

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

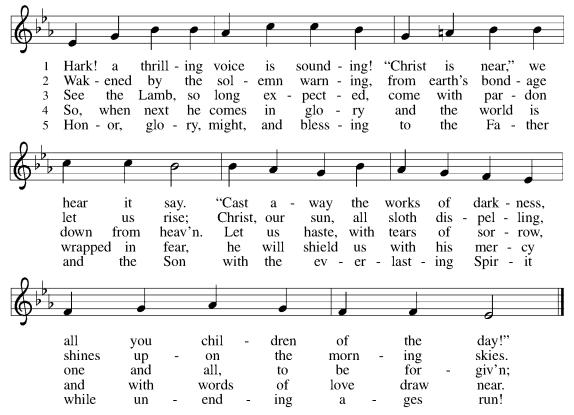
(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.)

(the assembly stands as you are comfortable)

- P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation.
- C: Amen.
- P: God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

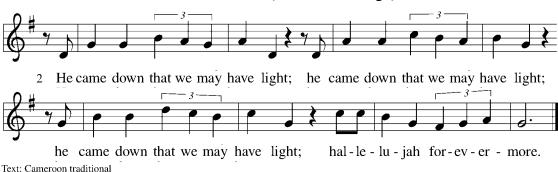
Silence is kept for reflection.

- P: Everlasting God,
- C: you love justice and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression. We are complicit in systems of exploitation. We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation's bounty. Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.
- P: Hear these words of assurance: God clothes us with garments of salvation and covers us with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of + Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven. God's covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all.
- C: Amen.



Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–1878 This selection is in the public domain. Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823–1889

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



Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional

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

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ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

GREETING

- P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the refining fire of the Holy Spirit, and the peace of God, which surpasses understanding, be with you all.
- C: And also with you.







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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(the assembly may be seated)

<u>WORD</u>

God speaks to us in scripture, preaching and song.

SCRIPTURE READINGS Isaiah 64:1-9

This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—²as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! ³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. ⁴From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. ⁵You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. ⁶We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. ⁷There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. ⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. (Ps. 80:7) ¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim. ²In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us. ³Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. ⁴O LORD God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your people pray? ⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears: you have given them bowls of tears to drink. ⁶You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn. ⁷Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. ¹⁷Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one you have made so strong for yourself. ¹⁸And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name.

¹⁹Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

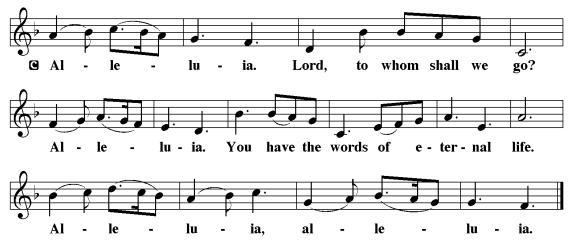
As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



- P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark.
- C: Glory to You, O Lord.

Mark 13:24-37

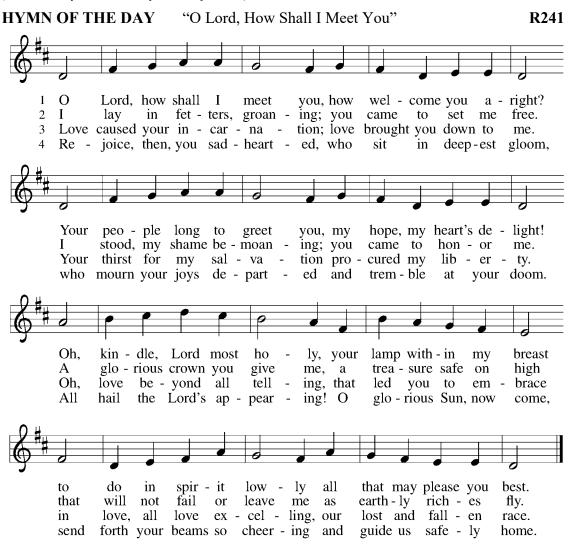
Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.

[Jesus said:]²⁴"In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵ and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.²⁸"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³²"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

P: The Gospel of Our Lord. C: Praise to You, O Christ.

HOMILY

(The assembly stands as they are comfortable)



Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676; tr. composite Music: WIE SOLL ICH DICH EMPFANGEN, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

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

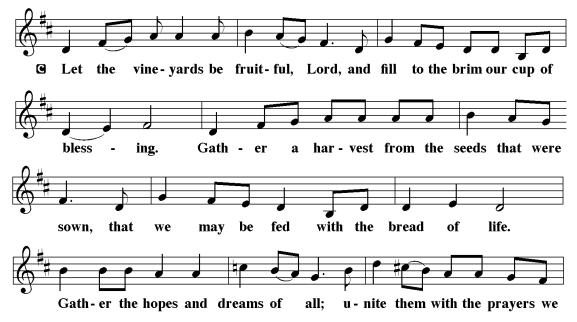
(Response after each petition)

- P: Merciful God,
- C: receive our prayer.

<u>MEAL</u> God feeds us with the presence of Christ.

OFFERING

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

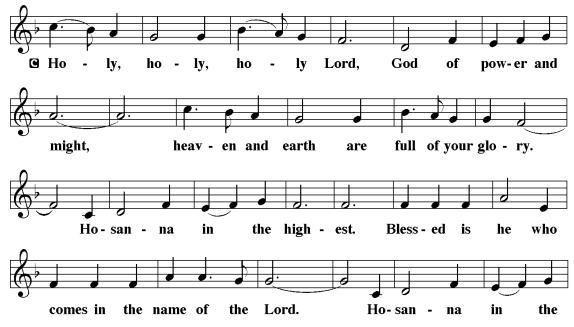




- P: Let us pray...God our provider,
- C: by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

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 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

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.

HOLY COMMUNION

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

In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together. Come, take your place at the table.





Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

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(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: in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

BLESSING

- P: The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit + remain upon you now and forever.
- C: Amen.



Text: John Brownlie, 1859–1925 Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816 Public domain.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

P: Go in peace. Keep awake.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.

ALTAR FLOWERS

In Honor

of

Dawn & Joseph Gentry's 35th Wedding Anniversary

IN OUR PRAYERS

Mary Barney-Bock, Eleanor Coddington, Sandy Malaski, Janet Chroninger, Bonnie Cross, Elfie Jahnke, Budd Jobson, Harry Kautz, Lisa Wooll, Kristin Berles, Don Barnard, Meredith Smith, Robert Larsen, Vicki Piontkowski, Elaine Hatch, Scott Lancaster, Gerald Lancaster, Dorothy Hansen, Larry & Emma Nelson, Michele Amelotte, Jim Malaski, Kathy Rettell -- Reed Domrase, Brenda Donajkowski, Carl Smith, Rev. Laraine Sundin, Rev. Sarah Samuelson, Arlene Bettega, Judy Cattin, Sarah Cattin, Linda, Kaye Harry, Sandra Beck, Kevin Carlson, Laura Fettes (Don Cross' granddaughter), Arlie Prevost, Donna Kendziorski, Jeff Kendziorski, Geraldine Rhoads, James Marculewicz, Herb Schiller, Ann Haske, Joanne Coughlin, Jimmy Lappan, Donna Hatch, Jordyn, Maggie, Emily Cross, and Joseph Hansen. We also remember the family of Ann Suszek (Joel's mom), who passed away November 15th.

PRAYER PARTNERS

From the LARCC (Lutheran, Anglican, Roman Catholic and Congregational UCC) parishes of Alpena, this weekend we pray for justice and peace efforts at First Congregational UCC. Our Synod Prayer Partner for this week: Lutheran Church of the Savior/Kalamazoo, Rev. Alexander Steward, Contracted, and Bishop Craig Satterlee and Synod Staff.

THANK YOU

Thank you to Rev. Tom Downs for leading worship, preaching and presiding this weekend. Rev. Downs is a retired Episcopal Priest who served Trinity Episcopal Church a number of years ago and has returned to Alpena in retirement.

COMMUNION CONTINUOUS THIS WEEKEND.

Communion will be our usual continuous serving this weekend. We will do communion at the rail on the weekend of December 9 & 10.

CHRISTMAS DECORATING - JOIN US DECEMBER 10TH AFTER WORSHIP

We're putting up the tree and the greens and the candles on Sunday, December 10th. Join in preparing the church for the season.

CONGREGATIONAL LUNCHEON

December 10 - after church decorating and before we go caroling.

If you are staying for one or the other, decorating after church or going caroling at 1, have lunch together. Or just join us for lunch. Please sign up in the Office Lobby.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING - NEW DATE

Sunday, December 10

You are invited to join in Christmas caroling around the community on Sunday, December 10 at 1:00pm. Church decorating and lunch will happen beforehand. A sign up sheet will be posted. We will be going to assisted living homes as well as homes of some of our members. Please join in the fun! Sign up in the Office Lobby.

2023 CHRISTMAS WISH LIST - UPDATE

We have received wishes from an additional 8 children (a total of 24 more wishes from 3 families) and with your generous assistance, we are confident of even more success. *The recipient tags are available on the giving tree in the office lobby*. Gifts will need to be wrapped (NO GIFT BAGS), with the gift tag securely taped to the package and <u>returned to the church no later than SUNDAY, DECEMBER</u> <u>10</u>. Thank you for making a difference in our community. --The Discipleship Committee

LITTLE FOOD PANTRY

The last two weeks have seen quite a few donations to the Little Food Pantry.

Besser Elementary School through the work of Tracie Granata brought in a bus load of things, with the students helping with loading and unloading. See Facebook for some photos.

Neighborhood Provisions has an ongoing food drive at their store and brought over just a lot of food. (See Facebook for part of it.) More coming in December.

All Saints Parish made a donation of feminine hygiene products from their Period Poverty Pantry.

Lions Club donated sacks of potatoes from their fundraiser.

And \$2,445 was received in memorial donations in honor of Daniel Spaulding and his work stocking the pantry. He will be missed.

KITCHEN REFRIGERATOR BECOMES FREEZER ON DECEMBER 10TH

With food boxes coming in from United Way that have frozen meats in them, we are turning the refrigerator into a freezer to store the meats until distributed. So just a heads up for any thinking of using the refig/freezer that week or so.

THANKS ALL WHO WORKED ON THANKSGIVING DINNER

43 meals were served with 27 eating at church and 16 delivered. Thanks to Haskes, Christophersons, Schultzs and Pankeys and all who worked on and donated for the meal and fellowship together.

NEW CHURCH ACCOMPANIST FOR ORGAN AND/OR PIANO

We have reposted the announcement on our Facebook page. Your specifically "sharing" the post, beyond just liking, will spread the word more online. Thank you.

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.

> A list of December birthdays and anniversaries can be found on the News page of our website at www.gracelutheran-alpena.org/2023-birthdays

GENERAL FUND GIVING FOR OCTOBER 2023

Average needed in October (5 weeks) to meet budget Monthly Giving - October

\$ 22,930.00 19.451.23

We received:

129 envelopes, 68 Simply Giving recurring payments, and 7 Give+ payments made from our website

HAPPENING THIS WEEK!

<u>Sunday – 3rd</u> 9:00 am

9:00 am 9:00 am 9:30 am 11:00 am

Monday - 4th

8am-noon 6:00 pm Church Office Open Remembering Our Children - Lounge

Sunday School

Choir Practice

Adult Ed - Lounge

Worship

Tuesday - 5th

8am-noon 9:00 am 11:00 am Church Office Open Sewing/Quilting Pastors Text Study -Lounge Council

6:00 pm Wednesday - 6th

8am-noon 6:00 pm Church Office Open Bell Choir Practice

Thursday - 7th 8am-noon 4:00 pm

Church Office Open Fellowship Hall/Kitchen Reserved

Church Office Open

<u> Friday - 8th</u>

8am-noon

Saturday - 9th 5:00 pm

Worship

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

SERVING DECEMBER 2/3

<u>SERVING DECEMBER 2/3</u>	
Ministers	God's People
Pastor Re	
Music Director	
Recorded AccompanimentKat Tomaszewski	
Lector	
Communion	•
Assistants Wayne & Chris	Christopherson
Ushers Gary & Kay Grove, 1	Rick Engstrom,
Cindy Domrase (Saturday)	
GreetersJoel &	& Cindy Suszek
Altar Guild	Gentry Family
Livestream Team Dawr	n Anderson, Jan
Charte	r, Don LaBarre
Counters Wayne & Chris	Christopherson,
Darlene Freel	
Coffee Hour Jeff a	& Sandy Welch
SERVING DECEMBER 9/10	
Ministers	God's People
Pastor	Rev. Tom Orth
Music Director	
Recorded AccompanimentKat Tomaszewski	
LectorBil	l & Nancy Platt
Communion	
Assistants Wayne & Chris	Christopherson
Ushers Gary & Kay Grove, 1	Rick Engstrom,
Cindy Domrase (Saturday)	
GreetersDal	
Altar Guild	Gentry Family
Livestream Team Dawn Anderson, Jan	
Charte	r, Don LaBarre

Counters...... Wayne & Chris Christopherson, Darlene Freel

Coffee Hour Wayne Lewis, Audrey Garant

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

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