



4th Sunday in Advent

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

December 23, 2018

**“ A Community of Servants Sharing in the
Word and Work of Jesus”**

HOLY COMMUNION

(Based on ELW Setting Three)

Congregational responses are in bold print

Welcome to Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church! There are four key parts to our Worship Service: we **GATHER** before our God to prepare to worship, and bring ourselves and all that we are before God. Then we hear the **WORD** of God; we share the four Bible Readings with at least one billion other Christians around the world each Sunday! And we hear that word proclaimed through the Sermon, confess our faith in the God whose Grace we hear about in the Word, and offer our prayers to God, for the sake of the Church, the World, and each other in our needs and joys. We then share in the **MEAL** of Holy Communion, offering ourselves and what we have to God, and then discovering God's love and forgiveness as we receive Christ's Body and Blood through the bread and wine. Finally we are **SENT**, the shortest but perhaps most important part of worship, because it is **THEN** that we live out our Faith and what we believe about God's Grace and Love, and how it makes us a blessing in this world as we share it.

During worship, you'll notice parts of the service in regular type, which are spoken/prayed by various worship leaders. Then there are parts the you and the rest of the congregation respond and/or pray in **bold type**. All of us are participants as we worship God!

Gathering

Gloria Patri: *Congregation and Choir Sing*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end. Amen

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: "Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel"

Engel

The congregation stands.

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, † one God, the Lord of Israel who comes to set us free, the mighty Savior who comes to show mercy, the Dawn from on high who guides us into the way of peace.

Amen

Let us come before God in confession.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

To you, O God,

we lift up our souls. You know us through and through; we confess our sins to you. Remember not our sins; remember us with your steadfast love. Show us your ways; teach us your paths; and lead us in justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen

Children of God, come with joy and draw water from the well of salvation. Remember the gift of baptism: your sin is washed away in the name of † Jesus; you belong to Christ; you are anointed to serve. Stand up and raise your heads! The reign of God is near.

Amen

Gathering Song: *“My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness”*

#251

Greeting:

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.

Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

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.

After the prayer the congregation responds:

Amen.

The congregation is seated.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Third Sunday—*The Wonder of the Message*

During Advent we ignite the wonder of expectations.

Open our eyes, O Lord, to behold your glory.

During Advent we look for the light that shines in the darkness.

Open our eyes, O Lord, to behold your glory.

During Advent we embrace the hope that enlivens the soul.

Open our eyes, O Lord, to behold your glory.

During Advent we welcome the Savior who beckons the world.

Open our eyes, O Lord, to behold your glory.

During Advent we rejoice in the One who has reclaimed the lost.

Open our eyes, O Lord, to behold your glory.

Candle Lighting

Today, we light four candles. The **first candle** calls us to behold the glory of the season with renewed wonder. Advent is a time to be awed by God's redeeming love for the lost and broken. The **second candle** calls us to reclaim the promises of God spoken in ages past. As the light fills this room, so the Word of God fills our world with hope for the hurting, peace for the restless, and joy for the heavy hearted. The **third candle** is an invitation to wait patiently upon the Lord, in a world where we often lack for patience. Advent reminds us to rest in God's timing and trust God's plan. The **fourth candle** challenges us to grow in faithful expectation. As people whose faith often becomes tamed to the miraculous, Advent is a time to remember afresh a God in whom all things are possible.

The Wonder of Christmas

A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent

Words and Music by
JOEL RANEY

Congregation:

There is won - der in the hope of the birth of a
King, there is won - der in the sound of the an - gels as they
sing. O — come, O come, Em - man - u -
el, and join us here.

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Word

First Reading: Micah 5:2-5a

A reading from Micah:

²But 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.

³Therefore 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.

⁴And 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Luke 1:46b-55 *(we read responsively)*

^{46b}My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
⁴⁷my 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:
⁴⁹you, 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.
⁵¹You 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.
⁵³You 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,
⁵⁵the promise made to our forbears,
to Abraham and his children forever.

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

A reading from Hebrews:

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

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Children's Sermon

Pastor Paul Pingel

Following the Children's Sermon, children ages 3-9 are invited to attend Children's Church, which is held on the same floor as this worship space in the Library, and Chapel. Here the children will learn more about the same Bible readings as were heard in worship, and will be taught songs and about the way we worship. Children's Church will return to worship around the time of the Sharing of the Peace, in order to take part in Holy Communion.

NOTE: The Nursery is available for children age 5 and under as the Worship Service begins. Children under 5 not attending Children's Church will have the Nursery available throughout the Worship Service. (As always, parents may choose to have their children remain with them in worship.) Children 10 and over will join in regular Worship.

Sermon

Pastor Paul Pingel

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

Hymn of the Day: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Hymn #257

Apostle's Creed

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

Amen

Prayers of Intercession

As we await the coming of Christ, we pray in hope for the church, the world, and all of creation.

Each portion of the prayers end with these or similar words

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Confident that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we bring to you these prayers and those unspoken, in the name of Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

Meal

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, saying, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

*The congregation is **seated**.*

Offering

(The offering is gathered by the ushers. Please place visitor cards in the offering plate)

Anthem: "Prepare the Way of the Lord"

Joe Ranzini, Soloist

Rowan


Offertory:

*The congregation **stands***

(The Ushers bring the offering to the Altar, as we sing)

Offertory Response

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful *Offering Song*



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.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

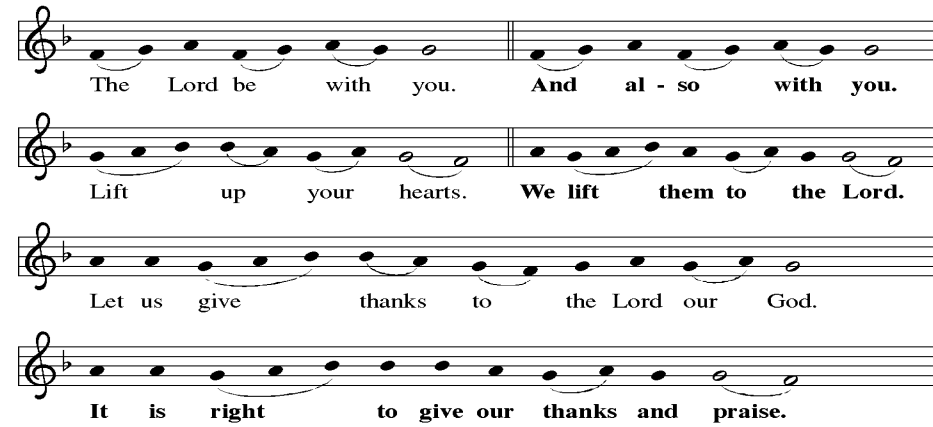
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Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

Merciful God, receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection, through Christ our Lord. Amen

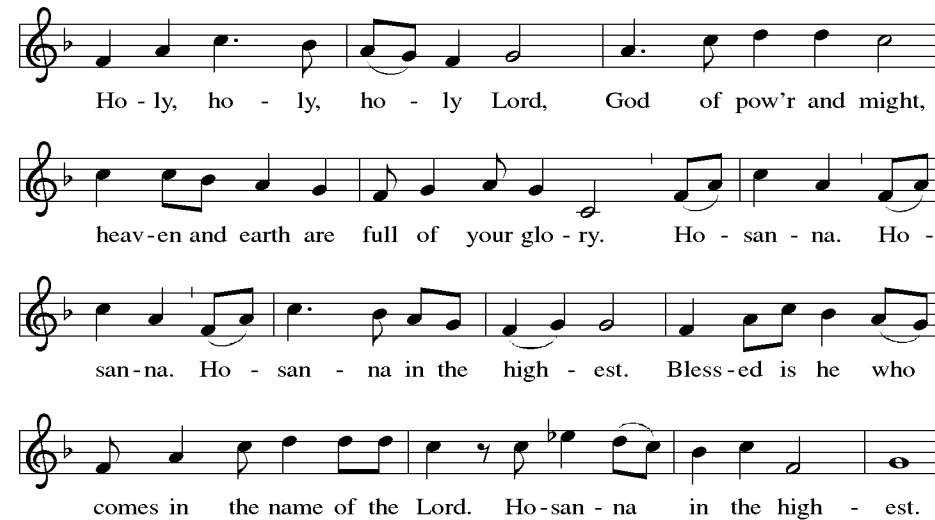
Great Thanksgiving



The Lord be with you. **And** al - so 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.

Preface

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 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.

Thanksgiving at the Table

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. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

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.
Come, Lord Jesus.

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.
Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.
Amen

Lord's Prayer

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

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

Invitation to Communion

God fills the hungry with good things. Taste and see that the Lord is good!

Thanks be to God.

*The congregation may be **seated**.*

The Holy Communion

*The congregation may be **seated**.*

OUR LORD BIDS YOU WELCOME TO THIS HOLY MEAL! At the table of our Lord Jesus Christ, God nourishes faith, forgives sin, and calls us to be witnesses to the Gospel. Here we receive Christ's body and blood and God's gifts of forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation to be received by faith for the strengthening of faith. In this sacrament the crucified and risen Christ is present, giving his true body and blood as food and drink. This real presence is a mystery. Admission to the Sacrament is by invitation of the Lord — regardless of Church denomination — to those who are baptized. (Taken from the ELCA statement on worship. The Use and Means of Grace ©1997)

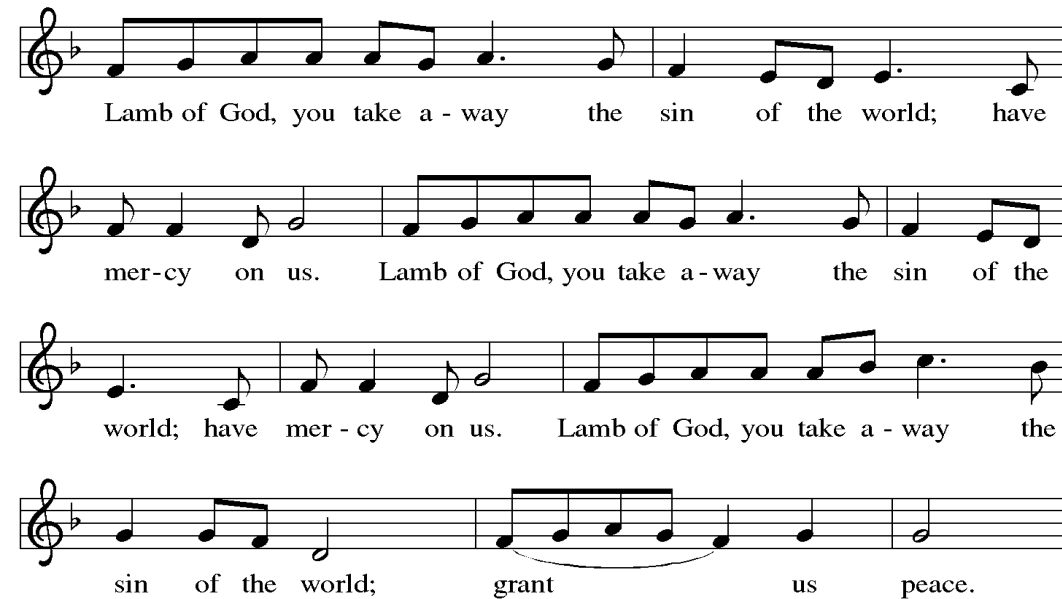
Communion Distribution: *One communion team will serve the left side of the nave; another team will serve those on the right. You are invited to come to the altar by the center aisle; take an empty individual glass (or filled grape juice glass) available at the railing, and proceed to the railing, filling in from the center out toward the side aisle. As you receive the bread and wine, you may respond as follows:*

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen

As the ministers commune the congregation may sing the following:



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.

There will be a time of silence as the choir comes down for Holy Communion. Please use this time for prayer and preparation, then join in the singing of the hymns....

Communion Hymns

"Each Winter As the Year Grows Older"

Hymn #252

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

Hymn #272

"What Feast of Love"

Hymn #487, Verses 1 & 3

*After all have returned to their places, the congregation **stands**.*

The Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen

Prayer After Communion

Let us pray.

Holy One, we give you thanks that in this bread and cup we have feasted again on your endless love. Let that love overflow more and more in our lives, that we may be messengers to prepare your way, harvesters of justice and righteousness, and bearers of your eternal word, our Savior Jesus Christ.
Amen

Sending

Blessing

May God direct your ways in peace, make you abound in love for one another and for all, and strengthen your hearts until the coming of our Lord Jesus. Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
Amen

Sending Song: *“Joy to the World”*

Hymn #267

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude: *“Offertorio Pastorale”*

Anonymous

Thanks to Our Worship Assistants Today

<i>Assisting Minister:</i>	<i>Karla Rankin</i>
<i>Communion Assistants:</i>	<i>Carrie Jones and Donna Gum</i>
<i>Ushers:</i>	<i>Ron Knicely, Dwight Moomaw and Robert Shaw</i>
<i>Greeters:</i>	<i>Dick and Linda Tomey</i>
<i>Offering Stewards:</i>	<i>Sharon Lynch and Kate Van Bremen</i>
<i>Acolyte:</i>	<i>Kaitlyn Hull</i>
<i>Cup Gatherer:</i>	<i>Logan Miller</i>
<i>Altar Guild:</i>	<i>Kathy Meicke</i>
<i>Nursery Caregivers:</i>	<i>Jill Pingel</i>
<i>Altar Flowers:</i>	<i>Ingrid Sevigny</i>
<i>Council Person of the Week & Sunday School Support:</i>	<i>Rudolph Yobs</i>

.....
: THE CHANCEL FLOWERS TODAY ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN
: MEMORY OF DICK AND OUR PARENTS.
:

Announcements



Christmas Eve - December 24th, 5:00 p.m. - Our annual tradition of telling the Story and "building" the manger with the help of families and children, and a festival worship of carols, anthems and the sharing of Holy Communion continues this year. Plus, our children will add to the telling of the Christmas Story in a unique way this year!



Christian Education the Week of December 23rd, and Sunday, December 30th—Weekday Bible Classes the week of Christmas and Sunday School December 30th will **NOT** meet. We will resume classes in 2019!

Volunteers Needed for WARM's Cold Weather Shelter January 21 to 28—Grace will be hosting the WARM's Cold Weather Shelter the week of January 21th to 28th and we need volunteers to support and staff the shelter at Grace. We need help with check in host from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and overnight hosts from 9:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. This year we will need only two overnight hosts per night of operation and we can use couples as overnight hosts or you may have a friend or member that you would like to coordinate with for hosting. The hosts take turns sleeping during the evening with one host staying awake at all times. Check in hosts assist WARM staff with nightly registration and other tasks. We also need help with meal preparation and serving the evening meals. Please contact Jerry Kite at 910-3372 or jerrykite@ntelos.net if you have questions. Please see signup sheet on the table in the back of the church.

125th Anniversary Glasses - Some Grace members have asked about the possibility of ordering the Grace 125th Anniversary pilsner glasses that were offered prior to and on our November 18th Celebration day. If we meet a minimum order of 24, we will be able to place another order. Please indicate your interest on the sheet on the round table in the narthex. Cost for glasses is \$8 each.

Danville Hurricane Relief Trip Helps Four Families - Cynthia Long, Jerry Kite, Rick Bump, Lee Lynch and Pastor Paul spent portions of Dec. 2nd week in Danville, working on four houses, which received flood damage from Hurricane Michael earlier this year. A great deal of material was removed from homes, including molded dry wall, paneling, and stored goods damaged by the flood waters, and outdoor work was also done on one house. A group of five from Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church also went down during the same week.

**Life of Grace Church
December 23—30, 2018**

DAY OF WEEK	DATE	TIME	MEETING
TODAY— SUNDAY	12/23	9:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Sunday School Worship Choir Practice 4th Sunday in Advent Holy Communion Pastor Paul Pingel, Preaching and Presiding
Monday	12/24	5:00 p.m.	School Holiday  Christmas Eve Service
Tuesday	12/25		Merry Christmas  Church Office Closed
Wednesday	12/26		School Holiday Church Office Closed
Thursday	12/27		School Holiday
Friday	12/28		School Holiday
Sunday	12/30	10:00 a.m.	No Sunday School 1st Sunday of Christmas Holy Communion Pastor Paul Pingel, Preaching and Presiding

The Needs of the World

Victims of Wildfires in California

**Our Government Leaders and wisdom
in their decision making**

Those caught in the immigration debate in our nation

**Peace on earth—especially in war-torn areas
(Yemen, Ukraine, Syria)**

The Church

The Evangelical Lutheran Church
of Jordan and the Holy Land and
(facing loss of funds from the U.S.)

Augusta Victoria Hospital

**The ELC-PNG New Guinea Islands
District**

The Virginia Synod

**Christ Tabernacle Church of God
in Christ**

Our Blessings of Grace, and God's
Foundation for our future as we look
toward year 126 of our unity as
Christ's Church, and our witness to
the Gospel in a world needing
Good News

Weekly Prayer for Congregation Members Throughout the Year

Julie Moyer

Pete Rufe

Jenna Smith

Next Sunday's Schedule and Lessons

December 30, 2018

1st Sunday of Christmas

Holy Communion

10:00 a.m.

Reverend Paul Pingel, Preaching and Presiding

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Psalm 148

Colossians 3:12-17

Luke 2:41-52

Daily Lectionary

Monday

Psalm 18:1-6, 43-50
1 Samuel 23:14-18
2 Corinthians 8:16-24

Tuesday

Psalm 18:1-6, 43-50
1 Samuel 31:1-13
2 Corinthians 9:1-5

Wednesday

Psalm 18:1-6, 43-50
1 Chronicles 10:1-14
Mark 9:14-29

Thursday

Psalm 48
2 Samuel 2:1-11
1 Corinthians 4:8-13

Friday

Psalm 48
2 Samuel 3:1-12
2 Corinthians 10:7-11

Saturday

Psalm 48
2 Samuel 3:31-38
Matthew 8:18-22

Members of Grace, Ministers

Robin Crowder, President
Linda Meyer, Vice-President
Deloris Wertman, Secretary

Jack Eckstrom, Pete Giesen, Kim Hull, Carrie Jones,
Jerry Kite, Gordon Putnam, Marlene Shaw,
Rudolph Yobs

Hannah Pingel/Laura Shaw, Youth
Co-Representatives

Ron Almarode, Treasurer
Donna Marshall, Assistant Treasurer

Charles Goodrich, Financial Secretary

Rev. Paul Pingel, Pastor
Mike Myers, Organist, Director of Music
Nancy Dowdy, Administrative Secretary

Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.. (lunch 12:00 - 12:30) - Monday - Thursday
8:30 a.m.—Noon - Friday

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Internet: www.gracewaynesboro.org

Email: gracelc@lumos.net

Telephone: 540.949.6171

Fax: 540.949.0940

