

# Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

P: God's light breaks into the darkness;

C: And hope and peace shine out.

P: God's Word breaks into the silence;

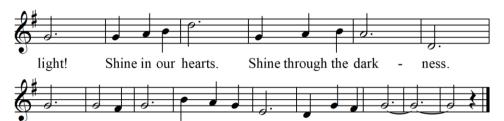
C: And hope and peace speak out.

P: God's Son breaks into our lives;

C: And hope and peace are known.

# Lighting of the Advent Wreath





Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered to - day.

# Prayer of the Day

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

P: Let us pray:

C: Mighty One, You do great things for Your people. As Mary was inspired by Your Word to humble herself as Your servant, giving her service first to Elizabeth and then through her life and throughout her life to her son and Yours, our Savior, Jesus, so stir us to the same commitment; that as we light this second candle of the Advent Wreath, by our humble, joyful and grateful service to You, Your Church and our neighbors will also bring Christ's light into the world this day and every day. In His name we pray, amen.

First Lesson 1 Samuel 2

Tannah, who had been childless until the Lord blessed her with a *child* prayed and said, "My heart exults in the Lord; my strength is exalted in my God. My mouth derides my enemies, because I rejoice in my victory. There is no Holy One like the Lord, no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God. Talk no more so very proudly, let not arrogance come from your mouth; for the Lord is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed. The bows of the mighty are broken, but the feeble gird on strength. Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread, but those who were hungry are fat with spoil. The barren has borne seven, but she who has many children is forlorn. The Lord kills and brings to life; the Lord brings down to Sheol and raises up. The Lord makes poor and makes rich; the Lord brings low, the Lord also exalts. The Lord raises up the poor from the dust; the Lord lifts the needy from the ash heap, to make them sit with princes and inherit a seat of honor. For the pillars of the earth are the Lord's, and on them the Lord has set the world. The Lord will guard the feet of his faithful ones, but the wicked will be cut off in darkness; for not by might does one prevail. The Lord! The Lord's adversaries will be shattered; the Most High will thunder in heaven. The Lord will judge the ends of the earth; the Lord will give strength to the Lord's king and exalt the power of the Lord's Reader: The Word of the Lord! C: Thanks be to God anointed."

#### The Great "O Antiphon" of the Advent Season

These Antiphons are an Advent tradition throughout the Church. Each one begins with a name for Christ and reflects one of his attributes in scripture.

P: O Oriens:

C: O Morning Star, splendor of light eternal and sun of righteousness: Come and enlighten those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

Choir O Come, O Come Emmanuel Choir

## Second Lesson

Isaiah 11:1-9

A shoot will come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch will grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord will rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight will be in the fear of the Lord. With righteousness he will judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child will lead them. The cow and the bear will graze, their young will lie down together; and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The nursing child will play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child will put its hand in the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

Reader: The Word of the Lord! C: Thanks be to God

Choir Calypso Christmas

# Third Lesson Luke 1:36-59

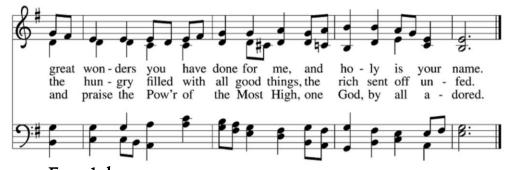
But, very soon after Gabriel's annunciation to her, Mary was stirred to get up and go quickly into the hill country, to a city in Judea where she came to Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. As Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby in her womb leapt! Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she cried out very exuberantly and said, "You are being blessed among women, Mary, and the fruit of your womb is also being blessed. And who am I that the mother of my Lord may have come to me? For behold, as soon as the sound of your greeting came into my ears, the baby in my womb leapt in exultation! And blessed she who has believed that there will be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said, "My very life declares the greatness of the Lord, and my

spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the humiliation of his servant. Behold, from now on all generations will call me someone to be congratulated, because the Powerful has done great things for me, and holy is his name. And His mercy is for generations and generations of those fearing him. He has shown dominion with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the humble. Those who are hungering he has filled with good things, and those who are being satisfied He sent away empty. He has helped his child Israel, having been called to the remembrance of mercy, which he spoke to our fathers; to Abraham and his seed through all the ages."

And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.





<u>Fourth Lesson</u>

Isaiah 9: 2; 6-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness - on them light has shined. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority will grow continually, and there will be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Reader: The Word of the Lord! C: Thanks be to God

Solo

O Holy Night

Fifth Lesson

<u>John 1:1-14</u>

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the **▲** Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not gain control of it. There was a man being sent from alongside God whose name was John. He came as a testimony so that he may testify about the light, so that all might have faith through him. He himself was not the light, but he came so that he may testify about the light. It was the true light, which enlightens man coming into the world. It was in the world, and the world came into being through him; and the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and that which was his own did not receive him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and tabernacled in us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Reader: The Word of the Lord! C: Thanks be to God

## Nicene Creed

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 the Church & Passing of the Peace

# Lesson & Hymn of Thanks & Time of Commitment

In writing to the Christians in the city of Corinth about the blessing of supporting the ministry of the Church, St. Paul said: The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. As it is written,

He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever. [Ps 112:9]

He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God . . .

Reader: The Word of the Lord! C: Thanks be to God



C: Heavenly Father, send the Spirit upon us now to stir up our faith, that we will have the confidence to embrace the full truth of your goodness and blessing toward us and we will know joy in returning our gratitude and thanks in our commitments of energy, efforts and financial gifts. We ask this in the name of the one who gave himself for us that we might have life and have it in abundance, Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

Time will now be given for reflection on the blessings we have received and how we may faithfully respond to those blessings by supporting the mission and ministry of Grace with our financial offerings. There has been a long tradition in Lutheran congregations of making an annual commitment or pledge of financial support. Often, these commitments were collected as part of understanding the congregation's anticipated income in the budgeting process for the coming year. However, Grace has put the priority on a commitment to faithful mission and ministry, first, anticipating that our congregation will eagerly, joyfully and generously provide what is needed to accomplish Grace's goals - which is happening! No worries if making a commitment is not your practice or not what you are comfortable with, you are part of the continually growing group of strong supporters of Grace who keep their giving goals "between me and God." Please also use this time to reflect on other ways that you are called to serve and share at Grace and through Grace. Is there something more you could do? Something to challenge yourself within your serving and sharing in the coming year? Like, being a reader on Sunday mornings . . . etc.?

# Please place your completed commitment card in the Offering Box as you come to the rail for Communion.

# Offering / Offertory

1. We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar, field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

5. Glorious now behold him arise; King and God and sacrifice: Alleluia, Alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies.

#### A: Let us pray:

C: In the midst of this Advent season of preparing to give and receive, we now offer our gifts of gratitude to you, Lord, acknowledging of the blessings we have known in our past, the blessings we know on this day, and the blessings that we are certain to know in the age to come. May what we bring before you be welcome, pleasing and adequate in your sight and may it give glory to your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray. 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 him thanks and praise.

P: We give you thanks, Heavenly Father, for the coming of Your Son, the incarnate; born into our humanity to be Emmanuel, God with us, the gift you give for our salvation. Come now, and hear our voices as we join the heavenly chorus in singing his praises:

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing; come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the new-born King. Gloria in excelsis Deo Gloria in excelsis Deo! P: Holy God, beginning and end, you embrace all time . . .

## The Lord's Prayer

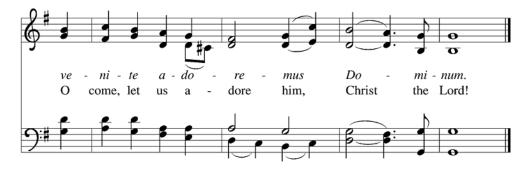
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the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





Post Communion Prayer





### Dismissal

A: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

The flowers on the altar today are dedicated to the memory of Christopher Scalone, husband of Vikki Scalone, Karen McClure's dear cousin. Chris was the FDNY Battalion Chief of Battalion 53 of Queens, NY. He was a 9/11 first responder and passed at the age of 65. John McClure (NYPD) and Chris crossed paths a few times over their careers in trying times by coincidence and with much surprise. We rejoice that Chris is with Tiffany, his amazing daughter who died much too young at 18. But we surround his wife, suffering great sorrow once again, with prayer.



#### Sunday, December 10

Advent H Lessons & Carols
Commitment Sunday
Holiday Fellowship after each service – bring a
traditional Christmas dish to share!

8:30 a.m. Worship

9:45 a.m. Sunday School Stocking Assembly/Pageant Rehearsal &

Confirmation Class

10:00 a.m. Choir rehearsal

11:00 a.m. Worship

### Monday, December 11

4:30 p.m. Confirmation Class

### Tuesday, December 12

6:30 a.m. Early Birds Bible Study & Breakfast 11:00 a.m. Bible Study w/ Pastor Chris – hybrid 7:00 p.m. Bible Study w/ Pastor Chris – online

#### Wednesday, December 13

9:00 a.m. Peacemakers Quilting Group Meeting – in person only 11:00 a.m. Widowed Support Christmas Luncheon

#### Thursday, December 14

7:30 p.m. Digital Committee Meeting

#### Friday, December 15

6:00 p.m. Grace Youth Group Christmas Caroling & Party

#### Sunday, December 17 Advent III

Holiday Fellowship after each service – bring your favorite Christmas Cookie to share

8:30 a.m. Worship

\*\*10:00 a.m. Special Pageant Worship Service\*\*

No Confirmation Class

11:30 a.m. ASP Youth Service Trip Informational Meeting

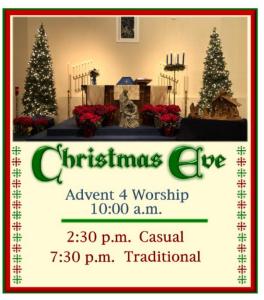
3:00 p.m. Grace Christmas Caroling





If you just cart get enough of those wonderful Christmas Carols, come out with Grace to travel about with a raucous band of players and singers to bring cheer and a merrier Christmas to some of the home-bound members of Grace. No experience necessary—just a good sense of direction, stamina against the cold and the willingness to share the joy! No need to study the words, song sheets will be available.

Sunday December 17<sup>th</sup> 3:00 p.m.





All Events Depend On the Parking Lot

For Conditions & Cancellations

www.GraceYorktown.org
Or Check Your Email









#### Grace Lutheran Church

Christopher Chantelau, *Pastor*Becki Advocate, *Dir. of Music*Kristen Halderman, *Parish Administrator*Vinnie Tipa, *Sexton* 

Rev. Dr. Timothy Kennedy, Pastor Emeritus

3830 Gomer St. • Yorktown Heights, NY • 10598 • 914245.5737 • www.GraceYorktown.org



Also meeting on Monday 12/18 @ 4:30 p.m. Ouestions? Please ask Pastor Chris









