

December 13th, 2017
GLLC Children's Christmas Service

FROM
HEAVEN
ABOVE

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
MISSOURI ~ SYNOD
308 Byrne Street
Smithville, TX 78957
512-237-2108
Evening Prayer 7 PM

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.



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Edited by Lisa A. Krenz

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From Heaven Above
A Christmas Program for Young Children

The Prelude

Processional Hymn: From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

LSB 358, sts. 1-2, 5-6

(Congregation sings as children enter)

- 1 "From heav'n above to earth I come
To bear good news to ev'ry home;
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,
Whereof I now will say and sing:

- 2 "To you this night is born a child
Of Mary, chosen virgin mild;
This little child of lowly birth
Shall be the joy of all the earth.

- 5 "These are the signs that you shall mark:
The swaddling clothes and manger dark.
There you will find the infant laid
By whom the heav'ns and earth were made."

- 6 How glad we'll be to find it so!
Then with the shepherds let us go
To see what God for us has done
In sending us His own dear Son.

The Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Responsive Reading

- P** From heaven above,
C The angels sing.
P On earth below,
C Our praises bring.
P Our Lord has come,
C With us to dwell.
P Now we go out:
C Good News to tell!

Christmas Homily by Pastor Appel

Offering

(Tonight's gifts will go to support the ministry of Grace Lutheran Learning Center)

THE MESSAGE PRESENTED BY THE CHILDREN

Song by the Children: Christmas Song

The Christmas Gospel: Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Action Rhyme by the Children: Coming Down from Heaven Above

Hymn: Away in a Manger

LSB 364

Children

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

Congregation

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.**

The Christmas Gospel: Luke 2:8-14

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

Action Rhyme by the Children: Angels Filled the Sky

Congregational Hymn: Angels We Have Heard on High

LSB 368

- 1 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.
- 2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly song?
Refrain
- 3 Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Refrain

The Christmas Gospel: Luke 2:15-18

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.

Action Rhyme by the Children: Angels Came to Earth Below

Congregational Hymn: What Child Is This

LSB 370

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 Christmas Gospel: Luke 2:19-20

But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Action Rhyme by the Children: Did You Know?

Children

- 13 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
A quiet chamber set apart
For You to dwell within my heart.

Congregation

- 14 **My heart for very joy must leap;
My lips no more can silence keep.
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue
That sweetest ancient cradlesong:**

- 15 **Glory to God in highest heav'n,
Who unto us His Son has giv'n!
While angels sing with pious mirth
A glad new year to all the earth.**

A Christmas Prayer

- P** Father in heaven, You sent Your Son to earth to be our Savior. You sent the angels down to tell the Good News. You sent the shepherds out to tell the Good News. Now You send us to tell the good News. Help us to share the message of Your love throughout the world. In Jesus' name we pray.

C Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

- P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us 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.**

Benediction

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C Amen.

Closing Hymn: Go Tell It on the Mountain

LSB 388

Refrain Go tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and ev'rywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born!

1 While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light. *Refrain.*

2 The shepherds feared and trembled
When lo, above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain.*

3 Down in a lonely manger
The humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation
That blessèd Christmas morn. *Refrain.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE



We give thanks to God that you have been with us tonight to hear the children tell the story of God's dear love for you through Jesus' birth. We warmly invite you to continue to hear more about God's love for you in Jesus with us here at Grace. Every Sunday, we meet for **Sunday school and adult Bible class at 8:45 AM.** Our Sunday morning **Divine Service begins at 10 AM.** During the month of December, we have other special opportunities to celebrate God's gift of Jesus at Christmas:

Sunday, December 24 at 7 PM
Christmas Eve Children's Program
Candlelight Service

Monday, December 25 at 9 AM
Christmas Day Festival Worship
with Holy Communion

If you do not have a church home or if you would like to learn more about what we believe at Grace Lutheran Church, please contact **Pastor Appel (237-2108** or timothyappel@gmail.com).

God's blessings to you and your family as you celebrate the Christ child's birth this year!

"O Come, Let Us Adore Him, Christ the Lord!"