

Nativity of Our Lord
Christmas Eve
December 24, 2018
6:30 P.M.



WELCOME TO GRACE

A blessed Christmas to all.

Prelude

Word of Welcome

Opening Sentences

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 **Rejoice, for God is with us – Emmanuel.**

P In the darkness of our world shines God's holy light.

C **Now there is reason to hope, to love, to laugh, to live.**

P God is truly with us. We are not alone.

C **Thanks be to God!**

stand as you are able

Gathering Hymn

'O Come, All Ye Faithful'

vs 1-3

283

Greeting

P The true Light that enlightens everyone has come into the world! God be with you.

C **And also with you.**

Christmas Litany

A Silent night, holy night,
C **Behold the wonder, born in light.**
A Born a child, yet a king,
C **A promise fulfilled, the angels sing.**
A Sing of love, sing of life,
C **The Prince of Peace shall end all strife.**

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.

C **Amen**

please be seated

The Everlasting Light

Prophecy of the Messiah

Isaiah 9:2-7

L:²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. ³You 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.

Hymn:

'Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming' vs 1 & 2 **272**

Preparing for the Birth of Jesus

Luke 2:1-5

L: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.

Hymn:

'O Little Town of Bethlehem' vs 1 & 3 **279**

Birth of Jesus

Luke 2:6-7

L: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.

Hymn – 'Away in a Manger' **277**

Angels Announce the Birth to the Shepherds

Luke 2:8-20

P: 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!" ¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Hymn – 'Angels We Have Heard on High'

289

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

Christmas Prayer

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

please be seated

offering taken and presented

Special Music at the Offering

'Holy Child within the Manger' M. Haugen

Offering Prayer

A Holy God,

C **your beauty shines forth from the manger and your love flows from the cross. As you gather us around these signs of your love come among us, warm us to extend your care among the hungry and all in need. In Jesus' name we pray. 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

please be seated

Distribution of Holy Communion

Communion, this morning, will be by intinction. The ushers will direct you to the front, first the pulpit side and then lectern side. Come up using the center aisle and return by the side aisle. Wine will be in the larger portion and grape juice in the smaller portion of the chalice. Gluten free wafers available by request. Children are invited for a blessing. All are welcome who believe Christ is present in this meal for the forgiveness of sins.

Hymns at the Distribution

'From Heaven Above'	vs 1-3	268
'On Christmas Night'		274
'I Am So Glad'		271

Table Blessing

Post Communion Prayer

A God of wonder,

**C in Jesus we behold the light of the world
come near. As you have come among us
now, send us out in joy, hastening to
share the good news of your love. We ask**

this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit dwelling among us now and forever. Amen

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'

C **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.**

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!

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.

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 you glory in the birth of the Son of God,
and the blessing of almighty God, the Father,
the † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and
forever.

C Amen

Sending Hymn 'Joy to the World'

267

Dismissal

A Glory to God in the highest!

C Peace to God's people on earth!

A Go in peace. Your Light has come.

C Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Worship Assistants: December 24

Assisting Minister: Becky Luett

Lector: Melissa Krahn

Organist: Diane Bailey

Special Music: Ellen Hilger and Joe Friesen

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Welcome to Grace

*Whether you are a member or visiting for the first
time, may God's grace surround you today.*

There is a guest book to sign in the gathering area.

*If you are looking for a church home,
you are welcome here.*