



First Sunday of Advent

Eucharist

Grace Episcopal Church

Galena, Illinois

December 3, 2023 10:30 am

Welcome to Grace Church

It is, as always, a pleasure and privilege to worship together today. Please know that your presence is valued whether this is your first time at Grace or whether you are a regular, whether we are together in person or online.

We have chosen to keep our online and in-person congregations together. For those at home on YouTube, links to the bulletin may be found in Friday's e-mail, the link to YouTube, and on our website. Printed copies will be available for the in-person congregation.

Please be aware that we are live streaming this service to YouTube and our website. It is possible that you will be shown briefly in the recording. Current COVID levels do not require masking. You are welcome to wear a mask if you wish.

Ministers of the Service

*Members and Guests, *Celebrants*
*Rev. Dr. Paula Harris, *Presider*
*Terri Jackman, *Lector*
*Elizabeth Ludescher, *Acolyte*
*Greg Serwich, *Chalice Bearer*
*Lynn Giles, *Sound/Livestream Tech*

*Robin French, *Music Director*
*Nancy Cook/
Joy von Wolffersdorf, *Erben Organist*
*Carl Davis, *Vestry Coordinator*
*Amy Hardwicke & Charlotte Stryker,
Altar Guild
*Karen Serwich, *Greeter*
*Greg & Karen Serwich, *LEMs*

The Holy Eucharist

*As we prepare ourselves for worship, please sit or kneel in quietness
while the prelude is offered.*

Prelude

Watchmen, Tell Us of the Night Abernathy/Dengler

We stand as the bell rings.

Opening Hymn 59

Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding

The Word of God

Welcome

EOW pg. 50

Presider: Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

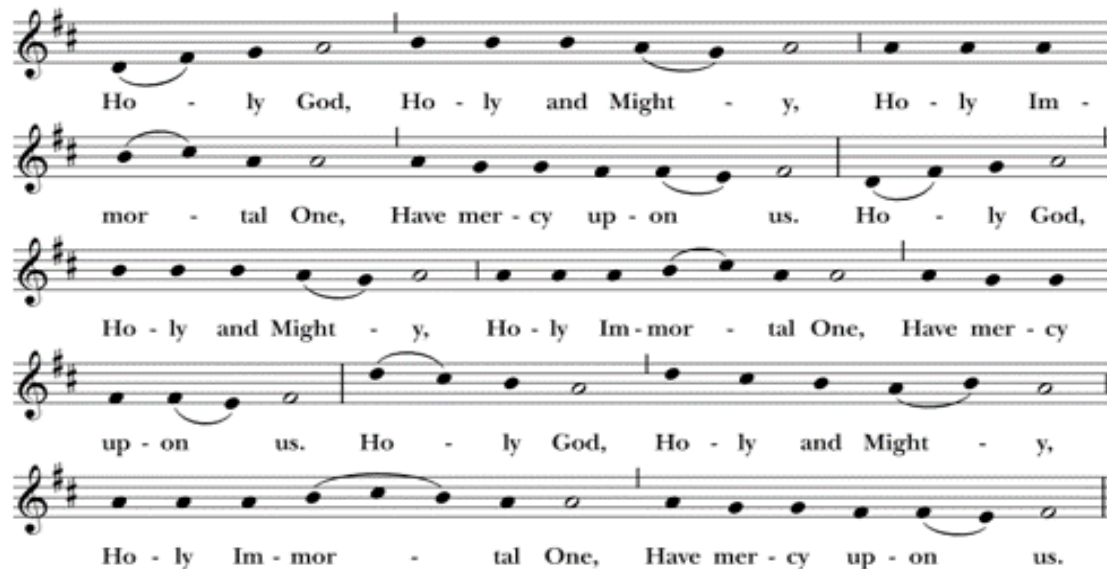
All: Glory to God for ever and ever.

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid:
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly you,
and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Holy God (Trisagion)

S100



Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

The Collect

Presider: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All: **Amen.**

Please be seated.

The Lesson

Lector: A reading from **Isaiah**.

Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence--
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil--
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Psalm – *Please respond after the asterisk, as directed by the lector.*

Psalm 80:1-7,16-18

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.
Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
O LORD God of hosts, *
**how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?**
You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

The Epistle

Lector: A reading from **1 Corinthians.**

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as able.

Sequence

O Thou Art Tellest Good Tidings

Oh thou — that tell — est good ti — dingsto Zi — on, Oh

thou — that tell — est good ti — dings to Je — ru — sa — lem:

Lift up your voice with strength, — Lift it up don't be a — fraid. Be —

hold — your — God. — A — — rise, — and shine, — for the

light of the world is come. Be — hold — your — God! —

Words: Isaiah 40:9

Music: Kenneth W. Louis

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The Gospel

Presider: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **Mark**.

Mark 13:24-37

All: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, “In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

Mother Paula Harris

We keep a brief moment of silence after the sermon.

Please stand as able.

The Nicene Creed

BCP 358

Presider: Let us affirm our faith.

All:

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:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.

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.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He 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.*

Intercessions

Presider: As we keep awake for the coming of the Lord, let us offer prayers to God who prepares a light for our path.

Lector: For the peace of the world, and for our unity in Christ.

All: Come, O Lord, and save us.

Lector: For our bishop, and all bishops, for the presbyters, for the deacons and all who minister in Christ, and for all the holy people of God.

All: Come, O Lord, and save us.

Lector: For the church throughout the world and the faithful in every place.

All: Come, O Lord, and save us.

Lector: For the leaders of the nations and all in authority.

All: Come, O Lord, and save us.

Lector: For justice, peace, and freedom among peoples of the earth.

All: Come, O Lord, and save us.

Lector: For travelers, for the sick and the suffering, for the hungry and the oppressed, and for those in prison.

All: Come, O Lord, and save us.

Lector: For the dying and the dead.

All: Come, O Lord, and save us.

Lector: For our deliverance from all affliction, strife, and need.

All: Come, O Lord, and save us.

Lector: Joining our voices with the Blessed Virgin Mary and with all the saints and angels of God, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ.

All: To you, O Lord.

Presider: O Rising Sun, brightness of light eternal, sun of justice, come and shine on those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death. Glory to you for ever.

All: Amen.

Prayer Response

In All My Prayers

Let my own trials make wide my heart. Till I, like

The first system of musical notation for the song 'In All My Prayers'. It consists of a treble and bass staff in 3/4 time, key of B-flat major. The melody is in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics 'Let my own trials make wide my heart. Till I, like' are written below the treble staff.

Job, may come to hold in all my prayers the

The second system of musical notation. The melody continues from the first system. The lyrics 'Job, may come to hold in all my prayers the' are written below the treble staff.

suff - 'ring of the world. May come to hold in

The third system of musical notation. The melody continues. The lyrics 'suff - 'ring of the world. May come to hold in' are written below the treble staff.

all my prayers the suff - 'ring of the world.

The fourth system of musical notation, which concludes the piece with a double bar line. The melody continues. The lyrics 'all my prayers the suff - 'ring of the world.' are written below the treble staff.

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Please stand or kneel as able.

Confession of Sin

BCP 360

Presider: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All: **Most merciful God,**
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Presider: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

All: **Amen.**

Please stand.

We Share the Peace of Christ

Presider: The Peace of Christ be always with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Please be seated.

Announcements

Birthdays & Anniversaries

For the birthdays of Joyce Davis, Bill
Boehler, Dave Mikelson, Mary Lou
Smith, & Carol Most.

For the belated anniversary of
Larry & Carol Poston.

ANNIVERSARY/BIRTHDAY BLESSING

*Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase;
bless and guide them wherever they may be.*

Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful;

*raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may your peace which passes understanding
abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

The Holy Communion

Presider: "Restore us, O God of hosts; show us the light of your countenance and we shall be saved." Ps. 80

Offertory

Awaken and Prepare Us

M. Hayes

Please stand as able.

Presentation

*Canticle of the Turning
verses 1 & 2*

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 power to the for-tress tower, 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-

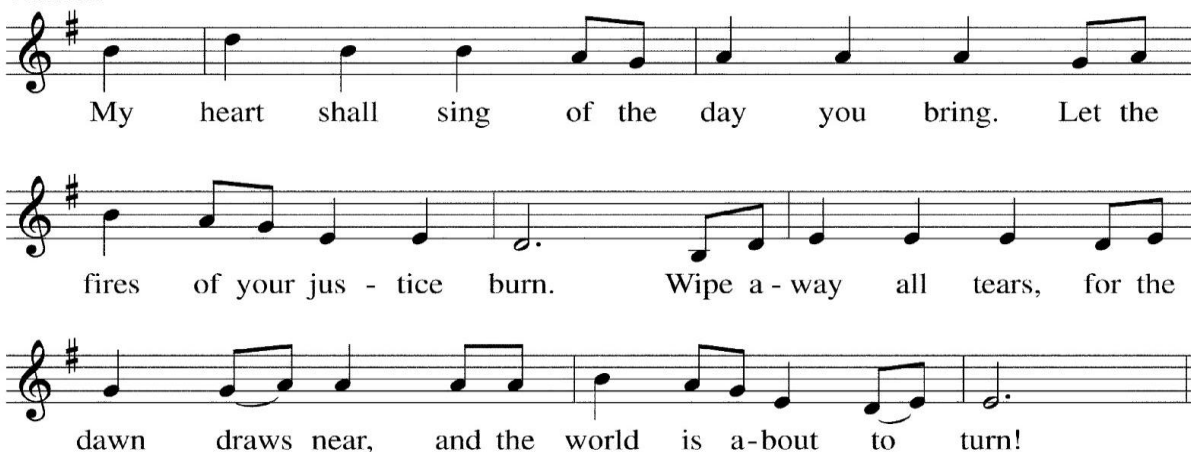
won-drous things that you bring to the ones who
depths of the past to the end of the age to
jus-tice tears ev-'ry ty-rant from his
liv-er us from the con-quer-or's crush-ing

wait. You fixed your sight on your ser-vant's plight, and my
be. Your ver-y name puts the proud to shame, and to
throne. The hun-gry poor shall weep no more, for the
grasp. 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, 'Til 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.

Refrain



Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP 367

Presider: The Lord be with you

All: **And also with you.**

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

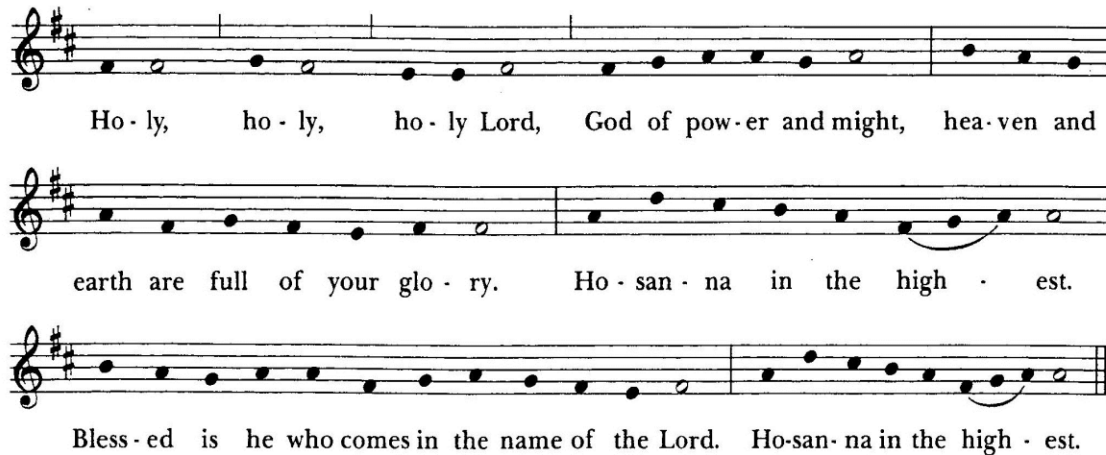
Presider: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Here a Proper Preface is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your name;

Please stand or kneel.

Sanctus S124



Presider:

BCP 368

We give thanks to you, O God for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days, you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

After Supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Presider and **All**:

**We remember his death;
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

Presider:

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you from your creation, this bread, and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ through whom we may be acceptable to you, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.

All: *Amen.*

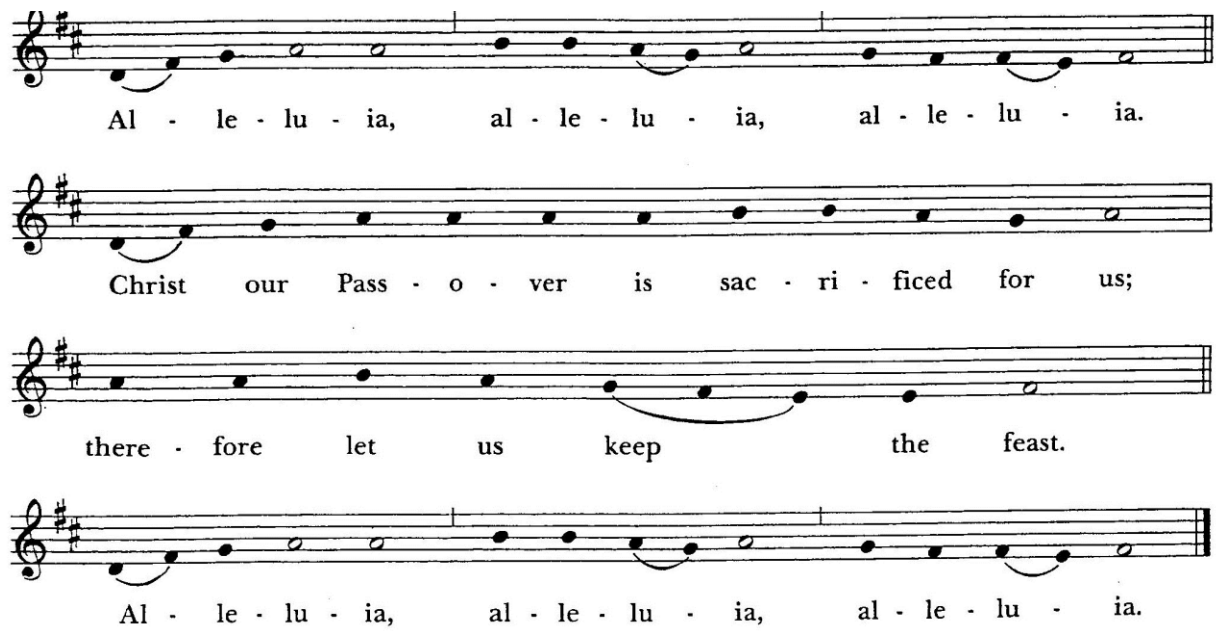
Presider: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

BCP 364

All: **Our Father, in heaven,**
 hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come,
 your will be done,
 on earth as in heaven.
 Give us today our daily bread.
 And forgive us our sins,
 as we forgive those
 who sin against us.
 Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom,
 and the power, and the glory,
 are yours now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Breaking of the Bread

Fraction S154



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;

there - fore let us keep the feast.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff contains the first line of the Alleluia. The second staff contains the second line, starting with 'Christ'. The third staff contains the third line, starting with 'there'. The fourth staff contains the final line of the Alleluia. The score ends with a double bar line.

The Breaking of the Bread

Presider: The gifts of God for the people of God.

Communion Hymn 68

Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers

Communion Hymn

God the sculptor of the mountains

WLP 746

1. God the sculp-tor of the moun-tains, God the mil-ler of the sand,
 2. God the nui-sance to the Pha-raoh, God the cleav-er of the sea,
 3. God the un-ex-pect-ed in-fant, God the calm, de-ter-mined youth,
 4. God the dress-er of the vine-yard, God the plant-er of the wheat,

God the jewel-er of the heav-ens, God the pot-ter of the land:
 God the pil-lar of the dark-ness, God the bea-con of the free:
 God the ta-ble turn-ing pro-phet, God the res-ur-rect-ed Truth:
 God the reap-er of the har-vest, God the source of all we eat:

you are womb of all cre-a-tion, we are form-less; shape us now.
 you are gate of all de-liv'-rance, we are sight-less; lead us now.
 you are pres-ent ev-ery mo-moment, we are search-ing; meet us now.
 you are host at ev-ery ta-ble, we are hun-gry; feed us now.

We Send the Eucharistic Ministers

Presider: In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

All: **We who are many are one body because we all share one bread, one cup.**

Please stand as able.

Post Communion Prayer

BCP 366

Presider: Let us pray.

All: **Almighty and ever living God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Blessing

BOS 23

Presider:

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.

All: **Amen.**

Recessional 454

Jesus Came, Adored by Angels

Presider: Go forth to love and serve the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Hyfrydol/Hayes

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Prayers are Requested. *Please include the following concerns during worship today and throughout the week:*

For Our Outreach Partners:

We pray for our Outreach Partners: Opening Doors, Glory Parish in the Diocese of Renk and La Santa Cruz Parish in the Diocese of SE Mexico; the United Thank Offering, the Galena ARC, the United Churches Food Pantry, Episcopal Relief and Development, Shelter Care Ministries, & Dubuque Rescue Mission.

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:

for Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Paula, our Diocesan Bishop; Paula, our Rector and all members of Grace Church.

We pray for those who are sick or in need:

Emery Beyer, Dan Burke, Teresa Burke, Bob Burton, Mia Carson, Shawn Crossley, Kathy Doig, Jocelyn Douglas, Renee Dowe, Steve Dowe, Matthew Dowe, Abby, Al Elsbree, Ed & Rita Ersfeldt, Carmen Ferguson, Jennie Fjelde, Olivia Gilbert, Ezryn “Ezzy” Gotautis, Elaine Guidry, Dean Hanson, Rev. Dr. Paula Harris, Megan Hearnburger, Justin Kash, Josie Keaton, Alice & Joe Maffit, Liam Malone, Diann & Robert Marsh, Crystal Mason, Katie McIntyre, JoAnn Mikelson, Mina, Mary Nelson, Sarah Newton, Pam Ohms, Paige, Tony Packard, Doug Rector, Warren Schaller, Warren Schaller, Jr., Melody Serwich, Lori Severtson, Pat Terry, Casey Walters, Joe Watts, Jim Webster, Tim Winters, Larry Wycoki, Paulette Zais, & several Grace members who have COVID.

We give thanks for the many blessings we have received: those who serve in the military and all essential workers and their families; for the birthdays of Joyce Davis, Bill Boehler, Dave Mikelson, Mary Lou Smith & Carol Most; for the belated anniversary of Larry & Carol Poston; and all who worship in this place and those who have not yet walked through these doors.

We pray for those who have died, Rev. Linda Packard+, and for the anniversary of the deaths of: Dorothy A. Grenier, Earl R. Lind, & Eugene I. Berningham.

***The altar greens today are given by
the Altar Guild.***

***Today's Coffee Social host
is Terri Jackman.***

ANNOUNCEMENTS

for the week of December 3rd, 2023

Grace Happenings, our weekly e-newsletter, is sent out every Friday.

*To start receiving it, please use your preferred email to send your request to our Parish Administrator
at gracesec@gracegalena.org*

Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming December Events:

Sunday, December 3

Please stay after worship today.

At 1:00 pm, we will celebrate the **Renewal Of Ministry at Grace Church and the Welcoming of a New Rector**. Watch for your invitation in the mail. Cooks are invited to bring desserts (let Terri Jackman know if you are able to contribute.)

Wednesday, December 6th

Starting **Wednesday December 6**, and going forward, the Wednesday service will change times to 8:00 am. The Eucharist will continue with a focus on Saints lives and weekday feasts and fasts, with the exception of the third Wednesday, which will be lay-led Morning Prayer. Breakfast follows the service.

Poinsettia Sign Up: The Poinsettia donation sign-up sheet is located on the Parish House bulletin board. The cost this year is \$12.00. Please help decorate the church for the upcoming Christmas season.

Saturday, December 9

Advent is a season of expectation, but in our culture it's a busy season as we prepare in many ways for Christmas. If you are hoping to meet God but find yourself busy "with many distractions" (like Martha), perhaps you would like to choose "the better part" (like Mary, her sister) and spend some time waiting, watching, and listening for Christ.

From 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, Saturday, December 9, we'll gather for a **Quiet Day**, where you can practice some easy chair yoga, ponder poetry, practice silence, walk a labyrinth, have journaling prompts and eat (either with quiet conversation or eat in companionable quiet) variety of ways to quiet the body, still the mind, and hear the soul's voice. We'll do how much time and at what pace you prefer to do an activity. And we'll sing. You can quiet the soul with song. Most of the day you decide how much time and at what pace you prefer to do an activity.

Our leaders: Chaplain Guta Cvetkovic, Carol Posten, Joy Von Wolffersdorff, Robin French, and Mother Paula Harris.

Please plan to bring a bag lunch and a healthy beverage. Bring a journal if you use one. Retreat is free. Please sign up in the narthex.

Outreach December Support Project: In November, your Outreach ministry team will donate \$1,000.00 to Opening Doors. It is a nonprofit organization in Dubuque that helps homeless women and children. Opening Doors has three "doorways": Teresa Shelter offers emergency and extended stay, Maria House offers transitional housing for up to two years, and Francis Apartments offers income-based affordable housing. The women living there also receive life training skills. They are provided with opportunities for education, jobs, child care and the ability to become independent. It is an important local organization that extends help with the attitude, "We offer a hand up in the world, not a handout."

2023 Christmas Family Adoption: Once again we are adopting a family for Christmas this year. This is a local Jo Daviess County family with six children, ages 7-16. Thanks to the help of Debbie Kallback, we'll have a board in the Parish Hall (similar to what we did with the Gotautis family) with items for the children and family.

You can take one, two, or however many items you'd like to take off the board. Donations will be accepted through Sunday, December 17. There will be a donation box near the Parish House through December 17. If you have any questions, please contact **Teresa Burke**, tm2000@hotmail.com, (608)732-8628.

Glitz for Gifts: The second annual Grace Church Outreach Committee jewelry sale will be held Sunday, December 17th. Please bring your contributions to church on Sunday, December 10th. Please place your items in the baskets found in the narthex and the parish house. All proceeds will to our Christmas family.

Support Heifer International This Christmas:

You've heard the old adage, "Teach a man to fish and he will never go hungry!" Heifer International has used it as their model! Our support of their mission has helped families break free from hunger, poverty, and achieve the lives they deserve.

What better gift can you give a loved one at Christmas than a donation to Heifer International? Starting today, Karlyn Van Gelder will have cards you may use for gifting! Your generosity makes possible joyful meals around a table in every corner of the world.

News from Glory Parish: Due to the situations in Israel and Ukraine, the refugee crisis in Renk County, South Sudan, has been overshadowed. News received from Bishop Simon last week tell the story of more refugees from Sudan.

Citizens of Renk formed an Emergency Response Committee comprising of clergy, youth, women, and elders who are doing the task of welcoming, accommodating, and transport facilitation. ECSS Guest House and Renk Theological College are being used for accommodating women and children who do not know anyone in Upper Nile and provide transportation to those people who have no means of transportation from the border to Renk and then to Paloch for those who are proceeding to Juba.

We see the needs of the refugees in Ukraine and Israel and know how it feels to be a refugee, since in the not-so-distant past, many of them may have been refugees.

Please keep them in your prayers as we offer them any help we can at this time of giving. As always, we pray that ALL war may cease.

On-Going at Grace:

December Canape & Conversation: The final 2023 *Canape & Conversation* will be hosted by *Phil & Terri Jackman* at the *Galena Center for the Arts from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm, Friday, December 15th*. The event will feature the Jackman's holiday-themed model railroad. Plan to bring a snack to share, your own beverage, a friend, and a good story to share.

Social Hour: There are openings during **December 24th and 31st** for the weekly Coffee Hour. The sign-up sheet is posted near the coffee pots. **Reminder for Hosts:** coffee supplies, napkins & plates are available in our pantry. Keep it simple as the focus is on fellowship.

Ministry of Care: Because of the willingness of the Grace community, the Ministry of Care is able to offer our congregation support during a time of need. If you need rides, meals, errands, or a helping hand in some other way, please **contact Bonnielynn Kreiser at 815-777-1468 or 815-291-9005** so we can help out. Also know that our clergy are available to meet your spiritual needs as well.

Wednesday Morning Study Group (10:00 a.m.): The Wednesday Morning Study Group uses the online Episcopal Lectionary Calendar (more specifically, the scriptures and Bible Study guide) to read and reflect upon the lessons and gospel for the ensuing Sunday Eucharist. After doing so, we find our hearts and minds are more fertile for the seeds sown from the lectionary and the pulpit. All are welcome to join on Wednesdays at 10 a.m., either in the Parish House Conference Room or on Zoom (link in the E-news). If needed, **contact Greg Serwich (312-933-6228) for assistance.**

Yarn Ministry: meets on Thursdays from 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm at the Parish House. For more information, **contact Meg Gibbs (708-421-1512).**

Zoom Poetry Meeting: A Zoom Poetry group is meeting on Mondays at 2:00pm. If you are interested, write to **Carol Poston at poston@sxu.edu or call her at 815-777-0220** to receive information about the meeting.

Service of Compline: is 8:30 pm, Tuesday evenings via Zoom.

Meditative Prayer: meets online at 9:00 am on Fridays. You are welcome to join, and gentle guidance will be provided for those unfamiliar with this practice.

In the Greater Galena Community:

Volunteer Opportunity with Galena Food Pantry: Volunteers who can lift 50 pounds and drive (their own) truck. Hours are Tuesday-Thursday 8:30 am-10:30 am. If you are able to serve, please contact **Celeste Mancini at 815-776-0023 or 630-606-5150.**



grace episcopal church galena, illinois

The Rt. Rev. Paula Clark, Bishop of Chicago

The Rev. Dr. Paula Harris, Rector
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Email: gracerector@gracegalena.org

Kris Egan, Parish Administrator
Email: gracesec@gracegalena.org

vestry

Lynn Giles	Sr. Warden	Vacant	Jr. Warden
Jim Berry	Treasurer	Crystal Mason	Clerk
Crystal Mason (2024)	Carl Davis (2025)	Cindy Blakemore (2026)	
Phil Jackman (2024)	Amy Hardwicke (2025)	Sue Anderson (2026)	

107 S. Prospect Street Galena, Illinois 61036
Phone: 815-777-2590 Website: www.gracegalena.org

Scripture Readings for Sunday, December 10th , 2023

Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40:1-11

2 Peter 3:8-15a

Mark 1:1-8

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

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