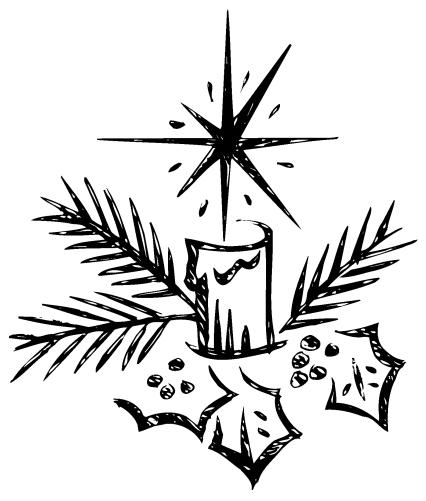
Grace Lutheran Worship Folder

December 21 & 22, 2024



Watch worship online - connect through www.gracelutheran-alpena.org

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Grace Lutheran Church

Grace Lutheran's Purpose Statement

"We share God's love by welcoming all and making a Christ-like difference in our community and world."

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME/PRELUDE

GATHERING

(the assembly stands as they are comfortable)

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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon.
- C: Amen.
- P: 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.
- C: Amen.



Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872 This selection is in the public domain.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

ADVENT CANDLE "He Came Down" (two times through)

R253



1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;



he came down that we may have love; hal-le-lu-jah for-ev-er-more.

Text: Cameroon traditional

Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional

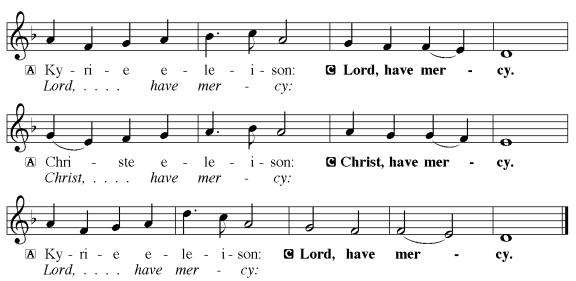
Arr. John L. Bell © 1986 Iona Community. Permission to reprint/stream this music obtained from OneLicense #A-708784.

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.

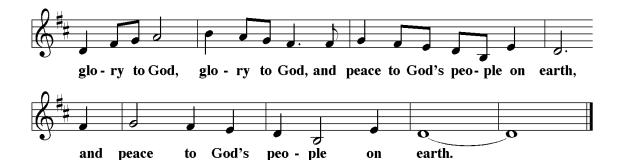
KYRIE



HYMN OF PRAISE







P: The Lord be with you. C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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. Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture, preaching and song.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Micah 5:2-5a

The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. (Ephrathah refers to the area around Bethlehem.) This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

² 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. ³ 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. ⁴ 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; ^{5a} and he shall be the one of peace.

Psalm: Luke 1:46b-55

You, Lord, have lifted up the lowly. (Lk. 1:52)

- ^{46b} My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
- ⁴⁸ for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed:
- ⁴⁹ you, the Almighty, have done great things for me and holy is your name.
- ⁵⁰ You have mercy on those who fear you, from generation to generation.
- ⁵¹ You have shown strength with your arm and scattered the proud in their conceit,
- 52 casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly.
- ⁵³ You have filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.
- ⁵⁴ You have come to the aid of your servant Israel, to remember the promise of mercy,
- 55 the promise made to our forebears, to Abraham and his children forever.

Hebrews 10:5-10

The author of Hebrews uses the image of religious sacrifice to convey the significance of Christ's coming. Through obedient acceptance of God's will, Christ allows his own body to become the greatest sacrifice of all, one through which we are made a holy people.

⁵ Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; ⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. ⁷ 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)." ⁸ 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), ⁹ then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰ And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

P: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(The assembly stands as they are comfortable for the Gospel)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

Elizabeth, John's mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, are two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. In Elizabeth's inspired greeting and Mary's song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things.

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." [⁴⁶ And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰ His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. ⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; ⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."]

P: The Gospel of Our Lord.

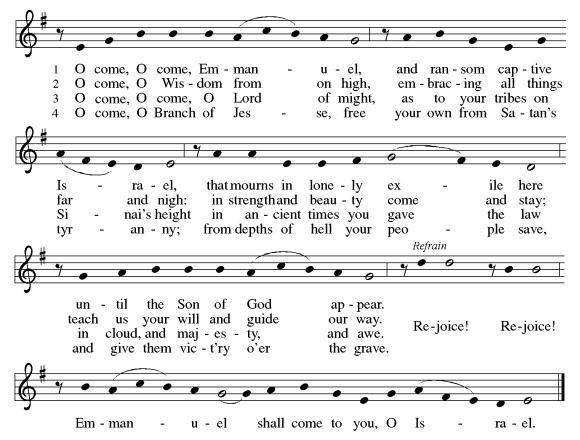
C: Praise to You, O Christ.

HOMILY

(The assembly stands as they are comfortable)

HYMN OF THE DAY "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

R257



Text: Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. composite Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent. Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

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 power of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again;

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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.

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

(Response after each petition)

P: Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

MEAL God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY (the assembly stands as they are comfortable and sings as the gifts are brought forward)



P: Let us pray...Creator God,

C: 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

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

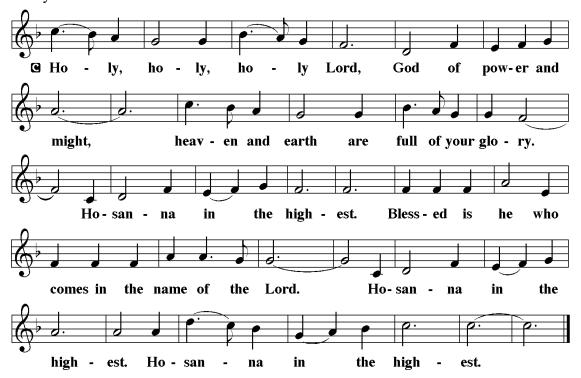
P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...(concluding)...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER/WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light . . .

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

- C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.
- P: With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.
- C: Come, Lord Jesus.
- P: Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.
- C: Come, Holy Spirit.
- P: All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.
- C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

- P: Lord, remember us in your Kingdom and teach us to pray.
- C: 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.

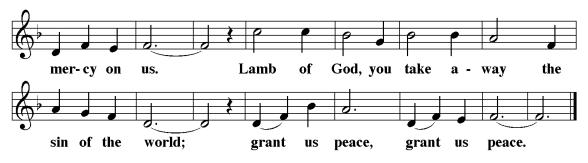
P: God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

HOLY COMMUNION

(All who desire to receive Christ's presence in bread and wine are welcome to participate in the Eucharist)



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



COMMUNION HYMN "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah"

R240



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si ah: let the light ban-ish dark ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si ah: let the light ban-ish dark ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si ah: let the light ban-ish dark ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si ah: let the light ban-ish dark ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra-el, God ful - fills the prom - ise. He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward. Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry. com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights He be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

(the assembly stands as they are comfortable)

- P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- C: Amen.
- P: Let us pray...Generous God,
- C: 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

P: God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey, + bless and keep us now and forever.

C: Amen.



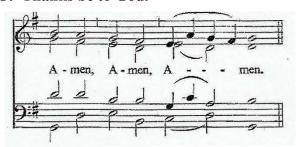
Text: Andraé Crouch, b. 1945

Music: VERY SOON, Andraé Crouch Permission to reprint/stream this music obtained from CCLI #11295441/20816990. Text and music © 1976 Bud John Songs, Inc./Crouch Music, admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing

ANNOUNCEMENTS

P: Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

C: Thanks be to God.



POSTLUDE



WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT GRACE LUTHERAN A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

We are glad to have you here worshiping with us. For visitors, we would be glad to tell you more about Grace Lutheran and how we share God's love. Please leave the best way to contact you on the visitor sheets in the Sanctuary Narthex or the Office Lobby or use the bulletin and give it to an usher.

COFFEE HOUR AFTER SUNDAY WORSHIP

Join us for a time of fellowship with coffee/tea/juice and treats in the Fellowship Hall off the Office Lobby after our Sunday worship.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Darlene Freel, Bill Whitscell, Gary Bettega, Don & Myra Cross, Adam Kamyszek, Kelly Pankey, Joanne Kindt, Eleanor Coddington, Sandy Malaski, Janet Chroninger, Bonnie Cross, Elfie Jahnke, Budd & Marlene Jobson, Don Barnard, Meredith Smith, Robert Larsen, Vicki Piontkowski, Elaine Hatch, Scott Lancaster, Dorothy Hansen, Larry & Emma Nelson, Michele Amelotte, Jim Malaski -- Mychele Allmacher, Danielle Lawrence, Bishop Emeritus Gary Hansen, Deborah Al-Duwaisan, Julie Stafford, Daphne Flack, Dixie Crevier, Brenda Donajkowski, Rev. Sarah Samuelson, Linda, Kaye Harry, Sandra Beck, Kevin Carlson, Laura Fettes (Don Cross' granddaughter), Arlie Prevost, Donna Kendziorski, Jeff Kendziorski, Geraldine Rhoads, Herb Schiller, Ann Haske, Jimmy Lappan, Donna Hatch, Jordyn, Maggie, and Joseph Hansen.

PRAYER PARTNERS

From the LARCC (Lutheran, Anglican, Roman Catholic and Congregational UCC) parishes of Alpena, this weekend we pray for the Youth and Family Ministry at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Our Synod Prayer Partner for this week: St. John's Lutheran Church/Baroda, Rev. Kenneth Babcock, and Bishop Craig Satterlee and Synod Staff.

UNDECORATING THE CHURCH - SUNDAY JANUARY 5

Join in and help take down the Christmas decorations after worship on January 5. We'll have a lunch and work together to take things down and put them away for next year.

Please sign the sheet in the Office Lobby so we have a count for the sub sandwiches. If you would like to bring crackers, bread, salad or dessert to go with the subs, please notate that on the sign-up sheet.

A NEW CHURCH YEAR

We begin again our journey of faith through Jesus' birth, life, death and resurrection. This year with the Gospel of Luke. The beginning Advent season is a season of preparation, hope and expectation. We look to the manger, yes. More importantly though, we also look beyond it to the more that is coming. As we pray, Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. That is truly what we are preparing for. The Kingdom of love, peace, grace and justice to come to here and now. That working with God and Jesus, we embody that in our living.

That is how we, the church, are different than the world. Christmas is not our goal. What lies beyond it is what we prepare for and hope for and expect. That is why we have a season of Advent before Christmas. And a season of Christmas after the 25th. If the church is not different than the world, we are of no value, and do not have meaning. We do have meaning though because of the more that is possible.

Christmas shows God's incarnation in Jesus and tells us we have value. And we have a purpose. We are church for God's mission. Believing that, we prepare again to learn the hear the story of Jesus and learn it for our living. That we are part of the Kingdom that is and the more Kingdom to come.

God's Grace and Peace to all, with Jesus' love.

Pastor Tom

LITTLE FOOD PANTRY

Happy Holidays from the Little Food Pantry at Grace Lutheran. It is through the generosity of our community that we can help people with food insecurity on a short term basis and it has been abundant! Thank you!

GENERAL FUND GIVING FOR NOVEMBER 2024

Average needed in November (4 weeks) to meet budget \$18,944.00 Monthly Giving - November \$14,958.00

We received:

100 envelopes, 57 Simply Giving recurring payments, 8 Give+ payments made from our website, and 4Thrivent Choice donations







Anniversaries of Baptism

December 1

December 6

December 7

Gary Grove

December 8

Jewel Lancaster

Ryan Werblow

December 9

Cindy Suszek

December 11

David Dekett

December 12

Janie Hansen

Andrea Matzke

Monica Jahnke

Levi Konarzewski



December 14 Cheryl Lang

December 16 Polly Cook

December 17 Joel Gillard

December 21 Gracie Gillard

December 24Riley Garant
Edward Jahnke

December 28 Jessica Konarzewski Sherie McTaggart

December 30 Ethan McIntosh

Birthdays

December 1Denise Timrick

December 2 Laurie Slater Ashley Timmreck-Walker

December 3 Ricky Slater Laura Thompson

December 5 Cody Suszek

December 7 Riley Garant Sophia Kamyszek

December 8 Hannah Kamyszek

December 9 Paul Denstaedt

December 16 Stephanie Adamski Jerry Mudge

December 18Stephen Hansen

December 19Donna Czarnecki

December 20 Gracelyn Gohlke Reed Lappan

December 21 Charlotte Werth

December 22 Shane Jaroch Connie Stepanski

December 24Patricia Schultz

December 25 Matthew Freel

December 27 Jessica Timm

December 29 Verna Furze Kenda Yochum

December 30 Tom Lappan



Wedding Anniversaries

2nd Joe & Dawn Gentry
Dick & Barb Werle
4th Mike & Tracey Urlaub
7th Mike & Kim McCourt

19th George & Mary Rowader21st Matt & Jessica Gillard30th Tom & Mary Lappan



December 24th 5:00 & 7:30 p.m.

Communion offered at both services



December 28th at 5 p.m. December 29th at 9:30 a.m.

Join us as we hear the story and sing the songs of the season.



SUNDAY WORSHIP LIVESTREAMED AND RECORDED

Our Sunday worship service is livestreamed, shown on the internet, as it is happening and recorded for viewing online later. People in the sanctuary attending the Sunday service may be seen as part of the livestream and recording.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK! Sunday – 22nd 8:50 am Choir Practice

Sunday School Resumes Jan. 19

9:30 am Worship Monday - 23rd

8am-noon

Church Office Open

Tuesday - 24th

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
5 & 7:30 pm Christmas Eve
Candlelight Worship

Wednesday - 25th

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Thursday - 26th

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Friday - 27th

8am-noon

Church Office Open

Saturday - 28th 5:00 pm

Worship -Lessons & Carols

SERVING CHRISTMS EVE - DEC. 24

SERVING CITRIST	MDE TE DEC. 21
Ministers	God's People
Pastor	Rev. Tom Orth
Music Director	Claire Witt
Recorded Accompanin	nentKat Tomaszewski
Lectors	(5pm) Janet Bettega
	(7:30 pm) Joe Gentry
Comm. Asst. (5 pm) Da	le Schultz, Matt Haske
(7:3	0 pm) Cindy Domrase
Ushers Gary & Kay (Grove, Rick Engstrom,
Cindy Domra	se
Greeters	(5 pm)
(7:30 pm) Mary Roy	wader, Cindy Domrase
Altar Guild	Gentry Family
Livestream Team	Dawn Anderson, Jan
Charter, Don	LaBarre, Alex Struble

SERVING DECEMBER 21/22

Ministers	God's People
Pastor	Rev. Tom Orth
Music Director	Claire Witt
Recorded AccompanimentKa	t Tomaszewski
Lector	Nancy Platt
Comm. Asst	Sentry Family,
Diane Pre	vost (Saturday)
Ushers Gary & Kay Grove, F	Rick Engstrom
Cindy Domrase (Satur	day)
GreetersDale	& Pat Schultz
Altar Guild	Gentry Family
Livestream Team Dawn	Anderson, Jan
Charter, Don LaBarre	, Alex Struble
CountersCheryl Lang,	Cindy Suszek
Coffee HourRuby Ha	ske & Family

SERVING DECEMBER 28/29

Ministers God's People
Pastor Rev. Tom Orth
Music DirectorClaire Witt
Recorded AccompanimentKat Tomaszewski
Comm. Asst Wayne & Chris Christopherson,
Diane Prevost (Saturday)
UshersGary & Kay Grove, Rick Engstrom
Cindy Domrase (Saturday)
Greeters Rick & Sharon Engstrom
Altar Guild Gentry Family
Livestream Team Dawn Anderson, Jan
Charter, Don LaBarre, Alex Struble
CountersCheryl Lang, Cindy Suszek
Coffee Hour. Dale & Pat Schultz, Darlene Freel

Large print worship folders & hearing assistance devices are available from ushers

GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

119 W. Dunbar St., Alpena, MI 49707 Phone: Office 989-354-2640

Web Site: www.gracelutheran-alpena.org Give online at www.gracelutheran-alpena.org

Pastor: Rev. Thomas W. Orth
Pastor's Home 989-356-8729 Pastor's Cell Phone 989-916-8759
<u>E-mail</u>:

pastor@gracelutheran-alpena.org officemanager@gracelutheran-alpena.org View our services on YouTube

