



## GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

2023 Christmas Day Celebration Service

Monday 10:15 a.m.

## AS WE GATHER

*Fears abound this Christmas. It is true for us today as we consider the problems in our world and the difficulties and stresses that daily life brings our way. Fears were also present that first Christmas, when the shocked shepherds were visited by the heavenly host and the glory of the Lord shone around them. "Fear not!" the angels proclaimed. The shepherds did not need to be filled with fear at God's presence, for the purpose of the angels' visit was to announce to them the news that would change the world: "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11). God's Son has arrived in this world to make us the Father's own dear children. Let us rejoice this morning as we sing the praises of the babe of Bethlehem and gather to receive Him as He comes to us in His body and blood. Fears be gone, for on Christmas our gracious God has given birth to His perfect plan to cancel our sin and make us His own forever!*

## PRESERVICE MUSIC and CANDLE LIGHTING

*Please stand as you are able.*

## CELEBRATION SONG

### **Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

LSB 380

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 the angelic host proclaim,  
    "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

### **Refrain:**

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

Christ, by highest heav'n adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
    Late in time behold Him come,  
    Offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,  
Hail the incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,  
    Jesus, our Immanuel!

**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

***It Came upon the Midnight Clear*****LSB 366**

- 1 It came upon the midnight clear,  
That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth  
To touch their harps of gold:  
“Peace on the earth, goodwill to all,  
From heav’n’s all-gracious king.”  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
To hear the angels sing.
- 2 Still through the cloven skies they come  
With peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heav’nly music floats  
O’er all the weary world.  
Above its sad and lowly plains  
They bend on hov’ring wing,  
And ever o’er its babel sounds  
The blessèd angels sing.
- 3 All you, beneath your heavy load,  
By care and guilt bent low,  
Who toil along a dreary way  
With painful steps and slow:  
Look up, for golden is the hour,  
Come swiftly on the wing,  
The Prince was born to bring you peace;  
Of Him the angels sing.

4 For lo, the days have come to pass  
By prophets seen of old,  
When down into the circling years  
Came Christ as was foretold.  
His word of peace shall to the earth  
God's ancient promise bring,  
And all who take this gift will hear  
The song the angels sing.

## INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## OPENING SENTENCES

*1 Corinthians 1:18, 24*

The advent of the Messiah has come and we are gathered to celebrate Our Savior's birth. The Christ Child came in power, but his power was hidden in weakness. The little child who was wrapped in swaddling cloths and laid in a manger in Bethlehem, is "the power of God and the wisdom of God."

**Holy Child of Bethlehem, be born in us today. You came in power to save us!**

The power of God to save is revealed in Christ Jesus—in his humble manger bed, in his weakness and suffering on the cross and in the empty tomb on the

day of his resurrection! "The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."

**Holy Child of Bethlehem, be born in us today. Lord Jesus, you are glorious in power and majesty!**

The LORD has made known His salvation; He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.

**Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray . . . O God who makes us glad with the yearly remembrance of the

birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ; grant that as we joyfully receive the Word made flesh as our Redeemer and are set free from the bondage of sin, we may

one day with sure confidence behold the Son of Righteousness; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the

Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## READINGS FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

*You may be seated.*

### OLD TESTAMENT READING: **Isaiah 52:7-10**

#### **The Salvation of Our God**

*How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the Lord has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.*

*After the reading:*

Here ends the reading of the Old Testament Reading.

### RESPONSIVE READING: **Psalms 2**

#### **The Reign of the Lord's Anointed**

*Why do the nations rage  
and the peoples plot in vain?*

**The kings of the earth set themselves,  
and the rulers take counsel together,  
against the Lord and against his Anointed, saying,**

*"Let us burst their bonds apart  
and cast away their cords from us."*

**He who sits in the heavens laughs;  
the Lord holds them in derision.**

*Then he will speak to them in his wrath,  
and terrify them in his fury, saying,*

**"As for me, I have set my King  
on Zion, my holy hill."**

*I will tell of the decree:*

*The Lord said to me, "You are my Son;  
today I have begotten you.*

**Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,**

**and the ends of the earth your possession.**

*You shall break them with a rod of iron  
and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."*

**Now therefore, O kings, be wise;  
be warned, O rulers of the earth.**

*Serve the Lord with fear,  
and rejoice with trembling.*

**Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way,  
for his wrath is quickly kindled.**

*The LORD will reign forever and ever.*

## **EPISTLE: Hebrews 1:1-6**

### **The Supremacy of God's Son**

*Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son"? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."*

*After the reading:*

Here ends the reading of the Epistle.

*Please stand in honor of the Gospel.*

## **ALLELUIA and CHRISTMAS VERSE**

Alleluia! For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

**The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his  
glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and  
truth. Alleluia.**

## **HOLY GOSPEL: John 1:1-14**

The Gospel according to St. John the first chapter.

**Glory to God in the highest.**

Children of God born of God

*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 were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*

*There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.*

*The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.*

*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

*After the reading:*

Here ends the reading of the Gospel.

**Praise to the new born King.**

## **WHAT WE BELIEVE ~ The Second Article**

### **REDEMPTION**

**I believe 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.**

*What does this mean?*

**I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve**



**Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as  
He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.**

**This is most certainly true.**

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

### ***Joy to the World***

***LSB 387***

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.

Joy to the earth, 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.

No more let sins and sorrows grow  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
    Far as the curse is found,  
    Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.

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.

## **CHRISTMAS MESSAGE**

*“Singing in the Reign”*

*Pastor Marty Tyler*

## **OFFERTORY**

### ***Take My Life and Let It Be***

***LSB 783***



- 1 Take my life and let it be  
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;  
Take my moments and my days,  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.
- 2 Take my hands and let them move  
At the impulse of Thy love;  
Take my feet and let them be  
Swift and beautiful for Thee.
- 3 Take my voice and let me sing  
Always, only for my King;  
Take my lips and let them be  
Filled with messages from Thee.
- 4 Take my silver and my gold,  
Not a mite would I withhold;  
Take my intellect and use  
Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.
- 5 Take my will and make it Thine,  
It shall be no longer mine;  
Take my heart, it is Thine own,  
It shall be Thy royal throne.
- 6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour  
At Thy feet its treasure store;  
Take myself, and I will be  
Ever, only, all for Thee.

*Please stand.*

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Gathered as God's people and as heirs of an eternal inheritance, let us pray for the whole Church and for all people according to their needs, confidently

bringing our prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, who is our light and our salvation.

Adoration, praise, and thanksgiving be to You, O Lord God Almighty, that when darkness covered the earth, and gross darkness the people, You provided a Savior, able to help, and strong to deliver.

**Praise to You, O God!**

Adoration, praise, and thanksgiving be to You, that You gave Your eternal Son to become incarnate, that through Him light and pardon, power and peace, life and eternal salvation, might come to the fallen and lost children of men.

**Praise to You, O God!**

Adoration, praise, and thanksgiving be unto You, that by the holy nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ we, who by sin were driven out of the earthly paradise, are begotten again to a new Kingdom and to an endless paradise in heaven.

**Praise to You, O God!**

God of all mercy, let it please You to add grace to grace; and as You have given Your Son to be our Redeemer, pour out upon us Your Holy Spirit, that with pure hearts we may celebrate His birth, and with joyful devotion welcome Him. Grant we ask You, O Lord, that the good tidings of great joy in which we rejoice this day may everywhere be known. Bless the Church throughout the world that it may faithfully prosper in all things. Guide the rulers of nations that pathways of peace may be found. Lord, in Your mercy,

**hear our prayer!**

Grant the needs of all people be met according to Your good and gracious will. Grant that the ill and those burdened by many cares find respite from their challenges. Grant that those who sorrow this day look up to Your throne and find abundant consolation in Him who came to ransom us from every fear and every foe. Send the joy of Your salvation into all penitent and burdened souls, that they may rejoice and give glory to God that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Lord, in Your mercy,

**hear our prayer!**

Help, defend, and keep us all, through Him who was born at Bethlehem, so that when He comes in glorious majesty to complete our redemption we may have our perfect fulfillment and joy in His eternal kingdom; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whose blessed name we make all of our prayers.

**Amen.**

*Following the prayers, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Rejoice! The Savior is born!"— Luke 2:11. Then return to their places and remain standing.*

# REPENTANCE AND RENEWAL

So that we may experience the peace of sins forgiven, let us come before our Lord with humble hearts as we confess together:

**Gracious Father, we all have sinned and fallen short of Your glory. By what we have done and by what we have failed to do, we have broken Your commands and have not accomplished Your plans for our lives.**

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, You alone give us the redemption and the restoration, the absolution and the ability to follow Your Word. Through the work of Jesus, the Word made flesh, do for us what is impossible apart from You.

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us so that we may follow Your plan for our lives and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name.**

In the mercy of our gracious Father, Jesus came into this world, journeying from the crib to the cross, from the tomb and to His throne of glory in order to secure our forgiveness according to God's plan of salvation. Therefore, receive His assurance of pardon this day as we celebrate Jesus' coming to save us. By His call and authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the **T** Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

God has had mercy on us. He sent his Son to be our Savior. In weakness the Son of God, Jesus our Lord, came as the Son of Man to die on the cross for us. In power He rose from the dead in triumph over sin, death and the devil.

**Amen. The message of the cradle to the cross and to an empty tomb is the power of God for our salvation!**

# SERVICE OF THE HOLY SUPPER

Holy Communion is a confession of the faith whereby we profess at this altar that our Lord Jesus Christ gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Therefore, any who are not yet instructed, or who are in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, are respectfully asked to refrain from partaking in the meal and instead may come to the altar and receive a blessing, or remain in your pew during distribution, and afterwards speak with the pastor.

## PREFACE SENTENCES

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

*2 Timothy 4:22*

Lift up your hearts.

*Colossians 3:1*

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

*Psalms 136*

**It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, for the countless blessings You have bestowed upon us and all creation.

Joining with the angelic host, whose word removes all fear, we rejoice in the salvation You have brought into our world. Your holy Child, who came to us that first Christmas, comes to us again this day in His body and blood.

Therefore fearing, loving, and trusting in You, along with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

**SANCTUS ~ *Holy, Holy, Holy***

*Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*

*Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sa-ba-oth adored;  
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim Shout the glory of Your name.  
Sing hosanna in the highest, Sing hosanna to the Lord;  
Truly blest is He who comes In the name of the Lord.*

*Sabaoth (SAH-bay-oath) is Hebrew for "heavenly hosts."  
Hosanna is a Hebrew word of praise meaning "save us now."*

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

*In the beginning You created all things by Your Word; and in the fullness of time Your Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth. Let Your Word made flesh dwell richly among us that, faithfully eating His body and drinking His blood, in, with, and under this bread and wine, we may receive the fullness of Your grace and truth in Christ Jesus, our Lord; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

**Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

*Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:*

**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.**

## THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

*Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24;  
Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

## THE PEACE

*The peace of the Lord be with you always.*

**Amen.**

*Please be seated as communion is distributed.*

### MY CONFESSIONAL PRAYER

I REJOICE in Jesus as my personal Lord and Savior.  
I REPENT of all my sins in thought, word, and deed.  
I RECEIVE Christ's real body and blood, as well as the bread and wine in this Sacrament.  
I RELY on our Savior's promise of forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation given to me  
through this Holy Supper.  
I REAFFIRM my oneness with fellow communicants in accepting all of Christ's teaching.  
I RESOLVE to live a sanctified life by the power of the Holy Spirit.

## DISTRIBUTION SONGS

### ***I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table***

**LSB 618**

- 1 I come, O Savior, to Thy table,  
For weak and weary is my soul;  
Thou, Bread of Life, alone art able  
To satisfy and make me whole: **Refrain**

### ***Refrain***

Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood  
Be for my soul the highest good!

- 2 Thy heart is filled with fervent yearning  
That sinners may salvation see  
Who, Lord, to Thee in faith are turning;  
So I, a sinner, come to Thee. Refrain

3 Unworthy though I am, O Savior,  
Because I have a sinful heart,  
Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt banish never,  
For Thou my faithful shepherd art: Refrain

4 Weary am I and heavy laden;  
With sin my soul is sore oppressed;  
Receive me graciously and gladden  
My heart, for I am now Thy guest. Refrain

5 What higher gift can we inherit?  
It is faith's bond and solid base;  
It is the strength of heart and spirit,  
The covenant of hope and grace. Refrain

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### ***Offering (Christmas Version)***

*Paul Baloche*

Over the skies of Bethlehem appeared a star;  
While angels sang to lowly shepherds.  
Three Wisemen seeking truth traveled from afar,  
Hoping to find the child from heaven.  
Falling on their knees they bow before  
The humble Prince of Peace

### ***Chorus***

I bring an offering of worship to my King.  
No one on earth deserves the praises that I sing.  
Jesus, may You receive the honor that You're due.  
O Lord I bring an offering to You. I bring an offering to You.

The sun cannot compare to the glory of Your love;  
There is no shadow in Your presence;  
No mortal man would dare to stand before Your Throne,  
Before the Holy One of Heaven;  
It's only by Your blood and it's  
Only through Your mercy Lord I come.

## **Chorus**

I bring an offering of worship to my King.  
No one on earth deserves the praises that I sing.  
Jesus, may You receive the honor that You're due.  
O Lord I bring an offering to You.  
I bring an offering to You.  
O Lord I bring an offering to You.  
I bring an offering to You.

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## **The First Noel**

*Old English Carol*

The first Noel the angel did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep. **Refrain**

### **Refrain**

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!  
Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star  
Shining in the east beyond them far,  
And to the earth it gave great light,  
And so it continued both day and night. **Refrain**

And by the light of that same star  
Three Wise Men came from country far;  
To seek for a king was their intent,  
And to follow the star wherever it went. **Refrain**

The star drew nigh to the northwest,  
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest;  
And there it did both stop and stay  
Right over the place where Jesus lay. **Refrain**

Then entered in those Wise Men three,  
Full rev'rently upon their knee,  
And offered there in His presence  
Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. **Refrain**

Then let us all with one accord  
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
That hath made heaven and earth of naught,  
And with His blood mankind hath bought. **Refrain**



*Please stand.*

## POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

Let us pray. . . Almighty God, Creator of all things, we give You thanks that on this day You gave Your Word in flesh to be our Savior and Redeemer. Grant us eyes to see His glory and ears to hear His voice that we may behold that glory and not depart from its light even to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

*Psalm 97:1, 6*

The LORD reigns, let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be glad!

**The heavens proclaim His righteousness, and all the peoples see His glory.**

Christmas peace and joy through Christ, His only-begotten Son, be yours; and the blessing of God Almighty—Father, **T** Son, and Holy Spirit—be and abide with you forever.

**Amen.**

## SENDING SONG

### **King Of Kings**

*Brooke Ligertwood, Jason Ingram, Scott Ligertwood*

In the darkness we were waiting,  
Without hope, without light,  
Till from Heaven You came running.  
There was mercy in Your eyes.  
To fulfil the law and prophets,  
To a virgin came the Word  
From a throne of endless glory  
To a cradle in the dirt.

### **Chorus**

Praise the Father,  
Praise the Son,  
Praise the Spirit three in one.  
God of Glory, Majesty,  
Praise for-ev-er to the King of kings.  
  
To reveal the kingdom coming  
And to reconcile the lost,  
To redeem the whole creation  
You did not despise the cross.  
For ev-en in Your suff'ring,

You saw to the oth-er side.  
Knowing this was our salvation,  
Jesus for our sake You died.

### **Chorus**

Praise the Father,  
Praise the Son,  
Praise the Spirit three in one.  
God of Glory, Majesty,  
Praise for-ev-er to the King of kings.  
  
And the morning that You rose,  
All of heaven held its breath  
Till that stone was moved for good  
For the Lamb had conquered death.  
And the dead rose from their tombs,  
And the angels stood in awe,  
For the souls of all who'd come  
To the Father are restored. **Chorus**  
  
And the Church of Christ was born,

Then the Spirit lit the flame.  
Now this Gospel truth of old  
Shall not kneel, shall not faint.

By His blood and in His Name,  
In His freedom I am free,  
For the love of Jesus Christ  
Who has resurrected me. **Chorus**

### ***Ending***

Praise\_\_ for-ev-er to the King\_\_ of\_\_ kings.

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### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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