

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

December 22, 2024  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of 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

Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and 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."

**Prelude: 8:00 am, Savior of the Nations, Come  
In Night's Deep Silence**

**Arr. Sedio  
Uehlein**

**10:30 am, Two Chorale Preludes on "Veni, Emmanuel," F. Peters & R. Powell**

**Lighting of the Advent wreath: Love**

*8 am: The Moyer Family; 10:30: Grace Confirmands*

4 We light the Ad - vent can - dle. The love of Christ so  
4 dear il - lu - mi - nates our dark - ness: God's king - dom has drawn near! To -  
9 day we light four can - dles bright for arms of love that held him tight the  
13 night that Christ was born, the night that Christ was born.

*Please stand.*

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P. God of mercy,

**C. we confess that we have sinned.**

**We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.**

**We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.**



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: O Come, Oh Come Emmanuel**  
*stanzas 1,2,3,4 &7*

**ELW 257**

**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

6  
10

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P. 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. **C. Amen**

### First Reading: Micah 5:2-5a



<sup>2</sup> But 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.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore 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.

<sup>4</sup> And 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;

<sup>5a</sup> and he shall be the one of peace.

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

### Psalm 80

Musical notation for Psalm 80, consisting of three staves of music in a G minor key signature (three flats) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of three flats, and a common time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics "Let your face shine up - on us, and" are written below the first staff. The second staff continues the melody with quarter and eighth notes, and the lyrics "we shall be saved, and we shall be saved." are written below it. The third staff shows the final notes of the piece, including a double bar line.

Let your face shine up - on us, and  
we shall be saved, and we shall be saved.

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph | like a flock;  
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- | on the cherubim.

**<sup>2</sup>In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, | and Manasseh,  
stir up your strength and | come to help us. R**

<sup>3</sup>Restore | us, O God;  
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

**<sup>4</sup>O LORD | God of hosts,  
how long will your anger fume when your | people pray?**

<sup>5</sup>You have fed them with the | bread of tears;  
you have given them bowls of | tears to drink.

**<sup>6</sup>You have made us the derision | of our neighbors,  
and our enemies laugh | us to scorn.**

<sup>7</sup>Restore us, O | God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved. **R**

### **Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10**

<sup>5</sup>Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,  
“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,  
but a body you have prepared for me;

<sup>6</sup>in burnt offerings and sin offerings  
you have taken no pleasure.

<sup>7</sup>Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’  
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”

<sup>8</sup>When 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), <sup>9</sup> then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup> And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

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

All

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 1:39-55**

P. The Holy Gospel, according to Luke, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

C. Glory to you, O Lord.

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

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup> for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

<sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.

<sup>50</sup> His mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

<sup>52</sup> He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,

and lifted up the lowly;

<sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things,

and sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel,

in remembrance of his mercy,

<sup>55</sup> according to the promise he made to our ancestors,

to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

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

*Please be seated.*

**Sermon: Magnificat Now**

Pastor Nancy Raabe

**HYMN of the DAY: Savior of the Nations, Come**

**ELW 263**

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, The Promised Savior

10:30 am, O Come, O Come Emmanuel

*Grace Choir*

Southbridge  
N. Sleeth



*Please stand.*

*The offering is brought forward as the Offertory is sung.*

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

**ELW 249**

Strech 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.**

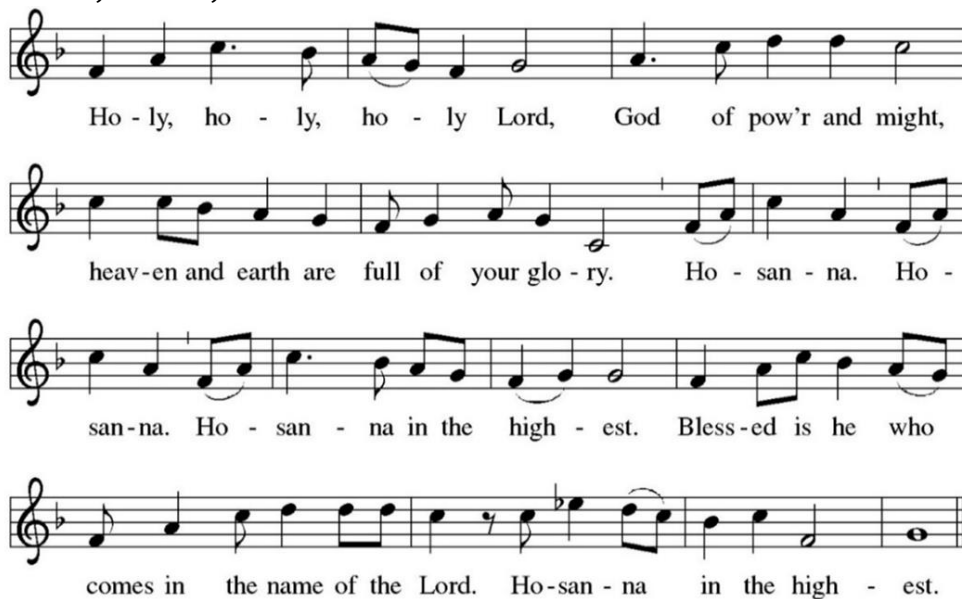
P. It is indeed right, our duty and our joy....

....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:

## 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.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953  
Music: S'UO GAN, Welsh melody  
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*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. **C. Amen.**



## **SENDING HYMN: Joy To The World**

**ELW 267**

## **DISMISSAL**

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

**Postlude: 8:00 am, The Heavens are Telling**  
**10:30 am, Love Has Come**

**Beethoven/arr. Wells**  
**D. Sims**

## **Serving today – Thank You!!**

Preacher and Presider: Rev. Nancy Raabe

Organist: 8:00, Pat Keen;

10:30, Deacon Bruce Tonkin;

Lector: 8:00, P. Schmidt;

10:30, The Slugg Family

Ushers: 8:00, P. Schmidt & D. Ball;

10:30, The Slugg Family

Communion Asst: 8:00, B. Schmidt;

10:30, J. Kaler

Altar Guild: 8:00, W. Walter;

10:30, T. Sarm

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

Coffee Hour: Cathy Farrell

Council Offering & Lockup:

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

Video Team: Harold Schaefer, Dan &

Tami Sarm, Jayson Tula