

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

December 8, 2024
2nd 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

While John the baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi's prophecy could as easily herald the coming Christ as forerunner of the Lord of hosts. Finally, all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."

Prelude: 8:00 am, Veni Emmanuel

Rex Koury

10:30 a.m.: Mary, Did You Know

Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene

Five Little Variations on "Savior of the Nations, Come" C. Oliver

Lighting of the Advent wreath: Peace

8 am: the Walter family; 10:30: the Tula family



2 We light the Ad-vent can-dle! The peace of Christ so dear il-
5 lu-mi-nates our dark-ness: God's king-dom has drawn near. To-day we light two
10 can-dles bright for peace on earth pro-claimed the night that
13 Je-sus Christ was born, that Je-sus 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: All Earth is Hopeful

ELW 266

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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; 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: Malachi 3:1-4

¹ See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?



For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³ he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

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

Psalm: Luke 1:68-79



In the ten - der com - pas - sion of our God



the dawn from on high will break up - on us.



⁶⁸ Blessed are you, Lord, the ¹ God of Israel,
 you have come to your people and ¹ set them free.

⁶⁹ **You have raised up for us a ¹ mighty Savior,
 born of the house of your ¹ servant David. R**

⁷⁰ Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us ¹ from our enemies,
⁷¹ from the hands of ¹ all who hate us,
⁷² **to show mercy ¹ to our forebears,
 and to remember your ¹ holy covenant.**

⁷³ This was the oath you swore to our ¹ father Abraham:
⁷⁴ to set us free from the hands of our ¹ enemies,
**free to worship you ¹ without fear,
⁷⁵ holy and righteous before you, all the days ¹ of our life. R**

⁷⁶ And you, child, shall be called the prophet of ¹ the Most High,
 for you will go before the Lord to pre- ¹ pare the way,
⁷⁷ **to give God's people knowledge ¹ of salvation
 by the forgiveness ¹ of their sins.**

⁷⁸ In the tender compassion ¹ of our God
 the dawn from on high shall ¹ break upon us,
⁷⁹ **to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shad- ¹ ow of death,
 and to guide our feet into the ¹ way of peace. R**

Second Reading: Philippians 1:3-11

³ I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴ constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵ because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷ It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸ For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹ And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰ to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹ having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

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

Children's Message

Please stand.

Annette Dittman

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

Refrain
Leader

All

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.

Text: Zimbabwean traditional; tr. John L. Bell, b. 1949
Music: LISTEN NOW, Zimbabwean traditional

Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

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

C. Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴ as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

⁵ Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;

⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

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

Please be seated.

Sermon: Getting Straightened Out

Pastor Nancy Raabe

HYMN of the DAY: On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry

ELW 249

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, Song of The Watchman
10:30 am, Prepare the Royal Highway
Breathe

Grieg/Arr. Blake
B.S. Mayo
Marie Barnett

Please stand.

The offering is brought forward as the Offertory is sung.



4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent
 rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
 has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
 we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

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.

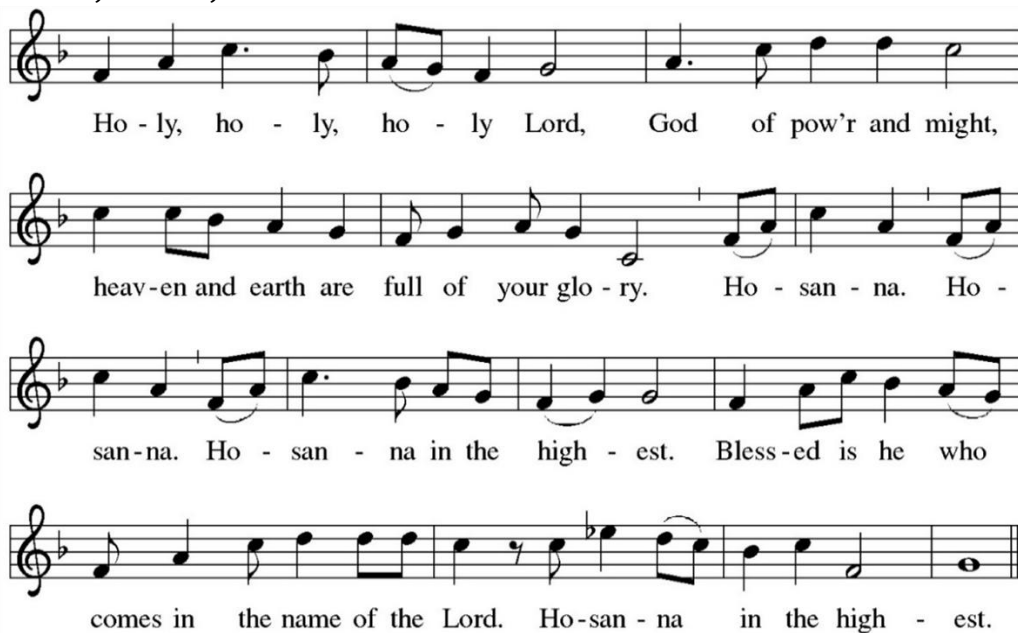


P. It is indeed right, our duty and our joy....

....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: He Came Down

ELW 253

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: Hark, the Glad Sound

ELW 239

DISMISSAL

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

**Postlude: 8:00 am, Hark, The Glad Sound
 10:30 am, Chesterfield**

**Landon
 setting J. Leavitt**

Serving today – Thank You!!

Preacher and Presider: Rev. Nancy Raabe

Organist: 8:00, Pat Keen;

10:30, Deacon Bruce Tonkin

Guitarists: Harold Schaefer, Lou Marucci,
 Dan Sarm

Lector: 8:00, The Walters; 10:30, B. Krout

Ushers: 8:00, The Walters;

10:30, J. Krout & C. Tula

Communion Asst: 8:00, B. Schmidt;

10:30, B. Hess

Altar Guild: 8:00, W. Walter;

10:30, K. Stone & T. Sarm

Acolyte: 8:00, Usher; 10:30, E. Krout

Coffee Hour: Bruce Schmidt

Council Offering & Lockup:

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

Video Team: Harold Schaefer, Dan &
 Tami Sarm, Jayson Tula

**The annual Budget Meeting is
 at 11:30 TODAY. Please attend.**



Grace Lutheran Church

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