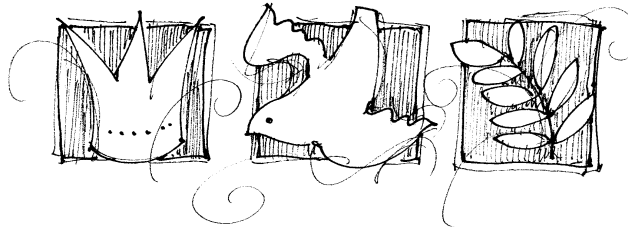


December 24th, 2016
Children's Christmas Eve Service
"To Us a Child Is Born"

I S A I A H 9 : 6

WONDERFUL
COUNSELOR
MIGHTY GOD
EVERLASTING
FATHER
PRINCE of
PEACE



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
MISSOURI ~ SYNOD
308 Byrne Street
Smithville, TX 78957
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Pastor Timothy Appel



Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church! We give thanks that our gracious Lord Jesus Christ has gathered us together here for his Divine Service. Today again our Lord comes to serve us and lavish us with his gifts of life, forgiveness, and salvation. Rejoicing in those wonderful gifts, we sing with David in Psalm 84: “How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts! A day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.”

Hearing, Ask an usher for one of the wireless hearing assistance units.

Attendance Registration cards are located in the Hymnal racks of each pew. We ask all members and our guests to complete one and pass it to the center aisles. An usher will collect them after the offering is taken to the altar. The cards are important as they enable our secretary to track members' attendance as well as guests interested in joining our church. Thank you for your help.

One of the blessings of worship during Christmastime is coming together as believers of all ages to sing songs that have been sung for generations in celebration of our Savior's birth. But along with those traditional hymns, each new generation adds to the Church's praise of the Lord, creating a rich heritage of hymnody throughout the ages. This Christmas service celebrates both. We sing favorites that are hundreds (almost thousands!) of years old, and we sing a song that is just a few years old. Husband and wife Jacob B. and Rachael E. Weber work together to bring us a new song for Christmas: “To Us a Child Is Born.” As the central theme for this Christmas service, the words of Isaiah 9 help us reflect on the promise God the Father fulfilled through the birth of His Son, a gift to us, that we may become the children of God.



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THE PRELUDE WELCOME

Stand

The Processional Hymn: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
Congregation and Children

LSB 380

- 1 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**
- 2 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_incarinate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel! **Refrain**
- 3 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**

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

THE INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P To us...

C **A Child is born!**

P To us...

C **A Son is given!**

P This Christmas we receive...

C **The blessed gift of heaven!**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. O God, 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.

C **Amen.**

Sit

CHRISTMAS HOMILY

SHARING OF THE PEACE AND OFFERING

THE MESSAGE PRESENTED BY THE CHILDREN

I. The Birth of Jesus Christ – Matthew 1:18-25

Hymn: Away in a Manger

Congregation and Children

LSB 364

- 1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
 The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
 The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
 The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

- 2 The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
 But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
 I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
 And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

- 3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
 Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
 Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
 And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

ACTION RHYME BY THE CHILDREN

Children: To us a Child is born!

Congregation: To us a Son is given!

Hymn: To Us a Child Is Born

Children Only

Refrain:

To us a Child is born,
To us a Son is given.
This Christmas we receive
The blessed gift of heaven.

Stanza 1:

The prophets spoke about
The Savior God would send,
The glorious Prince of Peace
Whose kingdom shall not end. *Refrain*

II. The Shepherds Hear the Good News – Luke 2:8-14

Hymn: It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

LSB 366

Congregation and Children

- 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.

ACTION RHYME BY THE CHILDREN

Children: To us a Child is born!

Congregation: To us a Son is given!

Hymn: To Us a Child is Born

Children sing first refrain and verse; Congregation joins in second refrain

Refrain:

To us a Child is born,

To us a Son is given.

This Christmas we receive

The blessed gift of heaven.

Stanza 2:

The angels sang God's praise

Amid the heavens bright.

We also join in song

And fill the church with light. **Refrain**

III. The Shepherds See the Christ Child – Luke 2:15-20

Hymn: Go Tell It on the Mountain

LSB 388

Congregation and Children

- | | | | |
|-----------------|---|---|--|
| Refrain: | Go tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and ev'rywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born! | 2 | The shepherds feared and trembled
When lo, above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth. Refrain |
| 1 | While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light. Refrain | 3 | Down in a lonely manger
The humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn. Refrain |

ACTION RHYME BY THE CHILDREN

Children: To us a Child is born!

Congregation: To us a Son is given!

Hymn: To Us a Child Is Born

Children sing first refrain; Congregation joins on verse and second refrain

Refrain:

To us a Child is born,
To us a Son is given.
This Christmas we receive
The blessed gift of heaven.

Stanza 3:

The shepherds left the sheep.
They watched in nearby fields
To see the Lamb of God
In human flesh revealed. *Refrain.*

IV. The Christ Child Is For Us – Isaiah 9:6-7

Hymn: Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

LSB 359

Congregation and Children

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| 1 | Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming
As prophets long have sung,
It came, a flow'ret bright,
Amid the cold of winter,
When half-spent was the night. | 2 | Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
The rose I have in mind;
With Mary we behold it,
The virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright,
She bore to us a Savior,
When half-spent was the night. |
|---|--|---|---|

3 This flow'r, whose fragrance tender
With sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor
The darkness ev'rywhere.
True man, yet very God,
From sin and death He saves us
And lightens ev'ry load.

4 O Savior, child of Mary,
Who felt our human woe;
O Savior, King of glory,
Who dost our weakness know:
Bring us at length we pray
To the bright courts of heaven,
And to the endless day.

Final Christmas Poem by the Children

Children: To us a Child is born!

Congregation: To us a Son is given!

Hymn: To Us a Child Is Born

Children sing first refrain; Congregation joins on verse and second refrain

Refrain:

To us a Child is born,
To us a Son is given.
This Christmas we receive
The blessed gift of heaven.

Stanza 4:

We also kneel before
The Babe in humble stall,
The Lord our Righteousness
Who came to save us all. *Refrain.*

RESPONSIVE READING

Leader: To us...

Children: A Child is born!

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Leader: To us...

Children: A Son is given!

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Leader: This Christmas we receive...

Children: The blessed gift of heaven!

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,
 On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
 While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
Whom shepherds guard and angels
sing;
 Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
 The babe, the son of Mary!

- 2 Why lies He in such mean estate
 Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
 The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you;
 Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
 The babe, the son of Mary!

- 3 So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;
 Come, peasant, king, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
 Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby;
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
 The babe, the son of Mary!

THE 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.**

LITANY OF PRAYER

- P** In peace let us pray to the Lord;
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For Matthew, our Synodical President, for Ken, our District President, for all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For Barack our President, for Greg our governor, for Scott our mayor, for all our leaders, for all public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:
- C** **Alleluia!**
- P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
Silence for personal prayer.
- P** Rejoicing in the fellowship of the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole lives to Christ, our Lord.
- C** **To You, O Lord.**

COLLECT FOR PEACE

- P** O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:
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.

Our Candlelight Service tonight reminds us that Jesus Christ is the light of the world who has come into the world as our Savior at Christmas. He is the light that no darkness can overcome.

*Following the Lord's Prayer, **the lights in the sanctuary will be dimmed.** The pastor and acolytes will light their candles from the Christ candle and then pass it into the congregation from the center aisle. As you pass the light from one person to the next, please keep the lit candle upright and tilt only the unlit candle in order to spill as little wax as possible.*

LITANY OF LIGHT

P In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. And God said, "Let there be light."
C **And there was light. And God saw that the light was good.** (*Genesis 1:1, 3*)
P The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
C **those who dwelt in a land of darkness, on them has light shined.** (*Isaiah 9:2*)
P The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
C **The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?** (*Psalms 27:1*)
P Because of the tender mercy of our God, the sunrise shall visit us from on high
C **to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.** (*Luke 1:78-79*)
P For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone into our hearts
C **to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.** (*2 Cor 4:6*)
P The light shines in the darkness,
C **and the darkness has not overcome it.** (*John 1:5*)
P Arise, shine, for your light has come,
C **and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.** (*Isaiah 60:1*)
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 known the mysteries of 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

Hymn: Silent Night, Holy Night

LSB 363

The Congregation

- 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.

THE BENEDICTION

P Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C **Amen.**

(As the service concludes, you are encouraged to pray silently, meditating upon God's love shown to you when Christ came into the world to save you from your sins. As the lights come back on in the sanctuary, please extinguish your candle and leave it in the box in the narthex as you leave tonight.)

THE POSTLUDE



LOWLY MANGER & BABE ASLEEP
promise in his hand

OUR CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION CONTINUES! JOIN US
TOMORROW MORNING AT 9:00 AM TO WORSHIP THE
CHRIST CHILD AND RECEIVE GIFTS FROM HIM IN WORD
AND SACRAMENT.

“O COME, LET US ADORE HIM!”