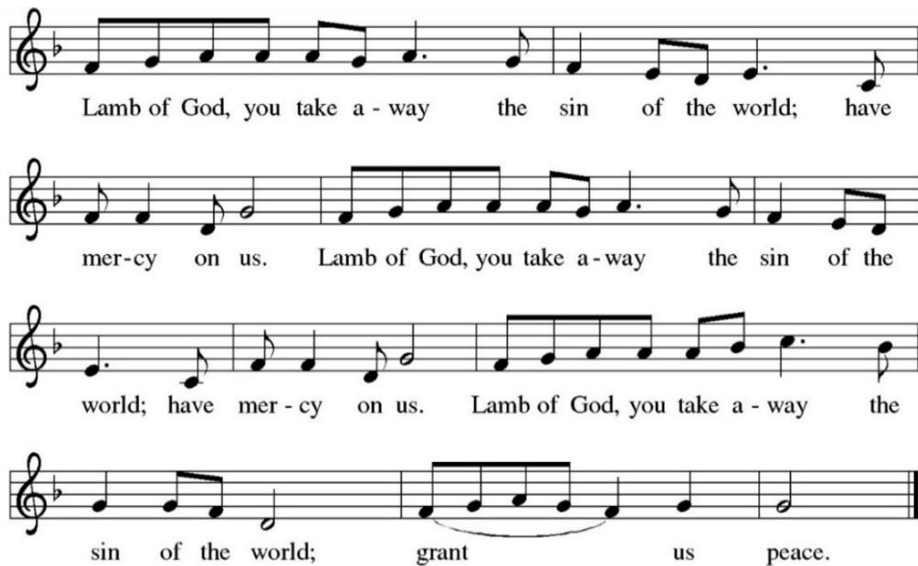
God feeds us with tender mercy.

Come to the table.

Please be seated.

LAMB OF GOD

ELW Setting 3



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.

Music during Communion: Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

ELW 254

Please stand.

TABLE BLESSING

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

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A. Generous God,
we thank you for the gift of life,
for the bread of salvation.
We thank you for coming among us,
for leading us into peace.
We thank you for showering us with mercy,
for sending us into the world.
Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us
as we feed the hungry in your name. **C. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand.

BENEDICTION

God of endings and beginnings,
God in the darkness and the light,
God, our hope for the journey,

✠ bless and keep you now and forever. **Amen.**



SENDING HYMN: Prepare the Royal Highway

ELW 264

DISMISSAL

P. Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel. **C. Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: 8:00 am, Carillon On "Come, All Ye Shepherds"

10:30 am, "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Setting, E.T. Childs

Serving today – Thank You!!

Preacher and Presider: Rev. Nancy Raabe

Organist: 8:00, Pat Keen;

10:30, Deacon Bruce Tonkin;
flute, Beth Krout

Lector: 8:00, The Seilers; 10:30, T. Sarm

Ushers: 8:00, The Seilers;

10:30, K. Stone & K. Heacock

Communion Asst: 8:00, D. Kunkel;

10:30, F. Stone

Altar Guild: 8:00, W. Walter;

10:30, K. Stone & T. Sarm

Acolyte: 8:00, Usher; 10:30, Usher

Coffee Hour: Diane Ball

Council Offering & Lockup:

8:00, L. Kratz; 10:30, J. Krout

Video Team: Harold Schaefer, Dan &

Tami Sarm, Jayson Tula



Please join us for our Longest Night Service this Thursday at 7 p.m. following the Soup Supper. Experience the coming of Christ's light into the winter darkness.



Grace Lutheran Church

Rev. Nancy M. Raabe, Pastor

40 N. Main St., Hatfield, PA 19440 215-855-4676

Pastor Raabe: pastorgracehatfield@gmail.com

Office: graceassistant40@gmail.com

Stepping Stones: steppingstonesoffice@verizon.net

215-368-2052

