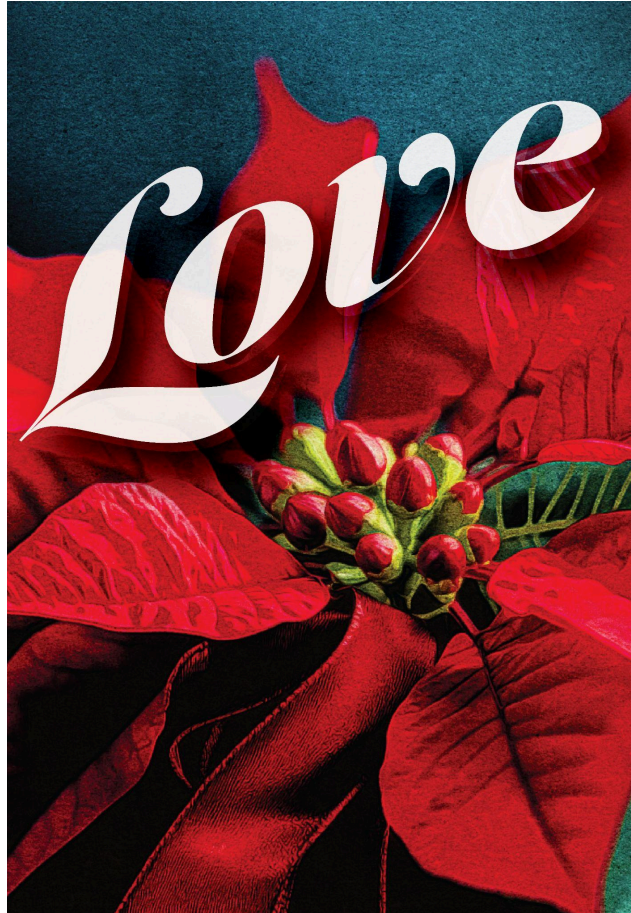

GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



Today's Worship Theme

Advent is about the “coming days.” God’s people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a “righteous Branch to spring up for David.” The Thessalonians awaited “the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints.” Jesus’ contemporaries hoped for the time “to stand before the Son of Man.” With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper.

Welcome & Worship Notes

- We're glad you are here! Please know children can join us for worship too.
- Congregation responses are in **bold** print. "ELW" is the red hymnal. The Holy Bible is in the lower racks below the pews.
- Our ushers can provide devices for those with hearing impairment.
- Need the internet? *GraceGuests Network* Password: *GraceGuests1234*
- Please turn off all cell phones or place them in silent mode.
- Restrooms and water fountain are down the hall from the Sanctuary.
- A quiet, comfortable room is available to anyone needing it; it is located around the corner from the restrooms.
- **Got kids?** Children are welcome in worship. Grab an activity bag and children's bulletin located at the entrance. Children are invited to come forward for the Children's Message and may continue upstairs for Children's Church & Music (about 20 minutes), during the sermon. Children will return for Holy Communion and are welcome to receive the sacrament. Nursery is available for children 6 weeks–4 years old.

Grace Lutheran Church Affirmation of Welcome

In the name of Jesus, who invites us with reconciling love and grace to join in the kingdom of God, Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church welcomes all who profess, or seek to profess, Jesus Christ as their Savior. Believing that the Gospel is God's gift to all, we rejoice in the diversity of God's people and welcome all, regardless of age, cultural and economic background, ethnic and linguistic heritage, gender, marital status, physical and mental ability, race, sexual orientation, or any other distinction. We are all one in God's eyes, sharing in the free gifts of the Gospel and the Holy Spirit. Therefore, we encourage all to take part in the life of this congregation as we worship, witness and openly share the love of God through Christ our Lord.



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Greeter: Kristie Evans
Altar Guild: Beth Reavis

Usher: TBA
Coffee Host: Dawn Anderson

✠ GATHER ✠

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Scan the QR code for our “Grace Happenings” weekly e-newsletter.



PRELUDE

“Wachet auf; I. Prelude”

Wayne L. Wold

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Tyler Ruddy

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, kneeling as you are able. God of mercy, **we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.**

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

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

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.**

Please stand as you are able.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

Please share a sign of Christ’s peace, then remain standing for the hymn.

GATHERING HYMN

“Rejoice, Rejoice Believers”

ELW 244

GREETING

Assisting Minister: Scott Evans

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.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near. You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world. You show up in our lives at unexpected times. Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival. We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour, you hurry to gather all people to your peace. **Amen.**

ADVENT HYMN

"Drawn to the Light"

ELW 593



Please be seated.

✠ **WORD** ✠

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Children may come forward for the Children's Message, then are invited upstairs for Children's Church & Music, and will return before Communion.

A READING FROM Jeremiah 33:14-16

Lector: Carolyn Henion

A righteous branch springing up from David

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

A READING FROM 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Strengthen hearts of holiness for the coming of the Lord

⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

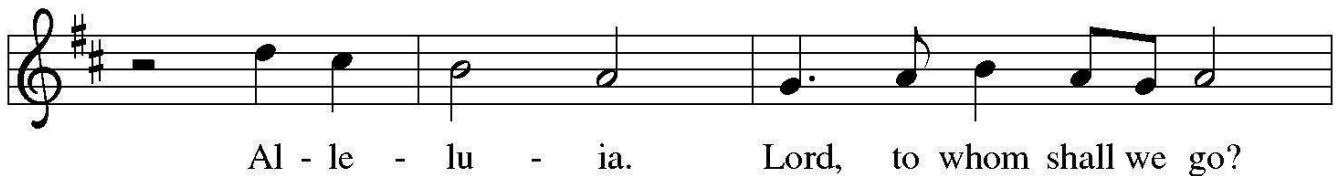
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL READING: Luke 21:25-36

Be alert for the coming of the Son of Man

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



The Holy Gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] ²⁵“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Steve Troisi

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying”

ELW 436

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.**

Please kneel as you are able.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each portion of the prayer ends with these words:
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Please be seated.

✠ **MEAL** ✠

OFFERING SONG

“O Come, Emmanuel”
Ringers of Grace

Jason Krug

Thank you for partnering with Grace. Place your gift in the Narthex offering box or visit www.graceboone.org/donate.

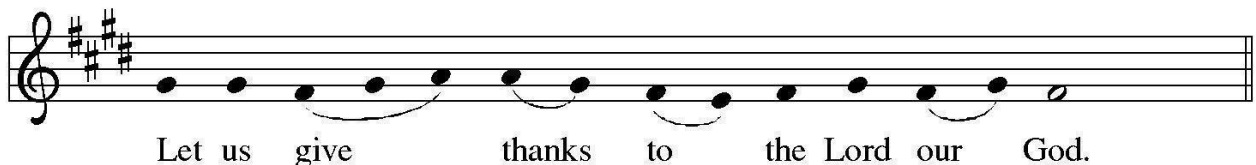
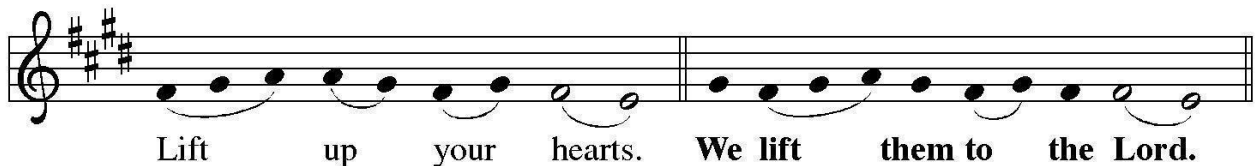
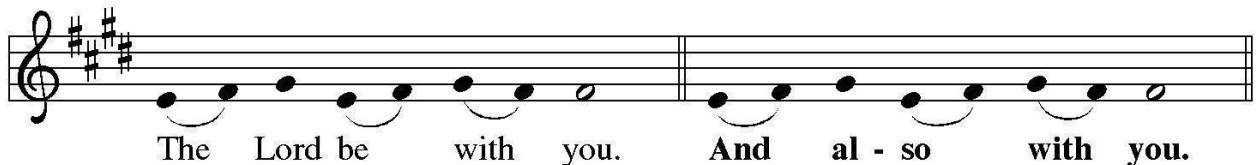


Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

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. **Amen.**

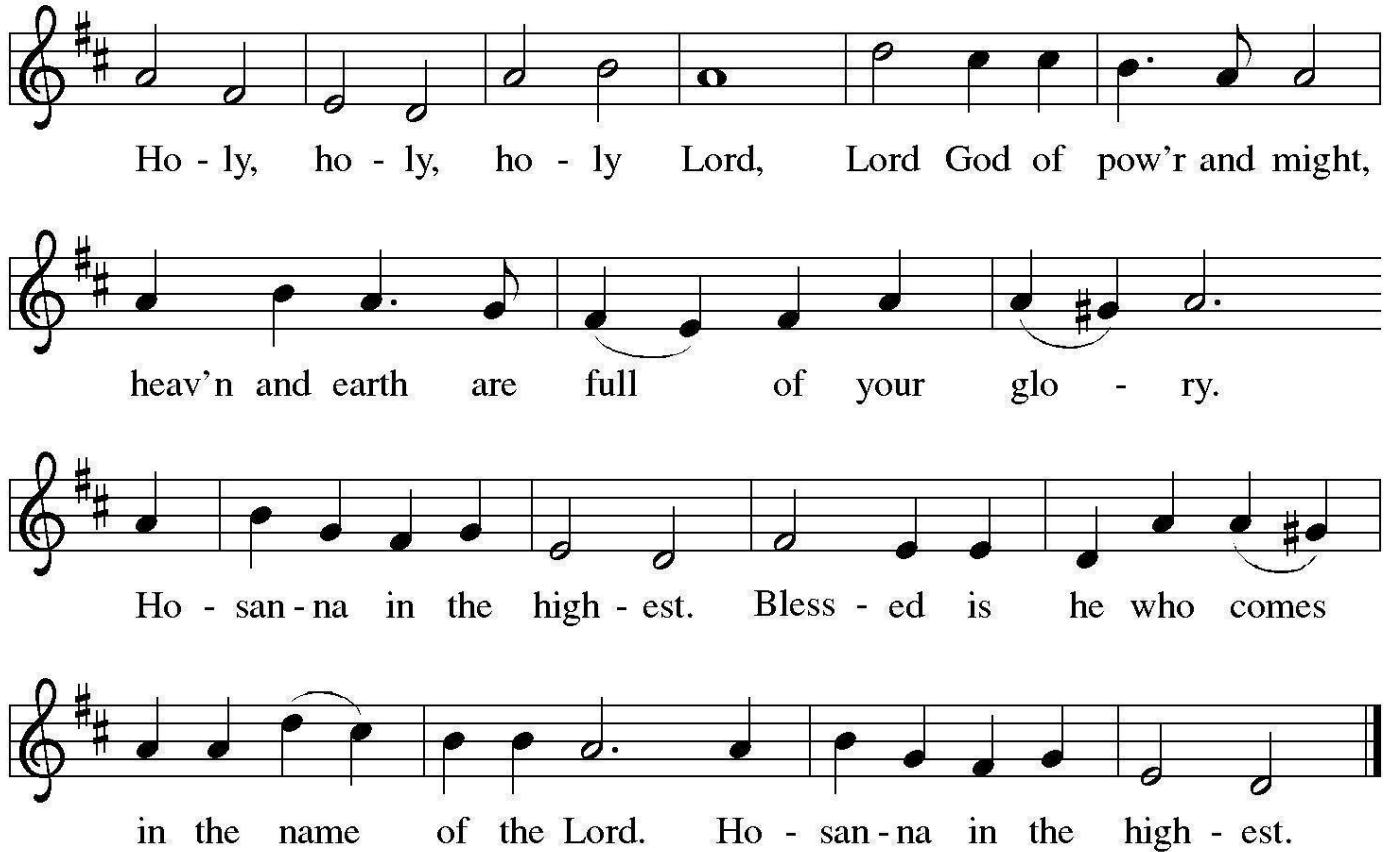
GREAT THANKSGIVING



PREFACE

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

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and 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."

LORD'S PRAYER

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table. **Thanks be to God!**

Please be seated. This is the Lord's Table; all who seek Christ's true presence promised through this bread and wine are welcome and invited to partake in communion. You'll receive bread first (it is gluten-, nut-, soy- & dairy-free) and then wine (grape juice is available). Please alert an usher if you require the sacrament to be brought to you.

Communion is normally served around the altar rail the first Sunday of the month. On the other Sundays, communion is served at the head of the aisle. (Note that Healing prayers are offered in the Chapel after receiving communion on the first and third Sundays.)

COMMUNION SONG



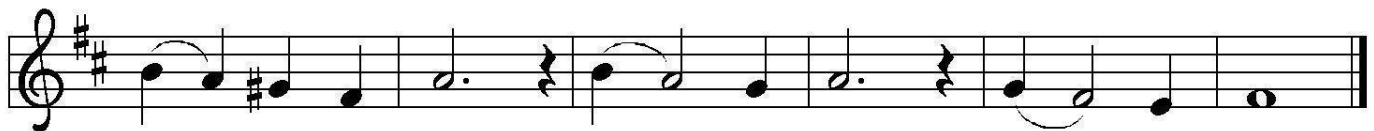
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



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, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS “Each Winter as the Year Grows Older” ELW 252

“Christ, Be Our Light” ELW 715

Please stand as you are able.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. 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.
Amen.

BLESSING

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

“People Look East”

ELW 248

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

“Wachet auf, III. Finale”

Wayne L. Wold

<p><u>CHANCEL GREENERY</u> Is given to the glory of God and in celebration of Linda Collins, Sabena’s mom, who has a special birthday by Emory & Sabena Maiden.</p>	<p><u>SANCTUARY LAMP</u> Is burning to the glory of God and in memory of Henry Evans, Scott's father, who would have been 79 this week by Kristie & Scott Evans.</p>
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READINGS FOR December 8

Malachi 3:1-4 | Luke 1:68-79 | Philippians 1:3-11 | Luke 3:1-6

GIVING REPORT

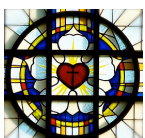
Giving September 1, 2024 through October 31, 2024

October Giving	October Budgeted Giving	Year to Date Giving	Year to Date Budgeted Giving
\$37,936.88	\$31,666.67	\$58,892.88	\$63,333.34

HERE’S A GLANCE OF THIS COMING WEEK AT GRACE!

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday School (C) • LSA Sunday School (C) • Worship (S) • Handbells (S) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HCC Christmas Activ • AA Mtg.(LLFH) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wood Lot work day • Mt. Laurel Quilters (I) • LSA meet at App St. • DTD Formal Mtg. (F) • PIKA (FH) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CW (P) • Staff Mtg. • Grace Quilters • LSA (CH) • Choir Rehearsal • High School Youth G 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up risers (S) • Adult Bible Study (C) • Susan recording 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classical Co. School • Church decorating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fall Clean up day

For the most up-to-date events & details, see the weekly “Grace Happenings” e-newsletter and our online monthly calendar: <https://www.gracelutheranboone.org/calendar>



Grace Lutheran: Sharing God’s love so that all are served and supported.

