



O Come
Let Us
Adore Him

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
with Holy Communion
Grace Lutheran Church, Appleton, WI**

**Nativity of Our Lord
Christmas Eve
December 24, 2016
6:30 p.m.**

WELCOME TO GRACE

A blessed Christmas to all.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Sentences

P The people who once walked in darkness have seen a great light.

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

P Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

C We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

P For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given;

C In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

Christ candle is lit

P This candle we light tonight is the Christ candle. It reminds us that Jesus Christ, God's Son, has come to bring God's joy, salvation, and peace to the world.

C Come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Stand as you are able.

Gathering Hymn 'O Come, All Ye Faithful' **283**

Greeting

P Grace to you this glorious night! May the peace of God be with you.

C And also with you.

Call to Worship

P God comes to us now; comes to embrace us.

C Emmanuel, God who is with us.

P For this Child is Peace beyond all peace.

**C Love beyond all loves, Light of light,
Song of songs, God almighty!**

P Follow this Child who is Grace beyond all grace.

C Come, let us worship our newborn king!

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Be seated.

Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

² 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.

³ You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For 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.

⁷His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall 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.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Hymn

'O Little Town of Bethlehem' vs 1 & 2

279

Reading

Titus 2:11-14

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

'Angels We Have Heard on High' vs 1

289

Stand as you are able.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2nd chapter.

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

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:1-14

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth 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 heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Be seated.

Meditation

Hymn 'Hark! The Herald Angels Sing' **270**

Stand as you are able.

Christmas Creed

C We believe in one God, who is Creator, Ruler of the universe, Maker of all we see and all we don't see: Source of all creation!

We believe in one God, who is Jesus Christ, God from God, Light from light, true God and true human. He is one with the Creator; the Word made flesh, our Messiah: Savior of all creation!

We believe in one God, who is Holy Spirit, Breath of God moving among us. Who is one with the Creator; one with the Christ; our Comforter and our Guide: Mentor of all creation! Amen

Prayer

Peace

The people greet one another saying: 'Peace be with you'.

Be seated. The offering is gathered.

Offering

Stand as you are able.

Offertory

'I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve' vs 1 & 5 **271**

Offering Prayer

P Good and loving God,

C we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Great Thanksgiving

P Wonderful Counselor!

C Mighty God!

P Everlasting Father!

C Prince of Peace!

P We bless your Name forever!

C Light of Light!

P Lord of Lords!

C King of Kings!

P Emmanuel, God with us!

C We bless your Name forever!

P True God, Giver of Life, Word of our Creator, Spirit of Counsel and Might; God of our essence, be with us now as we join in the celebration of your love.

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

p 145

Be seated.

Distribution of Holy Communion

Come forward to receive the bread and dip it in the grape juice in the chalice. The lectern side will be served first, then pulpit side.

Hymn at the Distribution

'Away in a Manger'	277
'On Christmas Night'	274

Stand as you are able.

Table Blessing

Post Communion Prayer

A On this day, O God,
C **you gave us Christ the Son to save us. As you sent the one foretold, send us now with good news for all people. Let the gladness of this feast have no end as we share with others the joy that fills us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

Be seated.

Lighting of the Candles

P Lord Jesus you are the light that shines in our darkness, bring us the light of God's saving grace, kindle in our hearts your joy, and bring the light of peace to us and to this world.
C **Amen**

Tip only the unlit candle to pass the light.

Hymn 'Silent Night, Holy Night'

- 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 your holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885

P This precious light of Jesus Christ is for you,
for me and for all people. It is our hope and
our salvation. May the light of God's love give
you hope and purpose in the year ahead and
all the days of your life.

C **Amen**

*Candles are extinguished – hold candle straight
while wax hardens.*

Stand as you are able.

Benediction

P May Christ, who by his incarnation has filled us with grace and truth, give you peace this Christmas and always. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C **Amen**

Closing Hymn 'Joy to the World' **267**

Dismissal

P Glory to God in the highest!

C **Peace to God's people on earth!**

P Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

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Worship Assistants: December 24

Lector: Melissa Krahn

Communion: Deb Werth

Ushers: Marty Grow, Laury Grow, Brian Klauer,
Kathy Lanska

Organist: Diane Bailey

Presiding Minister: Rev. Jean DeVoll-Donaldson

Welcome to Grace

Whether you are a member or visiting for the first time, may God's grace surround you today. Fill out one of the cards in the pew racks and place it in the offering plate to share your contact information and any needs. There is also a guest book to sign in the gathering area. If you are looking for a church home, you are welcome here.

Grace Lutheran Church Mission Statement

*By grace, through faith, we follow God's Word, share the gospel of Jesus Christ and bring hope to others through **worship, education and outreach.***



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