



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
COME TO RECEIVE – GO TO SHARE
December 24, 2024

A WARM WELCOME TO ONE AND ALL!

Merry Christmas! The joy of our Savior's birth fills our church tonight, and our hearts rejoice at the love God has for His people. Jesus Christ is the incomparable gift of God that we celebrate on this holy night. We are happy to welcome you, and pray that you find peace and comfort in the Christmas story. Please take a moment to fill out one of the blue cards, and hand it to an usher or drop it in the offering plate. You are invited to worship with us again on Sundays at 10:00 AM each week.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service

Pre-Service Christmas Music

Welcome and Announcements

Congregation stands, and turns to face processional cross

Processional Carol: 379 O Come, All Ye Faithful

LSB 379

✠ Gathering ✠

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Christmas Call to Worship (from John 1)

- P** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- C** **He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made.**

P In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

C **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

P And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,

C **And we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

P We worship on this holy night in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Kneel/Sit

Prayer of Confession

C **God, our Father, we confess our sins to You. We admit that we are imperfect and unfaithful. We have failed to love You with our whole heart, and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are blessed to be Your children, but often we rebel against You, ignore You, and reject Your commands. Please forgive our sins, dear Father, not for our sake, but for the sake of Your perfect Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

P “Behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people” (Luke 2:10). Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for His sake God offers you His pardon and mercy. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Glory to God in the highest!**

P And peace to His people on earth!

C **Amen.**

Stand

The people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22–24; Eph. 4:1–3).

Hymn of Praise: 368 Angels We Have Heard on High

LSB 368

- 1 Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains. **Refrain**

Refrain Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

- 3 Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. **Refrain**

Christmas Eve Prayer

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

P Let us pray. O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have been blessed to know that Light on earth we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit

✠ The Savior is Born ✠

Prophecy of the Christ Child

Isaiah 9:2–7

² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shined.

³You have multiplied the nation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.
⁴For the yoke of his burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
⁵For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.
⁶For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
⁷Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Choir Anthem: "Child of Peace"

Grace Choir

Arranged by Don Besig, Additional Words and Music by Don Besig and Nancy Price

Epistle

Titus 2:11–14

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people,
¹²training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who

gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Congregation stands and turns to face the processional cross

Gospel Procession

Luke 2:1–20

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

¹⁵When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned,

glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sit

Children's Message

Carol: 388 Go Tell It on the Mountain

LSB 388

Sermon

Offering

Offertory: 370 What Child Is This

LSB 370

Stand

Prayer of the Church

A Filled with the good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, and for all people.

A brief silence.

A On this holy night, a Child was born for us in Bethlehem, and the light of heaven shone upon this dark world. Brighten our spirits, banish our fears, and give hope to our spirits. May the glorious message of the birth of Jesus fill us with joy tonight, and throughout the year ahead. God of grace,

C **receive our prayer.**

A Like the shepherds of old, O Lord God, we know the fears and troubles of this life. Comfort us with the news of Christ's birth, and the promise of Your never-failing love. God of grace,

C **receive our prayer.**

A When Christ was born, the angels sang with praise, and the shepherds ran with haste. As we glorify and praise You in this place, send us into the world, proclaiming without fear the salvation You have revealed in the miracle of Christ's birth. God of grace,

C **receive our prayer.**

A As the holy family found shelter around the animals' manger, draw near to persons experiencing homelessness, those who are alone this holiday season, and all for whom this world makes no room. Wrap all your children in bands of love and mercy, and bring healing to those who are in need (*especially ...*). God of grace,

C **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A We commend these prayers to You, O God, trusting Your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

✠ Service of the Sacrament ✠

Preface

160

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.**

Proper Preface

P It is truly good and right that we should offer thanks and praise to You, Lord God, eternal Father. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh You have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of Your

glory; that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus

161



C 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.

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My \dagger body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My \dagger blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Lord's Prayer

C Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,

**Thy will be done on earth
 as it is in heaven;
 give us this day our daily bread;
 and forgive us our trespasses
 as we forgive those
 who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For Thine is the kingdom
 and the power and the glory
 forever and ever. Amen.**

Christmas Eve Peace

163

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C** Amen.

Agnus Dei

163

C 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.

Sit

Distribution of Holy Communion

We believe, teach and confess that those who commune receive the true Body and Blood of our Lord---in, with and under the bread and wine---for forgiveness of sins and strengthening in faith and life. All baptized, believing Christian guests are invited to examine themselves, as exhorted by St. Paul. Those who are in agreement with this statement are invited to join us at the Altar. If you have a question regarding this, please ask to speak with the Pastor or one of the Elders.

Both individual and common cups are available. Also, if you would prefer to receive non-alcoholic white grape juice, there are individual cups in the center of the tray.

Please hand your completed family attendance card to the usher on your way to receive communion.

Communion Carol: 384 Of the Father's Love Begotten LSB 384 sts. 1-4

Communion Carol: God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 God rest ye merry gentlemen
Let nothing you dismay
Remember Christ our Saviour
Was born on Christmas Day
To save us all from Satan's pow'r
When we were gone astray Refrain | 2 In Bethlehem in Jewry
This blessed Babe was born
And laid within a manger
Upon this blessed morn
The which His mother Mary
Did nothing take in scorn Refrain |
| 3 From God our heavenly Father
A blessed angel came
And unto certain shepherds
Brought tidings of the same
How that in Bethlehem was born
The Son of God by name Refrain | 4 Fear not then said the angel
Let nothing you affright
This day is born a Saviour
Of a pure virgin bright
To free all those who trust in Him
From Satan's pow'r and might Refrain |
| 5 The shepherds at those tidings
Rejoiced much in mind
And left their flocks afeeding
In tempest storm and wind
And went to Bethlehem straightway
The blessed Babe to find. Refrain | 6 And when they came to Bethlehem
Where our dear Saviour lay
They found Him in a manger
Where oxen feed on hay
His mother Mary kneeling down
Unto the Lord did pray Refrain |
| 7 Now to the Lord sing praises
All you within this place
And with true love and brotherhood
Each other now embrace
This holy tide of Christmas
All others doth deface. Refrain | Refrain
O tidings of comfort and joy
Comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy |

Stand

Prayer of Thanksgiving

- A** Holy God, with our eyes we have seen Your salvation, and in this meal have feasted on Your grace.
- C** **May Your Word take flesh in us, that we may be Your holy people, revealing Your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

✠ The Light of Christmas ✠

Candle Lighting Verses

- P** Jesus spoke to them, saying,
- C** **"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."**
- P** "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples,
- C** **and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."**

Carol: 363 Silent Night, Holy Night

LSB 363

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace. | 2 Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven
afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born! |
| 3 Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth. | |

Benediction

166

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
- C** Amen.

Recessional Carol: 387 Joy to the World

LSB 387

Christmas Dismissal

- A** Christ, the Savior, is born!
- C** Joy to the world!
- A** Go in peace, and serve the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Acknowledgments

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Christmas Services

Christmas Day
Wednesday, December 25th at 10:00 am

Epiphany
Sunday, January 5th at 10:00 am

The Baptism of Our Lord
Sunday, January 12th at 10:00 am