

Third Sunday of Advent

Service of Holy Communion

December 14, 2025

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Traditional Worship 9:30 a.m.

**-the congregation is invited to stand*

WELCOME TO GRACE

A warm welcome to all who are worshipping with us in this season of preparation as we wait to celebrate the coming of Jesus, the Word of God Incarnate. If you are visiting with us, please fill out a guest card which is found in the pews. Following the service, please introduce yourself to the pastor.

We hope that this bulletin will help guide you through our worship service.

INTRODUCTION

A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God's reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.

God gathers us in unity.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

<i>God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen</i>	<i>arr. Wilfred Bob Roberts</i>
<i>Deck the Halls</i>	<i>arr. Lois Yinger</i>
<i>Good King Wenceslas</i>	<i>arr. Don Gillis</i>
<i>St. Paul's Brass</i>	

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

BLESSING

Blessed are you, God of might and majesty, for you promise to make the desert rejoice and blossom, to watch over the strangers, and to set the prisoners free.

As we light these candles, satisfy our hunger with your good gifts, open our eyes to the great things you have done for us, and fill us with patience until the coming of the Lord Jesus.

O ransomed people of the Lord, come,

let us travel on God's holy way and enter into Zion with singing. Amen.

During the prelude music, the Advent wreath candle(s) is/are lighted.

PRELUDE

Mary, Did You Know?

Buddy Green, Mark Lowry

Arr. Jari Villanueva

St. Paul's Brass

The assembly stands as able.

***GATHERING HYMN**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

ELW#257

Vs 1, 2, 3

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Long-expected God,

we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake.

Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised.

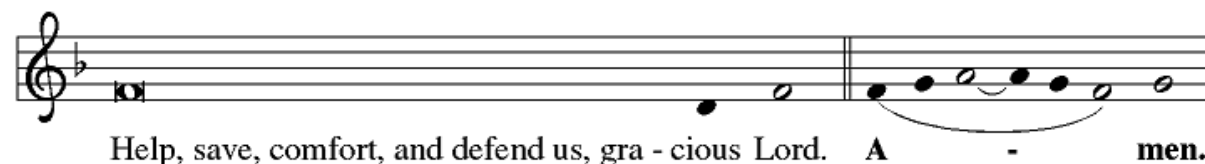
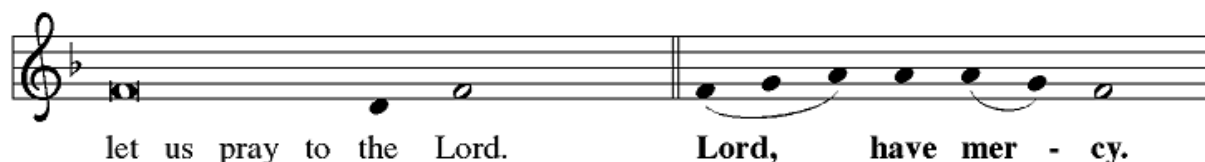
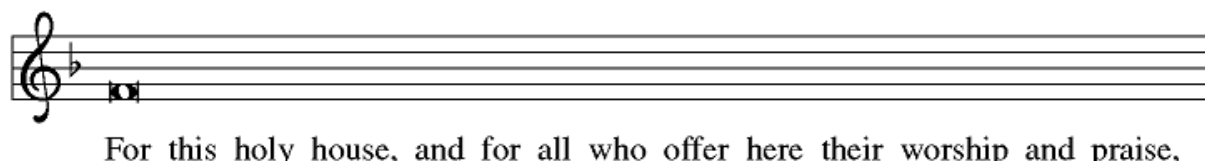
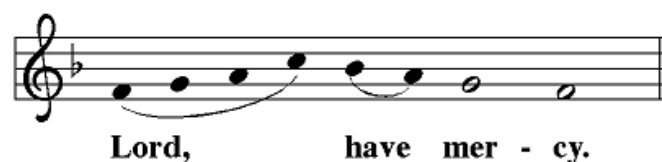
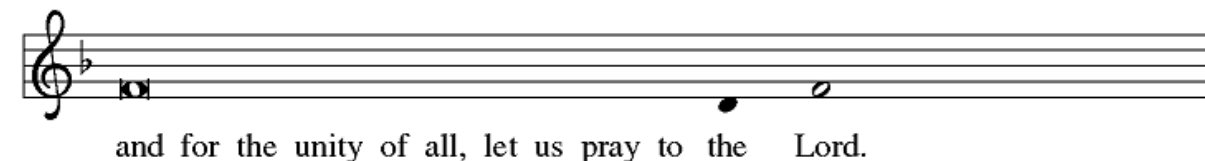
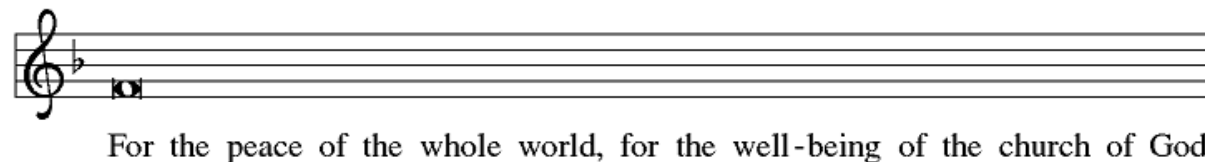
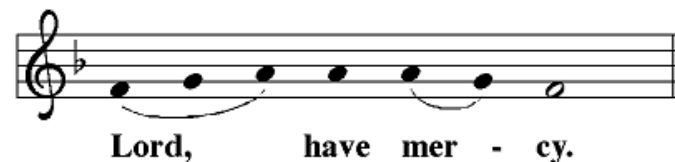
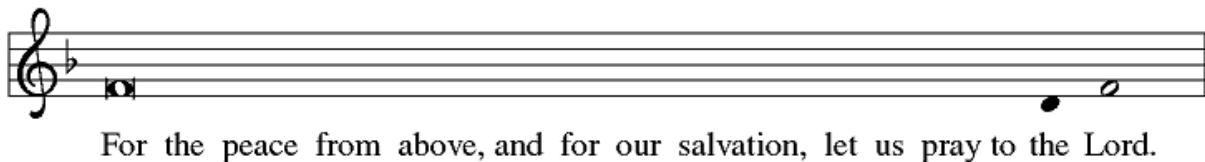
Amen.

God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. † You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.

Amen.

*KYRIE

ELW page 138



*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.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The assembly may be seated.

God speaks to us in scriptures read, sung, and preached.

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1-10

¹ The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ² it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and shouting.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.
³ Strengthen the weak hands
and make firm the feeble knees.
⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
“Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you.”
⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;
⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness
and streams in the desert;
⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp;
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.
⁸ A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,

but it shall be for God's people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.
⁹No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.
The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 146:5-10

⁵Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,
whose hope is in the LORD their God;
⁶**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in
them;
who keeps promises forever;**
⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food
to those who hunger.
The LORD sets the captive free.
⁸**The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up
those who are bowed down;
the LORD loves the righteous.**
⁹The LORD cares for the stranger;
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates
the way of the wicked.
¹⁰**The LORD shall reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
Hallelujah!**

SECOND READING: James 5:7-10

⁷Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of

suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands as able.

***GOSPEL GREETING**

Prepare the Royal Highway

ELW#264 – Refrain



***GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11**

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” ⁴ Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

¹¹ “Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

The assembly stands as able.

SPECIAL MUSIC

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
St. Paul's Brass

arr. Richard Price

***APOSTLES CREED**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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 OF INTERCESSION**

The Leader prays for the church/world and all in need.

Each prayer concludes:

God of grace,

Hear our prayer.

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

A greeting of peace is shared among the assembly.

OFFERING

We respond to the grace given us by sharing our gifts with others through the offering. Today's regular offering supports the ongoing ministry of Grace church. You can give online, by cash, or by check.

MUSICAL OFFERING

The Holly and the Ivy
St. Paul's Brass

arr. Howard Cable

***SETTING THE TABLE**

We Are Waiting for Jesus vs 1 All Creation Sings #905

1 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise.

We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp). The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff begins with a '1' indicating the first verse. The music consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some phrases spanning across bar lines.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray. Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come.

Amen.

***THE 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 our thanks and praise.

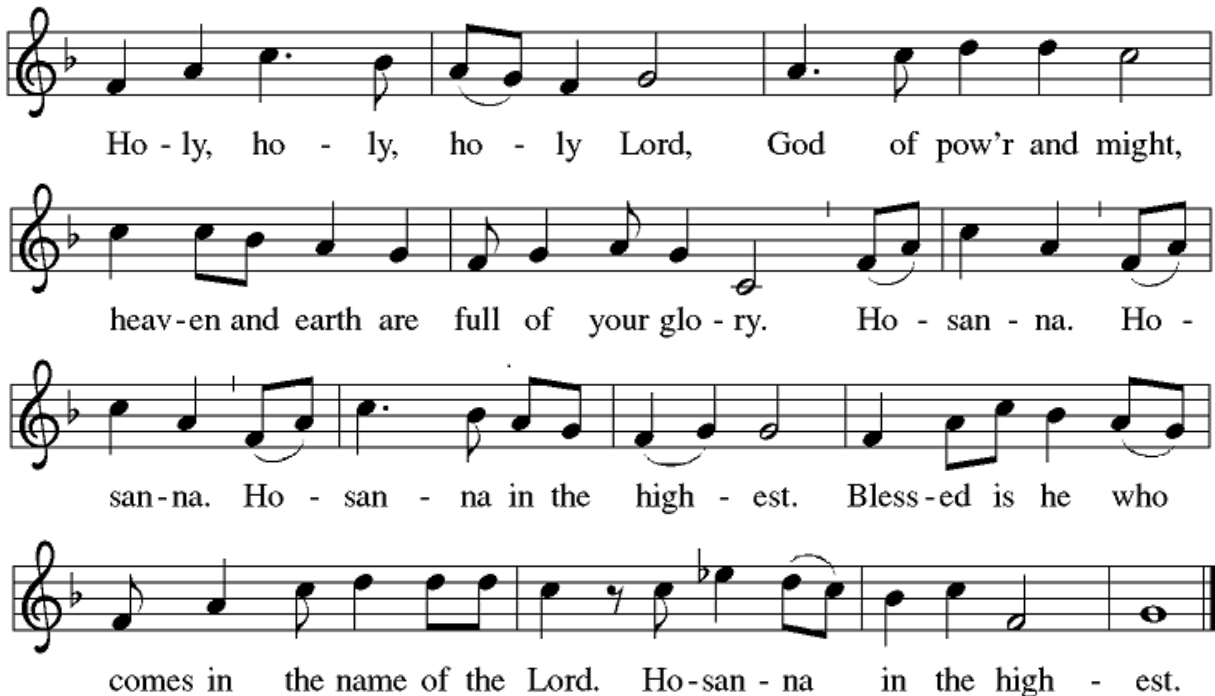
It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe.

The heavens tremble and the mountains quake at your presence. Although we have forsaken you, you have never forgotten us: you are the potter and we are the clay, the work of your hand.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all the faithful of every time and place who forever sing to the glory of your name:

***SANCTUS**

ELW page 144



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.

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

You are holy, O God of majesty,
and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

Christ Jesus is our grace and peace,
the Word that we proclaim,
the source of all our strength,
and the giver of every good gift.

In Christ's body,
we have received fellowship with you, our God.

*In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it,
and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.*

Do this for the remembrance of me.

*Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ,
we take from your creation this bread and this wine
and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising,
as we await the day of his coming.

With thanksgiving, we offer our very selves to you
to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service.

Great is the mystery of faith:
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon these your gifts of bread and wine,
that the bread we break and the cup we bless
may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.
By your Spirit, unite us with Christ
and with your church in all the world.

Keep us awake until the hour of Christ's coming,
when the sun and moon and stars will fall from heaven
and you will gather up the faithful from the ends of the
earth.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are
yours, almighty God, now and forever.

Amen.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

ELW#885

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all
creatures here below; praise God above, ye



***INVITATION**

Here is life. God is with us.

Come, receive what God has promised.

Thanks be to God.

The assembly is seated.

Those communing in their seats and at home are invited to prepare their elements then to be led through eating and drinking the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine.

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

COME TO THE TABLE

ELW#481



Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

The Wexford Carol

arr. J.A.C. Redford

Silent Night

Joseph Mohr, arr. Wilfred Bob Roberts

St. Paul's Brass

The assembly stands as able.

***BLESSING AND PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

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

Amen.

Let us pray. God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

SENDING

***BLESSING**

May God who comes among us, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always.

Amen.

***SENDING HYMN**

Joy to the World

ELW#267

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Keep awake.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Christmas Presence

arr. William Himes

St. Paul's Brass

SERVING TODAY IN WORSHIP

Presiding Minister The Rev. Chad Butz
Assisting Minister..... Krista Snavely
Lector..... Don Barlup
Acolyte Liam Barber
Communion Assistants Judy Zeiders, George B. Osswald
Sound Rick Keen
Director of Music..... Kristopher Hartman
Organist..... Emily Hartman
Technology Operator Chris Jury

St. Paul's Brass

Trumpet Jess Williams
Trumpet Vanessa Shenk
Horn..... Mary Grace Friedell
Trombone..... Bob Yinger
Tuba Don Wagner

This Week at Grace: December 13 – 19, 2025

The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God.

The Bulletins & Mailings are given to the Glory of God.



Connect with Us



EVENTS

We hold in prayer especially this week....

Elaine Klemmer, Russ Weber, Wendell Mortenson, Howard Lauver, Joe Swank, Halie Osswald, Donna Crossley, Steve Behr, Mary Louise Shetter, Dave Hawkins, Lisa Miller, Ed Klemmer, Barry Fenicle, Beverly Earhart, Amy Vogel, Alice M., and Dean Jury.

We hold in prayer the recently departed...

Al Hughes

Christmas Eve Play Rehearsal

Rehearsal for the Christmas play at the 4pm Christmas Eve service will be immediately following worship on Sunday, December 14 and Sunday, December 21. All young ones are welcome to attend, no pre-signup necessary.

Cumberland Singers at Grace

The Cumberland Singers will be holding a concert at Grace on Sunday, December 14 at 3pm. Join us for our winter concert, taking you on a journey through the beauty and magic of the holidays!

Blue Christmas Service – Wednesday, December 17

Join us for a Blue Christmas service on December 17 at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary. Blue Christmas is a service that is meant to acknowledge the pain of loss that often accompanies holidays, especially Christmas. Join us for an evening of prayer, acknowledgement, remembrance and a reminder that this world is not the end. This service will be available via Live Stream.

Breakfast at Bethlehem – Saturday, December 20

All are Welcome! Enjoy a hot breakfast, Kid's crafts, Karaoke, and visit Santa and receive a printed photograph. For more information contact Julie Flook at flook66@gmail.com or 717-514-7451.

Christmas Eve at Grace

Join us for one of three Christmas Eve services on December 24! At 4pm we will have a Family Service, at 7pm we will have a Jazz Service and at 9pm we will have a Traditional Candlelight Service with Special Music Prelude. All three services will be available via Live Stream or YouTube.

Christmas Wreath, Poinsettia and ELCA Good Gift Sponsorships

As of December 10, there are (6) beautiful wreaths from the Scouting America Troop 54/Cub Scout Pack 54 (\$23 each); (2) Large Red Poinsettia for on the altar (\$35 each) or (2) 6.5-inch Red Poinsettia for in the sanctuary (\$13 each). If you wish to sponsor a Wreath or Poinsettia, please contact Diane at ddeppen@gracecamphill.org or 717-737-0439x15 to reserve one before paying. Payment can be made in person with envelope, online at <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YV1S/home> or with the QR Code. Please include your dedication with payment. *Please note the (2)*



Give Now

*Altar Poinsettia cannot be paid for online. **Sponsorship to be included in the Christmas Eve newsletter deadline has been extended until Friday, December 19.***

ELCA Good Gift Ornaments

The **ELCA Good Gift Ornaments** in a price range from \$10-\$150 located on the Christmas Tree in the Narthex will be available through the 2nd Sunday of Christmas, January 4, 2026. Just remove from the tree in the narthex and return it with payment in the offering or drop in the mail slot in the church office door. IF you wish to sponsor one for the Christmas Eve newsletter, please include a dedication and return it no later than **Friday, December 19**. *Payment for the ELCA Good Gift Ornaments cannot be made online.*

Family Promise at Grace

Family Promise will be at Grace the week of December 28 – January 4, 2026. During that week volunteers are needed to provide meals, host meals, and drive the van from the church and Day Center. If you are interested in helping you can find out more about what is required for each of these duties and sign up to volunteer on the website at <https://www.gracecamphill.org/events/family-promise-grace/2025-12-28>. For more information regarding Family Promise please contact Susan Ryder at susan@familypromisehcr.org.

End-Of-Year Giving Reminder

Thank you for your faithful and generous support of our ministries this year! As the end of the year is approaching, please note that **all contributions intended for 2025 tax-year credit** need to be either **received at the church or postmarked by December 31, 2025**. **Online giving needs to be entered by December 31, 2025**. With your support we can continue to share Christ's love, serve our neighbors, and strengthen the Church for God's mission in the world.

Check out the new Merchandise Store for Grace

Looking for some Grace swag? Check out our new merchandise store at <https://www.bonfire.com/store/grace-camp-hill-merch/> or use the QR code. You can find hats, clothing (with Grace's purpose on the back) and water bottles. What a great way to support Grace and start a conversation.



GRACE LUTHERAN MERCHANDISE

Welcome to Our Church Cards

If you are visiting with us today, please take a moment to complete one of the "Welcome to Our Church" cards found in both narthexes, the library and the pews. We'd love to hear from you.

Winter Weather Policy

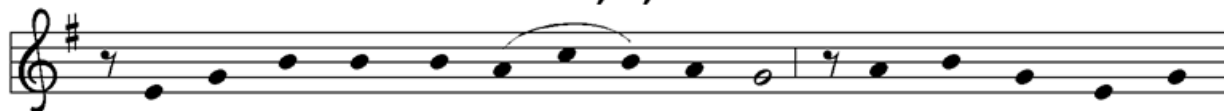
During the work week, Monday thru Friday, Grace follows the closings of the West Shore School District. If the school is closed, the office and all activities that day are closed and cancelled. Weekend worship cancellation are determined by the Pastor and Council President. Cancellations will be posted on CBS 21 and ABC 27, as well as Grace's Facebook page and website.

Good News from Grace articles are due by **12noon on the 15th of the month** for the next month's newsletter. **Grace Notes** information is due by **12noon on Tuesdays**. Email to ddeppen@gracecamphill.org

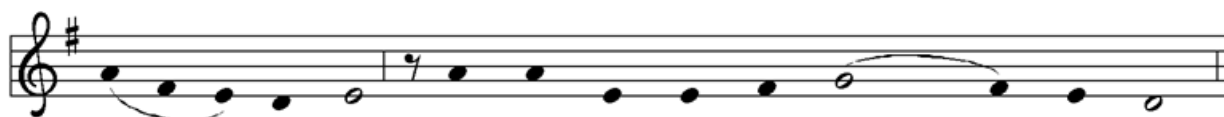
Calendar

12/13	5:00pm	Sabbath Service of Holy Communion w/ Pastor Evan Houck
12/14	9:00am 9:30am 10:30am 3:00pm	Coffee Hour w/Youth & Family Ministry (After worship from 10:30 – 11:00am, too) Service of Holy Communion in Sanctuary Junior Youth Group (JYG) Cumberland Singers Concert in Sanctuary
12/15	7:00pm	Scout Troop 54 & Cub Scout Pack 54 Meeting Grace Book Club Rescheduled to January
12/16	9:00am 1:00pm	Quilting Ministry in Quilting Room Bible Study in Library
12/17	3:00pm 7:00pm	Grace Giving Pantry Blue Christmas Service in Sanctuary
12/18	6:00pm 7:00pm	Bells of Grace in Balcony Chancel Choir in Choir Room

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel vs 1, 2, 3



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Joy to the World



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

Our Story

Matthew 25:35-40: *For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’”*

The purpose of Grace Lutheran Church is to make a difference by serving others through God’s love and our faith

Grace Church Staff

Senior Pastor	The Rev. Chad Butz 610.297.2514 (cell); pastorchad@gracecamphill.org
Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministry	Ethan Lentz Ethan.Lentz@gracecamphill.org
Director of Music	Kristopher Hartman K.E.Hartman11@gmail.com
Organist	Emily Hartman K.E.Hartman11@gmail.com
Office Administrator/Sexton	Chris Jury cjury@gracecamphill.org
Administrative Specialist	Diane Deppen ddeppen@gracecamphill.org

To contact the church office: 717.737.0439; office@gracecamphill.org
Monday-Thursday 8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

**Grace Lutheran Church * 1610 Carlisle Road *
Camp Hill, Pennsylvania 17011**