



November 22, 2020
Grace Lutheran Church, Boulder, Colorado
Rooted in Grace + Reaching Out in Christ's Love

Welcome to Grace!

We are glad you are joining us online for this worship service. Our liturgy is printed in this worship folder so that you can follow along on [Zoom with the live Worship Service](#) or afterward on [the Grace Boulder website](#). In response to Christ's boundless love for all, members of Grace share that love by inviting all – regardless of ethnicity or race, educational or religious background, economic, physical, mental or social condition, gender identity or sexual orientation – to come and participate in the life of Grace.

On this final Sunday of the church year our gospel is Jesus' great story of judgment. In the end, the faithful are those who served Christ by ministering to those who are poor, hungry, naked, sick, or estranged. In the first reading God is the shepherd who seeks the lost, weak, and injured and feeds them with justice. We gather this day to celebrate the reign of Christ and his victory over death, yet we await the consummation of all things yet to come. Acknowledging Christ as our merciful ruler, we go forth that his reign may be known in our loving words and deeds.

PARTICIPATING MINISTERS IN THE WORK OF GRACE

Presiding Minister	Pastor Zach Parris
Assisting Minister	Anne Peterson
Lector	Katherine Alexander
Organist	Boyd Hamilton
Choir Director	Michael Hoffman
Soprano Section Leader	Ekaterina Kotcherguina
Alto Section Leader	Emma Vawter
Tenor Section Leader	Santiago Herrera
Bass Section Leader	Sebastian Schmidt
Pandemic Worship Cantor	Sebastian Schmidt
Office Administrator	Amy Stewart McIntosh

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GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

1001 13th Street, Boulder CO 80302 Phone 303.442.1883 Fax 303.442.4403
A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

**www.graceboulder.org | office@graceboulder.org
Pastor: matthew@graceboulder.org**

GATHERING

MUSICAL INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Prayer of Thanksgiving

arr. Ted smith and Don Hustad

Anne Peterson, recorder

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved.

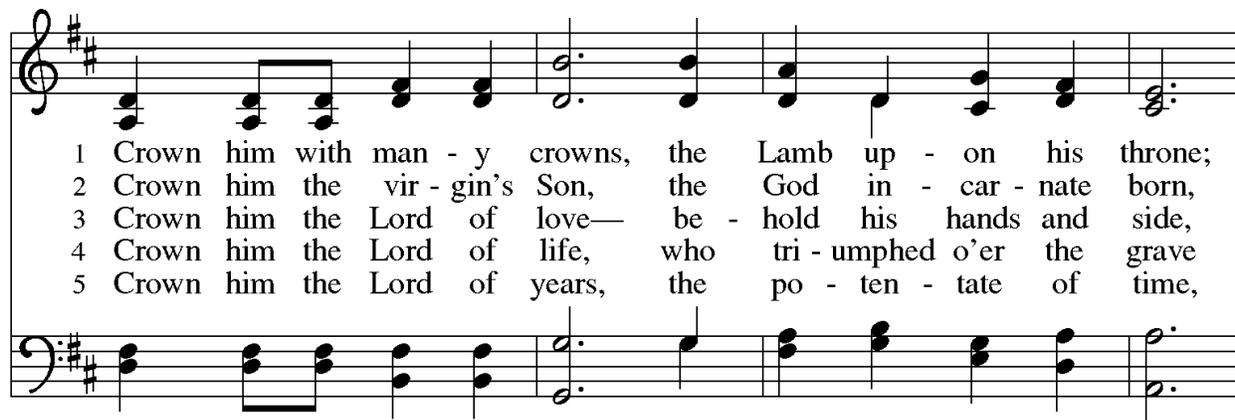
Amen.

Holy One,
we confess that we do not follow you as we should.
We are not faithful in using your gifts.
We forget the least of our siblings.
We do not see your beautiful image in one another.
We are infected by sin
that divides your beloved community.
Open our hearts to your coming,
open our eyes to see you in our neighbor,
open our hands to serve your creation.

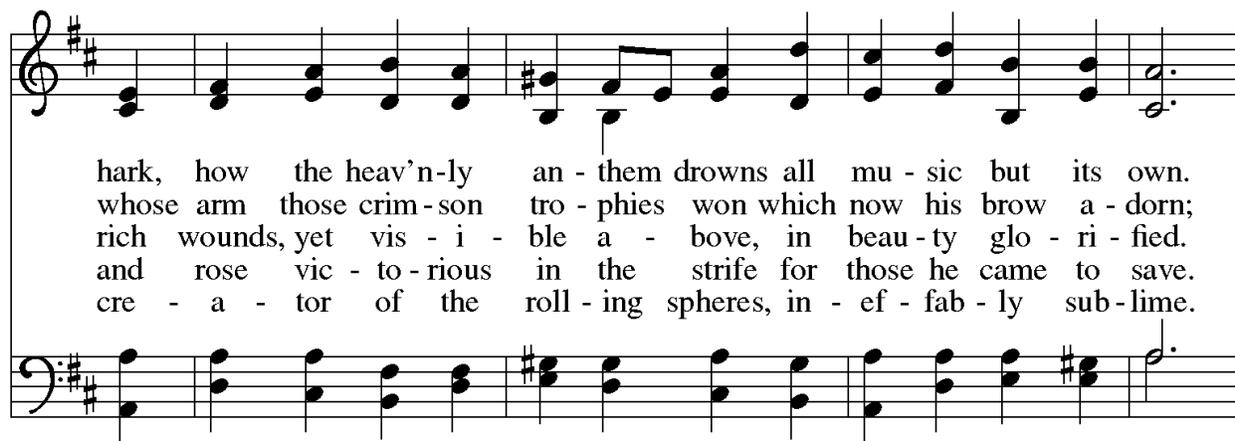
Amen.

Beloved of God, we are God's children,
and Jesus, our Savior, opens the door to us.
Through ✝ Christ you are forgiven,
and in Christ we are welcomed
into the beloved community!
Let us live in the promises prepared for us
from the foundation of the world.

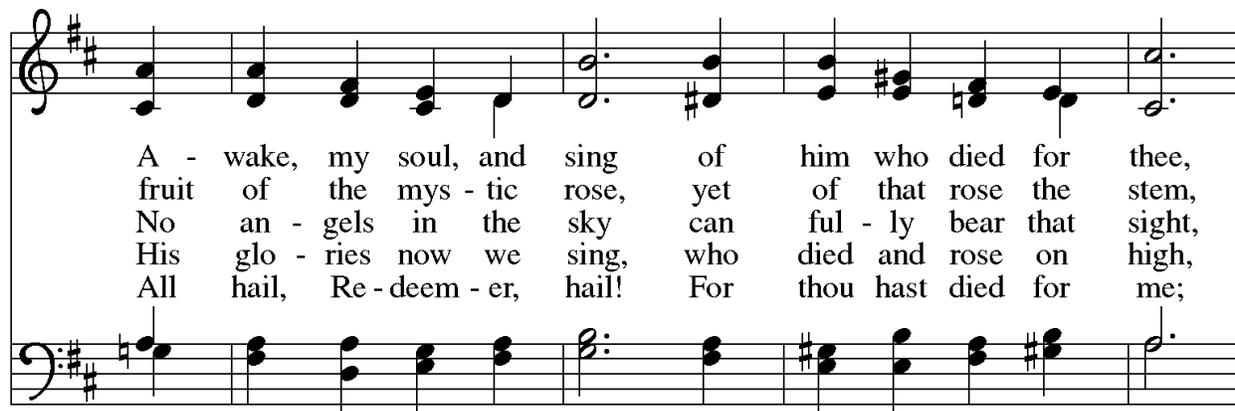
Amen.



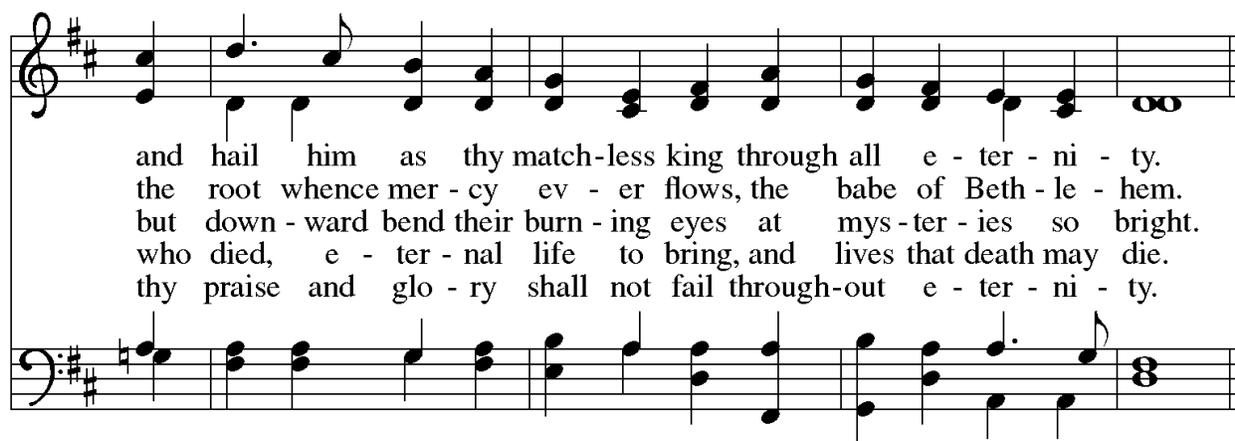
1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;
 2 Crown him the vir - gin's Son, the God in - car - nate born,
 3 Crown him the Lord of love— be - hold his hands and side,
 4 Crown him the Lord of life, who tri - umphed o'er the grave
 5 Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time,



hark, how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own.
 whose arm those crim-son tro - phies won which now his brow a - dorn;
 rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied.
 and rose vic - to - rious in the strife for those he came to save.
 cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fab - ly sub - lime.



A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
 fruit of the mys - tic rose, yet of that rose the stem,
 No an - gels in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,
 His glo - ries now we sing, who died and rose on high,
 All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;



and hail him as thy match-less king through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 the root whence mer - cy ev - er flows, the babe of Beth - le - hem.
 but down - ward bend their burn - ing eyes at mys - ter - ies so bright.
 who died, e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
 thy praise and glo - ry shall not fail through-out e - ter - ni - ty.

REETING

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.

GLORIA



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Because Israel's kings proved to be bad shepherds, Ezekiel declares that the Lord will assume the role of shepherd in Israel. The Lord will also set over them a shepherd-messiah, "my servant David," who will feed and care for the people.

¹¹Thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. ¹²As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. ¹⁴I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. ¹⁶I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

²⁰Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, ²²I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

²³I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

PSALM: Psalm 95:1-7a

¹Come, let us sing to the Lord;

let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

**²Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to the Lord with psalms.**

³For you, Lord, are a great God,
and a great ruler above all gods.

**⁴In your hand are the caverns of the earth;
the heights of the hills are also yours.**

⁵The sea is yours, for you made it,
and your hands have molded the dry land.

**⁶Come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the Lord our maker.**

⁷For the Lord is our God,
and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:15-23

In this passage, God is praised for revealing ultimate divine power in raising Jesus from the dead. The resurrected, exalted Christ is Lord of both the church and the entire universe, now and in the age to come.

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who

believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:31-46

Jesus compares himself to a king who moves among his subjects to see how he is treated: what is done for the least of those who belong to his family is truly done for him.

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 25th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ³¹“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³²All the nations

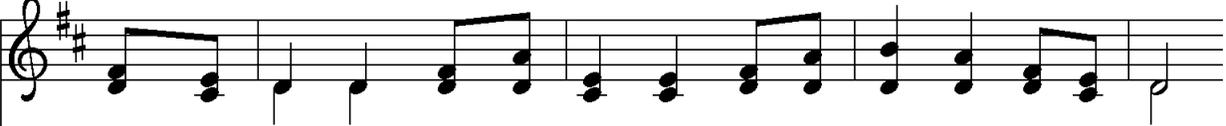
will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵for 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.’ ⁴¹Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴²for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ ⁴⁴Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ ⁴⁵Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ ⁴⁶And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON

Pastor Zach Parris



1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;
 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;
 3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.
 praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing, two - edged sword.
 Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,
 Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand;
 Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.



calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.
 from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
 Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

NICENE CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Longing for Christ's reign to come among us, we pray for the outpouring of God's power on the church, the world, and all in need.

Sovereign of all, train our ears to hear your cry in the needs of those around us. Bless all ministries of the church through which we seek to love and serve others as we ourselves have been loved and served. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You cause rain to fall on the just and unjust alike. Teach us to steward creation so that all people are cared for in ways that sustain the earth. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Bring peace to every place where conflict prevails. Grant opportunities for ending divisions, and usher in your reign of unity and reconciliation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Heal false divisions and release us from systems of oppression and prejudice. Give us the vision to see your image in those whose dignity we have stripped away. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Thank you for saints now departed who fed the hungry, clothed the naked, and tended to the sick. Inspire us by their example, that we may see your presence in those in need around us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, until that day when you gather all creation around your throne where you will reign forever and ever.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

Your stewardship at Grace is more important now than ever. Without in-person Worship Services where offerings are collected, we hope that you will take the extra time to fulfill your pledges. Please visit the [Grace Boulder Stewardship page](#) to learn more.

ANTHEM

“O God, My King”

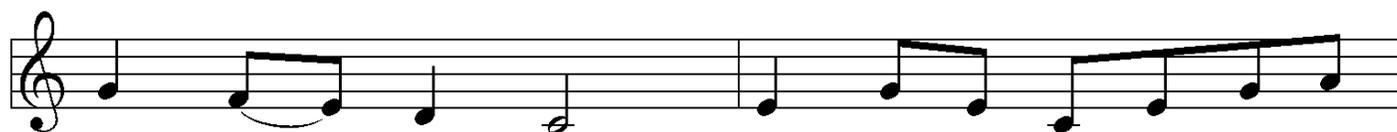
John Amner

OFFERTORY

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful, Lord



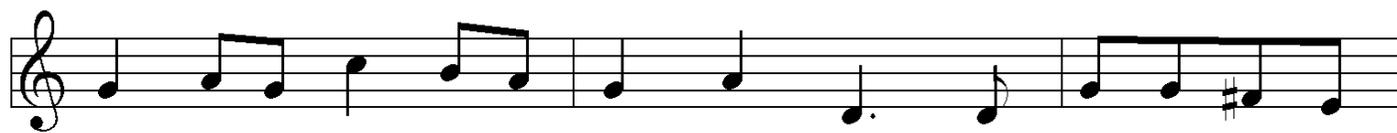
Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our



cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the



seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.



Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the



prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.
You have set before us these gifts of your good creation.
Prepare us for your heavenly banquet,
nourish us with this rich food and drink,
and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world,
through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

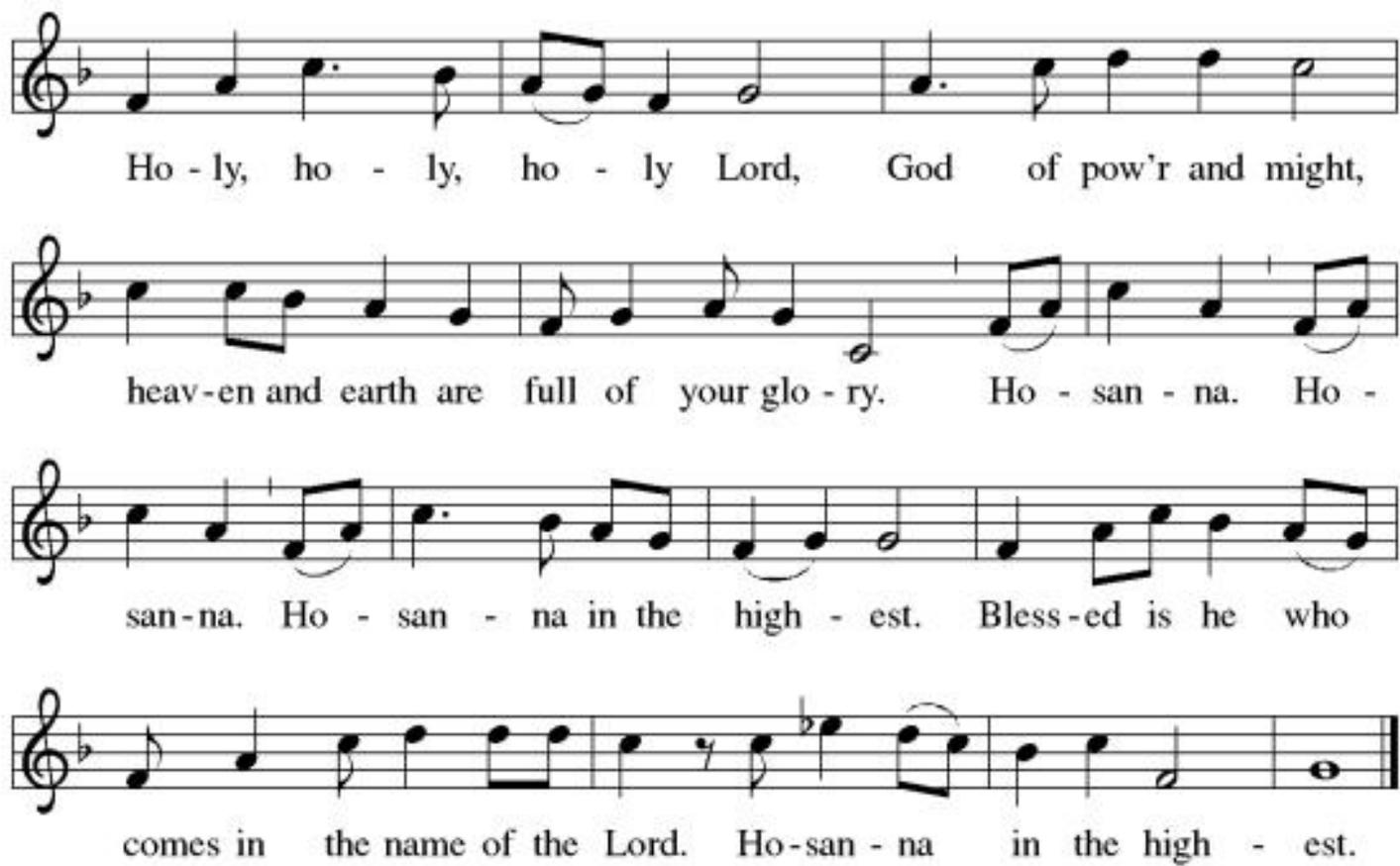
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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 indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places...

... So 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 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.

To you indeed be glory, almighty God,
 for on the night he was betrayed
 Jesus gathered with his friends
 for a meal that remembers and anticipates freedom

On that night,
 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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died, Christ is Risen, Christ will come again.

As we share this bread and cup, O God,
and as we remember Christ's death and resurrection,
send your Holy Spirit into our dispersed midst,
that we who share these gifts
may be fed, and forgiven, and strengthened to serve you.

Amen.

As Christ has taught us, so we pray:

**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.**

DISTRIBUTION

This is the table of God. We invite all who are hungry for God's presence in their lives to receive this gift of mercy and forgiveness at the table.

Those of you who are with others in your home, please serve one another saying, "The body of Christ, given for you" and "The blood of Christ, shed for you." Those of you who are watching by yourself, I invite you to wait until I say those words to you before you eat the bread and drink the wine.

If you don't have bread, or you don't have wine or grape juice, Martin Luther reminds us that God is fully present in each element – that receiving only the bread or only the wine is entire forgiveness.

Further, those of you who might not receive communion for whatever reason, please recognize and understand that God's forgiveness and mercy and love are fully and completely provided to you in ways additional to Holy Communion.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

May the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's Grace.

Amen.

SENDING

PRAYER

We give you thanks, gracious God,
that once again you have fed us with food beyond compare,
the body and blood of Christ.

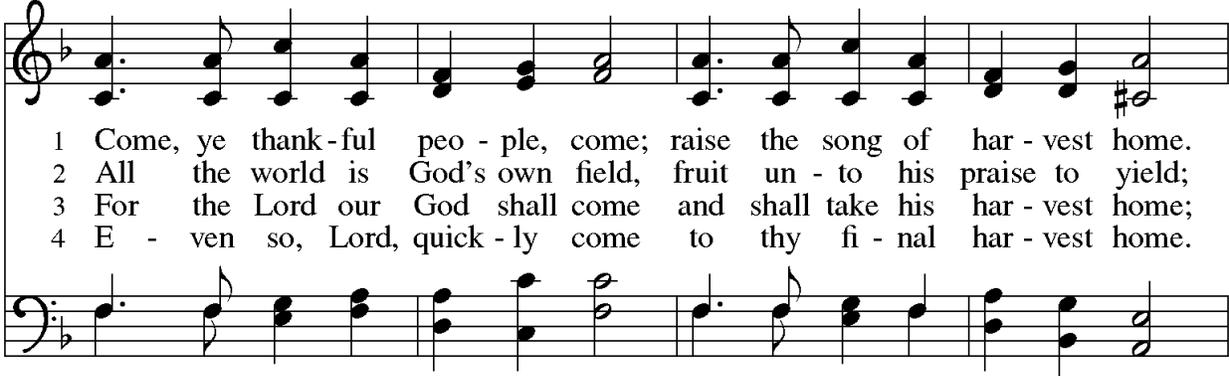
Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven,
strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children,
and give us glad and generous hearts
as we meet you on the way.

Amen.

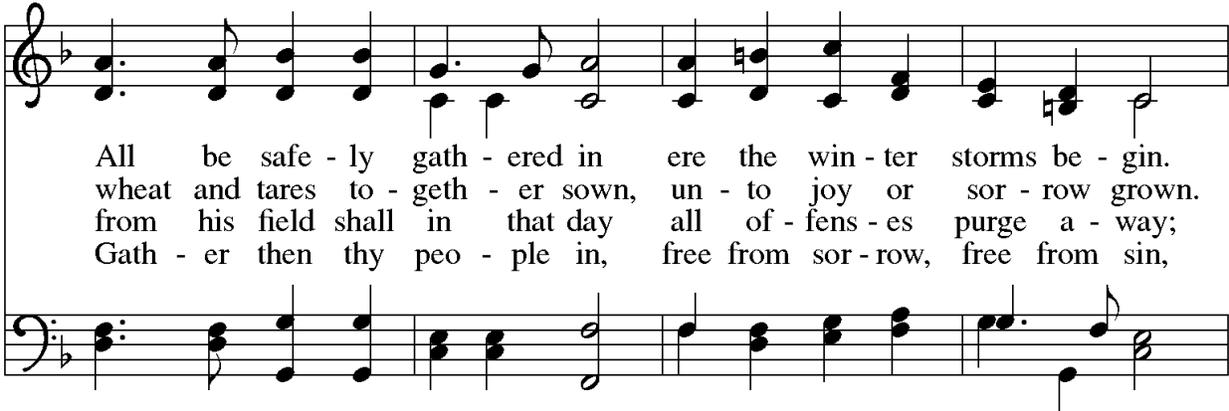
BENEDICTION

May the God of all creation,
in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved,
who strengthens us for service,
give you reason to rejoice and be glad!
The blessing of God,
Sovereign, † Savior, and Spirit,
be with you today and always.

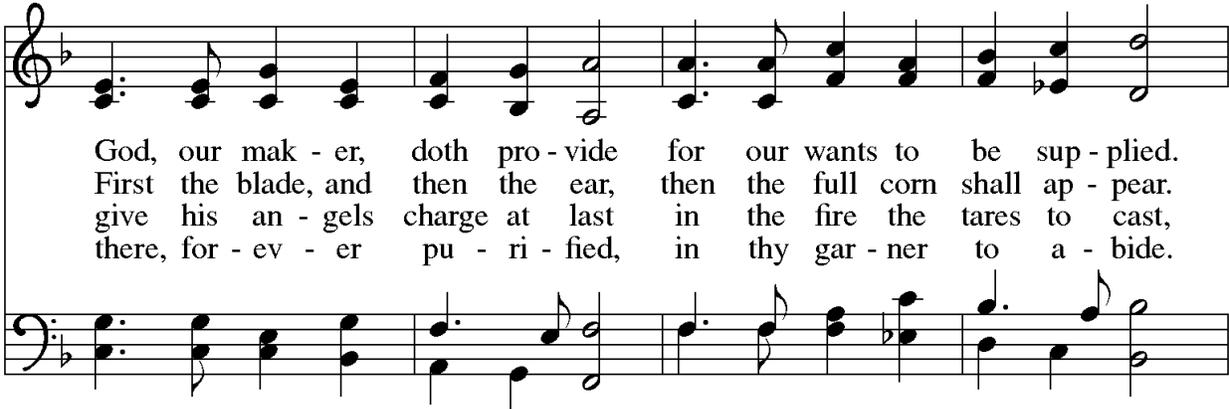
Amen.



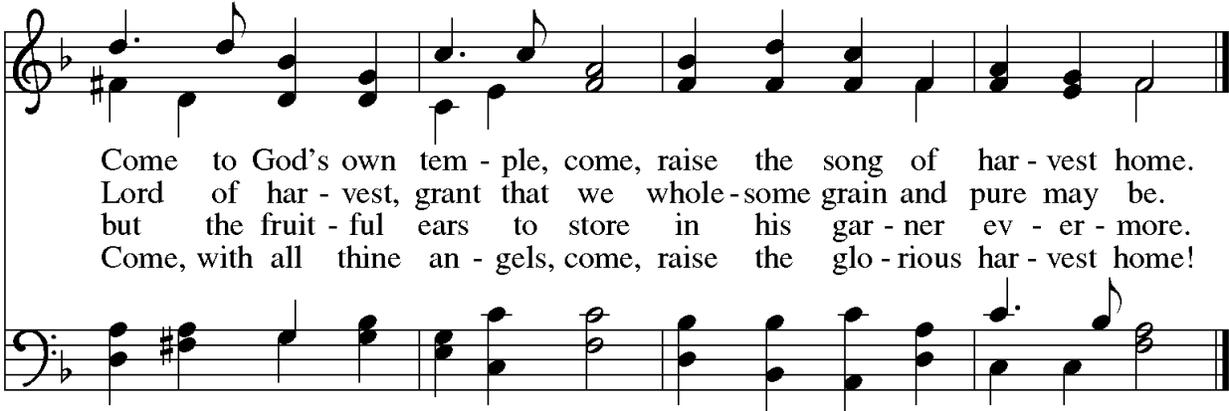
1 Come, ye thank-ful peo-ple, come; raise the song of har-vest home.
 2 All the world is God's own field, fruit un-to his praise to yield;
 3 For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his har-vest home;
 4 E-ven so, Lord, quick-ly come to thy fi-nal har-vest home.



All be safe-ly gath-ered in ere the win-ter storms be-gin.
 wheat and tares to- geth-er sown, un-to joy or sor-row grown.
 from his field shall in that day all of-fens-es purge a-way;
 Gath-er then thy peo-ple in, free from sor-row, free from sin,



God, our mak-er, doth pro-vide for our wants to be sup-plied.
 First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap-pear.
 give his an-gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
 there, for-ev-er pu-ri-fied, in thy gar-ner to a-bide.



Come to God's own tem-ple, come, raise the song of har-vest home.
 Lord of har-vest, grant that we whole-some grain and pure may be.
 but the fruit-ful ears to store in his gar-ner ev-er-more.
 Come, with all thine an-gels, come, raise the glo-rious har-vest home!

DISMISSAL

Beloved of God,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Nun danket alle Gott, Op. 65, No. 59 Sigfrid Karg-Elert

Scripture Readings for Next Sunday, November 29

Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37



GRACE NOTES
a guide to parish life at Grace

November 22, 2020

We pray for those who are ill: Carol Painter, Allan Wolfe, and Jacquie Poe (friend of Sandi Stahl).

We pray for those undergoing treatment: Thomas Fay (brother-in-law of Karen O'Loughlin), Tom Graziano (friend of Tom Lawson), Patrick Fallin (friend of Hiroko Akima), Paul Herzegh (friend of the Zabels), Elizabeth Farr, Deena Steward (daughter-in-law of the Stewards), Cheryl Fenske Prudic (niece of the Stewards), and Mary Dorsett (former member of Grace).

We pray for hope and healing for: friends and family of Warren Hoffman (grieving his death this week), Dan Stewart (Amy Stewart McIntosh's brother working with COVID-19 patients as a respiratory therapist at Mercy Hospital in Michigan), family and friends of Mieko Akima, Rich Harris (John Laitinen's cousin), Blaine Gorrell (great-grandnephew of Donna Rohde recuperating from surgery), Leon Fjestad (Anne Peterson's brother admitted to memory care), Fran Dzilvelis (Ashley (née Stahl) Dzilvelis' mother-in-law), Christian Mueller (grandson of the Petersons working on a COVID19), Barry Miller (friend of the Gambles now in Hospice Care), Rodney McLennon (friend of the Zabels), Beaudin Larabee (friend of the Zabels), Ray Haux (former Grace member now in Hospice care), Myrna Montgomery (grandmother of LCM student Arin Moriarty), Mark Woods (friend of Deb Valerio), Ruth VanderMinden, Pamela Kast (sister-in-law of Patty's sister), and Rick Beckman (brother of Kim).

The designated offering for November is: [Sister Carmen Community Center.](#)

Sister Carmen Community Center is the only organization providing comprehensive basic needs services and resources to the most vulnerable residents in East Boulder County (Lafayette, Louisville, Superior, and Erie). Through their family-centered programming, they promote health, safety, well-being and economic stability by meeting one-on-one with the people they serve.

They aim to improve the quality of life for their participants, and assist them in recovering from challenging experiences by providing timely and meaningful wrap-around support in their program areas:

NUTRITION & HEALTHY LIVING

Ensure the residents of East Boulder County have access to basic needs, such as:

- Nutritious food and hygiene items
- Clothing and necessary household goods
- Education and access to living a healthy lifestyle
- Connections to healthcare and mental health support

ADVOCACY

Using a strength-based approach, support participants in advocating for themselves and their families to attain economic stability and provide referrals to additional resources (such as employment, childcare, and life skills). Help prevent homelessness and improve access to stable housing for the residents of East Boulder County through:

- Family Development Services
- Utility assistance
- Mortgage and rent assistance
- Connections to housing, education, and additional resources

COMMUNITY & FAMILY EDUCATION

Empower individuals by offering them the skills and resources they need to succeed through family and community educational opportunities, including:

- Best practice parenting strategies
- Parenting support groups
- Digital literacy classes
- Civic engagement

Thanks to the **Grace Foundation**, all gifts through our designated offerings will be matched dollar for dollar in 2020, up to \$2,000/month. Please make your check to “Grace Lutheran Church” and add “PiM: Sister Carmen” to the memo line. You may place checks in the mail slot at Grace, send through the US mail, or use our electronic giving option [Simply Giving](#) on the Grace website. Thank you for your generosity.

Note from Pastor Matthew

Last week in this space, I reminded us that Reformation Sunday happened a few weeks ago, and that I had invited y’all to post questions in the Zoom chat instead of sticky notes on the door of the sanctuary. There were none in that place (I expect that we’ll fix that next year), but I did receive a questions that could be grouped into two topics via email and phone conversation.

Last week I wrote a little about Ecumenism. Next week I’ll share some thoughts on a topic that I’d like for all of us to consider. And this week, I want to address the other topic that was brought up to me in response to the Reformation Day request – Salvation.

Salvation it a tricky topic because, as I’m sure you’re fairly well aware, it’s a theological concept that gets talked about quite a bit in some Christian groups – and it’s not one of those terms that everyone always agrees what it means.

For instance, I think that a lot of people understand salvation in terms of where a person will end up after they die (heaven or hell). This understanding of salvation is really valuable and important for communities who are oppressed or faced by hopeless realities in this life. At the front of my mind are communities of black folks who were slaves during the early centuries of this nation’s history. They had no hope that things would get better, and so God gave them hope in a better future – after they died, they would experience salvation in the sweet by and by.

I think there’s a better way to understand salvation. Every Sunday we join Christians all over the world to pray the Lord’s Prayer together. We pray together, “... on earth as it is in heaven.” For those of us who don’t find ourselves

facing lifelong desperation, we have the opportunity to recognize that while we might be able to expect to experience salvation in heaven, we also are invited to participate with God in making earth as heaven is ... thereby allowing creation to experience salvation right now.

This understanding is supported by Revelation 21, in which we see a new heaven and a new earth (for the former heaven and earth had passed away). In that vision, God does not whisk anyone away. Instead, God leaves everyone where they are and creates both heaven and earth anew. Perhaps this is what Jesus teaches us to pray for when we pray, "... on earth as it is in heaven."

Another way people often think of salvation is in terms of an event that happened in a person's life, especially an event in which a person had a significant experiences of encountering God. They refer to that event as the time that they were saved. However, not every faithful Christian has an experience like that. Many of us who grew up surrounded by Christian faith haven't had that kind of conversion experience, because there was nothing to be converted from. For those in that group, dedication to God is not a one-time event, but is a continually evolving process.

Further, if we trust in God completely and recognize that (as Paul says in Romans 3) we all sin and fall short of the Glory of God, then we know that by our own actions we can never effect our own salvation. From that perspective, the date of our salvation is not the date that we have a conversion experience. Instead, the date of our salvation is the date that the stone rolled away from the tomb, when Jesus defeated the power of death.

Truthfully, I tend to believe that my salvation is not under my control, and your salvation is under neither my control not yours. Our salvation is in God's hands, and I trust that God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Staying as safe as possible during a global pandemic is in our hands, though ... so remember to stay well, wash your hands, and keep on trusting in Jesus.

~ pr. m

Rooted in Grace

Dear Members and Friends of Grace,

Thank you for your faithfulness and generosity to our church and its ministry through this unprecedented year! In spite of the world going sideways, a pastoral change, and worshiping together remotely, the mission at Grace has remained strong and has been moving forward with your financial support.

Because of your offerings, we provide:

- Worship and education for our members and friends alike, and
- Staff committed to excellence in music, preaching, liturgy, teaching, and service.

Your generous contributions have supported our Partners in Ministry organizations servicing, supporting, and helping others in the world and our community, including:

- Bridge House
- New Beginnings
- Himalayan Development
- Moving to End Sexual Assault
- Attention Homes
- Rocky Mountain Synod
- Emergency Family Assistance
- Boulder Shelter for the Homeless
- ELCA Racial Justice Ministries
- Lutheran Family Services

Our giving to the Rocky Mountain Synod supports:

- New worshipping communities and new congregations,
- Specialized ministries like Campus Ministries in Colorado, Utah, and New Mexico, as well as Rocky Mountain Outdoor Ministry Sites,
- Theological education for new pastors and deacons,
- Congregations with special ministry demands like our border congregations, and
- A global staff of missionaries.

While this year has been difficult because of the decrease in income from outside groups' use of our facility and from non-pledged visitor offerings, the Church Council has maintained full support of the Ministry staff and the Mission that supports it.

Every year our Church must chart a course to carry the Word forward while remaining vibrant. This coming year will continue as a year of challenge of the unknown. Your help is needed to plan and support the Mission for next year, and for creating a realistic operating budget that will be presented at the January Congregational Meeting.

We are now in the middle of our **2021 Stewardship Pledge Drive**. Please consider making a pledge to Grace Lutheran Church, either by [contacting the office for a pledge card](#) or by using [this secure google form](#) before Advent begins.

Thanks to your generosity and consideration. We are a congregation of Grace.

Tom Lawson, Council President

Dear Members of Grace,

An important update on Grace's financial situation:

As of October 31, **offerings are down** approximately \$7,000. Based on 2020 pledge information, we had forecast offerings of \$40,000 between November and December. Council hopes that during this upcoming holiday season everyone will honor or exceed their pledged amounts to help overcome this giving shortfall and meet the forecast we have for November and December.

Finally, please note that your generosity through Partners-in-Mission, has been well received. Through your giving and matching funds from Grace Foundation, we contributed almost \$30,000 to ten local nonprofit organizations. We hope to support two more organizations, Sister Carmen and Rise Against Suicide by the end of this year.

Thanks to you for all your support.

Alan Giehl, Council Treasurer

After Thanksgiving, we'll add an Advent Mid-week Prayer Service to our schedule. Every Wednesday between Thanksgiving and Christmas we'll meet at noon in the Grace Courtyard for a service of instrumental music, prayer, scripture, and silence. [Sign up for Advent Mid-week Prayer Services here](#). If you would like to participate remotely, please use the [Worship Service link](#).

Lectionary Bible Study continues on Wednesday, November 25 at 10:30 am [via Zoom](#). The study focuses on the lectionary texts for the next Sunday's worship, taking a deeper dive than is possible within the constraints of the service. Join us for spirited discussion and fellowship time!

The readings for the First Sunday of Advent on November 29, 2020 are:

- **Isaiah 64:1-9** *Prayer that God would come with power and compassion*
- **Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19** *Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. (Ps. 80:7)*
- **1 Corinthians 1:3-9** *Gifts of grace sustain those who wait for the end*
- **Mark 13:24-37** *The sudden coming of the Son of Man*

Reaching Out in Christ's Love

Holidays can be a painful time to navigate the death of a loved one. While the rest of the world is celebrating, you're in pain. If you've lost a spouse, parent, child, or someone special in your life, join Marriage and Family Therapist and Grief Counselor, Christine Ruth, M.S. LMFT, for this brief, but informative grief seminar.

Managing Grief During the Holidays

Thursday, December 10th from 6:30-8:00pm (via Zoom)

OR

Friday, December 11th from 2:00-3:30pm

(in-person with masks/limited to 6 people)

Christine Ruth, MS, LMFT has provided individual counseling and group support for 7 years through hospice bereavement services and through her own private practice. A special welcome to friends and family members supporting those in grief.

Thank you for your donations of blank greeting cards for the inmates of [New Beginnings](#). Your cards allow the women to communicate with loved ones.

Remember [Harvest of Hope](#) food pantry when you shop for groceries this week. Our donations make a difference for those who struggle to find food each week.

This Week at Grace

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Sunday, November 22: CHRIST THE KING

9:15-11:45 am Office Administrator Hours, Remotely

10 am Worship Service [via Zoom](#)

Monday, November 23

11 am-2 pm Office Administrator Hours, Grace Office

Tuesday, November 24

11 am-2 pm Office Administrator Hours, Remotely

12-1 pm Staff Meeting via Zoom

Wednesday, November 25

10:30-11:30 am Lectionary Bible Study [via Zoom](#)

11 am-2 pm Office Administrator Hours, Grace Office

Thursday, November 26: THANKSGIVING DAY

Nothing Scheduled

Friday, November 27

11 am-2 pm Office Administrator Hours, Remotely

Saturday, November 28

Worship Packet Deliveries

Sunday, November 29: FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9:15-11:45 am Office Administrator Hours, Remotely

10 am Worship Service [via Zoom](#)

