



# Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

Pastor Heinz Raidel  
Pam Villarreal, Musician

11:00am

8950 Refugee Road  
Pickerington, OH 43147  
Phone: 614.868-3397

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
December 22, 2024

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Chimes

Prelude

Welcome

*The congregation is asked to respond where appropriate. Stand as you are able.*

P: We begin, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.****LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

P: The first three candles we lit were for hope, peace, and joy. Today we light the fourth candle--the candle of LOVE. With this flame we signify the love of God that surrounds and fills us at all time, but that we recognize in a special way in the Christmas story. There is no greater power than LOVE. It is stronger than rulers and empires, stronger than grief or despair, stronger than even death. We love, because God LOVES us.

**C: Loving God, we open ourselves to you this Christmas season. Light our lives with your imagination. Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared. Magnify your LOVE within us. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you that we may walk in the light of Christ.**

A: Depart in peace and take with you the certain knowledge that God is always coming into the world. Seek Good not in a long ago stable or ancient manger, but in the people we meet and the depths of our own hearts. May the blessing of Christmas make you a blessing to others. God forth in hope, peace, joy, and love.

Hymn      *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah (ELW 257)*



- 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.  
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954  
Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune  
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### **BRIEF ORDER FOR 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.

*Kneel/Stand as you are able.*

*Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.*

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.**

### **GATHERING HYMN**

*O Come All Ye Faithful (ELW 283)*

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## O, Come, All Ye Faithful



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
 2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,  
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
 born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;  
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!  
 Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!



come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:  
 Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
 Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:  
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

### *Refrain*



*Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,*  
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

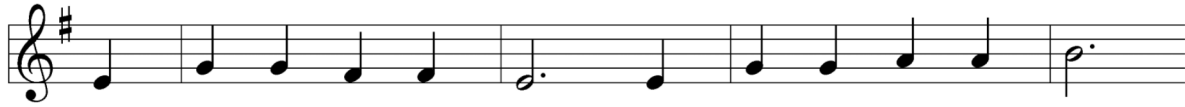


*ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.*  
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

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



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.  
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.  
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing Word; it saves us from de - spair.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

Text: Gracia Grindal, b. 1943, based on the Kyrie  
Music: SOUTHWELL, Daman, *Psalmes*, 1579

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## HYMN OF PRAISE



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav - en; peace, good-will to all the earth.  
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.  
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:  
Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;  
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, throned on high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.  
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.  
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.  
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

Text: Martin A. Seltz, b. 1951, based on "Gloria in excelsis Deo"  
Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827, adapt.

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## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: 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.

**C: Amen**

## THE WORD

### **THE FIRST READING: 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.*

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> 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;

<sup>5a</sup> and he shall be the one of peace.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: Luke 1:46b-55**

<sup>46b</sup> My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

<sup>47</sup> my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup> **for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.**

**From this day all generations will call me blessed:**

<sup>49</sup> you, the Almighty, have done great things for me  
and holy is your name.

<sup>50</sup> **You have mercy on those who fear you,  
from generation to generation.**

<sup>51</sup> You have shown strength with your arm  
and scattered the proud in their conceit,

<sup>52</sup> **casting down the mighty from their thrones  
and lifting up the lowly.**

<sup>53</sup> You have filled the hungry with good things  
and sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup> **You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,  
to remember the promise of mercy,**

<sup>55</sup> the promise made to our forebears,  
to Abraham and his children forever

## SECOND READING: 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.*

<sup>5</sup> Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,  
"Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,  
but a body you have prepared for me;

<sup>6</sup> in burnt offerings and sin offerings  
you have taken no pleasure.

<sup>7</sup> 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)."

<sup>8</sup> 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),

<sup>9</sup> then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup> And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation

*Sing Twice*



Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.



Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

## Gospel

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the first chapter:

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-45**



<sup>39</sup> In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country,  
<sup>40</sup> where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth  
heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the  
Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup> and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and  
blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup> And why has this happened to me, that the mother  
of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup> For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the  
child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that there would  
be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **THE MESSAGE**

The Reverend Heinz D. Raidel

### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Canticle of the Turning (ELW 723)*

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## Canticle of the Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the  
2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .  
3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a  
4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the  
work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the  
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your  
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.  
jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . from his throne.  
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my  
Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to  
The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the  
This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my  
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the  
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry  
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?  
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

### THE PRAYERS

A: As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

*A brief silence.*

A: Lord, in your mercy,  
**C: receive our prayer.**

P: Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

**C: Amen**

### APOSTLE'S CREED

A: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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**

### THE PEACE

A: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

A: Let us share the peace.

### THE OFFERING

#### The Offertory



1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,  
2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor . . . earth sus - tain;  
3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;  
heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;  
If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;



snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed  
if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;



in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.  
the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.  
yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830–1894  
Music: CRANHAM, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934

#### Offertory Prayer

A: 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.**

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

**C: Come to the table of mercy, prepared with the wine and the bread.**

**All who are hungry and thirsty, come, and your souls will be fed.  
Come at the Lord's invitation; receive from his nail-scarred hand.  
Eat of the bread of salvation; drink of the blood of the Lamb.**

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 him 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 to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and



might; heav - en and earth are filled with your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

P: Blessed are you, O holy God; your grace is designed into all things. Your universe expands into unending love.

Blessed are you for Jesus, your Imprint. Visited by sages from beyond borders, recognized in the temple by Anna and Simeon, turning water into wine, he brought

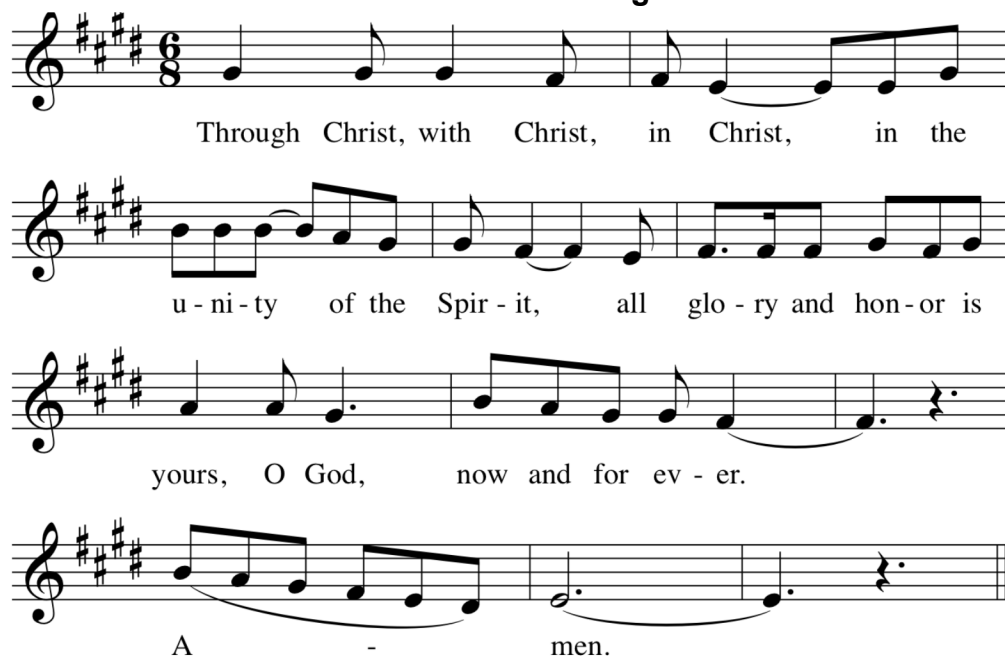
healing joy to a broken world.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

**C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**



Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the  
u - ni - ty of the Spir - it, all glo - ry and hon - or is  
yours, O God, now and for ev - er.  
A - men.

Text and Music: Marty Haugen; © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

P: By your Spirit bless us and this meal, that, refreshed with this heavenly food, we may be salt and yeast for the world, transfiguring every moment with love and justice.

Through Christ all glory and honor is your, Ancient One, with Spirit's power, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

**C: Amen**

P: Let us pray as Jesus taught us:

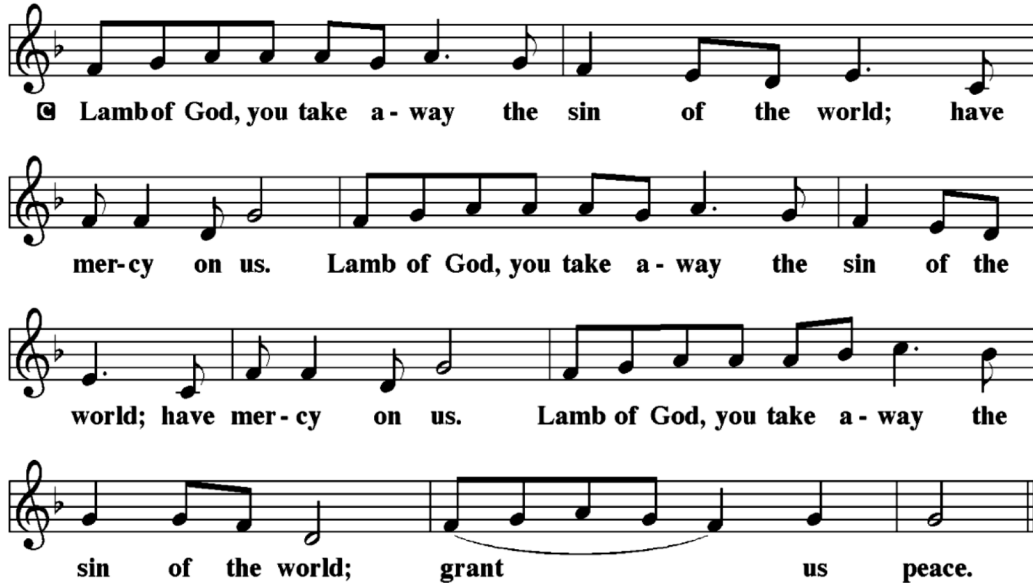
**C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine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

P: Make your glory shine in the breaking of bread and the sharing of this cup.  
C: **Just as your glory shines within us.**

P: The gifts of God for the people of God.  
C: **Thanks be to God!**

### The Distribution of Elements

#### Agnus Dei/Lamb of God



☞ 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.

### POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P: 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**

### SENDING HYMN

*Soon and Very Soon (ELW 439)*

*Back Page*

### THE BLESSING

P: 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.

C: **Amen**

### DISMISSAL

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

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Chimes

Postlude

## Soon and Very Soon



1 Soon and ver - y soon  
2 No more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,  
3 No more dy - in' there,  
4 Soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon  
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,  
no more dy - in' there,  
soon and ver - y soon

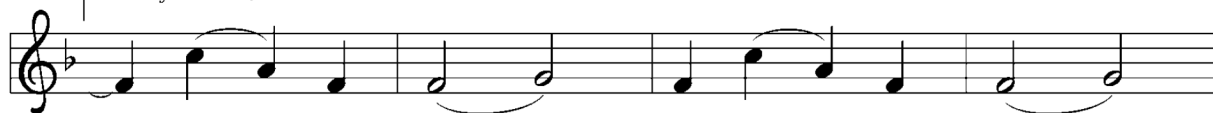


soon and ver - y soon  
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King.  
no more dy - in' there,  
soon and ver - y soon



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!

*Coda after stanza 4*



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu -



jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

Text: Andraé Crouch, b. 1945

Music: VERY SOON, Andraé Crouch

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