

Welcome to Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church. Take a moment to notice the * at the beginning of various portions of the order of service. The * indicates the place where it is inappropriate to enter or leave the sanctuary because it marks a time of prayer or respect for the Word of the Lord. Please be considerate of others around you by honoring these notations.



CHRISTMAS EVE
"The Light of Christ Shines Forth in the Darkness"

December 24, 2023

AS WE GATHER: Heaven and earth rejoice on this night because the glory of the Triune God is manifested in the human birth of *"our great God and Savior Jesus Christ"* (Titus 2:13). In Him, the Father's grace, mercy and peace rest upon the world. The silence of death is broken by this *"good news of great joy that will be for all the people"* (Luke 2:10). And all we who have gone astray like lost and wandering sheep, who have *"walked in the darkness"* of doubt and fear and sinful unbelief, behold *"a great light"* in the nativity of Christ (Is. 9:2). In Him *"the grace of God has appeared"* (Titus 2:11). For this Child of Mary who is born for us, this dear Son of God who is given to us, will bear the burden of our sin and death in His own body on the cross. He thereby establishes a government of peace, *"with justice and with righteousness,"* which shall have no end; not by any work of man, but *"the zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this"* (Is. 9:7).

PRE-SERVICE: "On Christmas Night" Chancel
Choir

INVOCATION:
Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen.
Pastor: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
Our help is in the name of the Lord.
People: Who made heaven and earth.
Pastor: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
People: And you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

***CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:**
Pastor: O almighty God, merciful Father.
People: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my

3. He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
and wonders, wonders of His love. Amen!

POSTLUDE

Join Us...

Tomorrow, Christmas Day – 9:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion

sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray you of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

Pastor: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING HYMN: "O Come All Ye Faithful" **LSB 379**

INTROIT Ps. 24:1, 3-5; antiphon: Ps.2:6-7

The LORD | said to me,*
"You are my Son; today I have be- | gotten you.
As for me, I have | set my King*
on Zion, my | holy hill."

The earth is the LORD's and the full- | ness thereof,*
the world and those who | dwell therein.
Who shall ascend the hill | of the LORD?
And who shall stand in his | holy place?
He who has clean hands and a | pure heart,*
who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear de-
ceitfully.
He Will Receive blessings | from the LORD*
and righteousness from the God of his sal- | vation.
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

The LORD | said to me,*
"You are my Son; today I have be- | gotten you.
As for me, I have | set my King*
on Zion, my | holy hill."

HYMN: "It came upon the Midnight Clear" **LSB 366**

***COLLECT OF THE DAY:**
Pastor: O God,
People: **You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECY Genesis 3:7-15 Pew Bible Page 5

HYMN OF RESPONSE: "Come Thou Long -Expected Jesus" **LSB 338**

OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECY Jeremiah 23:5-6 Pew Bible Page 1210

"A Shoot Shall Come Forth" Chancel Choir

OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECY Micah 5:2-4 Pew Bible Page 1445

HYMN OF RESPONSE: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" **LSB 361**

GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-7 Pew Bible Page 1590

HYMN OF RESPONSE "Away in a Manger" **LSB 364**

GOSPEL: Luke 2:8-14 Pew Bible Page 1591

***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

SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST
Please tip only your unlit candle to receive the flame.
CANDLELIGHT HYMN: "Silent Night" **LSB 363**

BENEDICTION:
Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and + give you peace.
People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: "Joy to the World" **LSB 387**

1. Joy to the World! the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev’ry heart prepare Him room,
And heav’n and nature sing,
And Heav’n and nature sing,
And heav’n, and heav’n and nature sing.
2. Joy to the World! the Savior Reigns;
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat, the sounding joy!

(Please stand) “Angels from the Realms of Glory” (Melody of LSB 367:5)

**All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising To the eternal Three in One.**

Refrain: **Come and worship, come and worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King**

GOSPEL: Luke 2:15-20 Pew Bible Page
1591

Choir	"Hurry Shepherds Run!"	Chancel
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SERMON HYMN "Go Tell It on the Mountain" **LSB 388**

SERMON

OFFERTORY "Jesus, Once of Humble Birth" Mike Carper

THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

GOSPEL OF LIGHT John 1:1-4 Pew Bible Page 1645

*** APOSTLES' CREED:**

I believe in God, The Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

***PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

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HYMN OF RESPONSE: FESTIVE GLORIA printed below

"Angels from the Realms of Glory" (Melody of LSB 367:1-2)

**Angels from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o'er all the earth.
Ye who sang creation's story, Now proclaim Messiah's birth.**

Refrain: **Come and worship, come and worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King**

**Shepherds in the field abiding, Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing, Yonder shines the Infant Light.**

Refrain

Interlude

"Angels We Have Heard on High" (Melody of LSB 368:1 & 3)

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

Refrain: **Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

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

Refrain

Interlude

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" (Melody of LSB 380:1 & 3)

**Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"**

Refrain: **Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

Hail, the heav'n born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth.

Refrain

Interlude

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