

December 24th, 2018
Children's Christmas Eve Service



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.

William C. Dix wrote “What Child Is This” about 150 years ago, one of his several Christmas poems. These three stanzas include many important persons in the nativity account: Mary, angels, shepherds, Wise Men, and even you and me. But the main focus is on the most mysterious person of all: the Child sleeping on Mary's lap.

As Mary, the shepherds, and the Wise Men all learn of this promised Child, they are confronted with an essential question: “What Child is this?” As we approach Christmas, we must consider the same question: “Who is this Jesus? Why do we celebrate His birth?” Enjoy listening to the children today as they point to the Bible for the answer. As the hymn text proclaims, “This, this is Christ the king, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing.” Let us all haste to bring Him laud, “the babe, the Son of Mary!”



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THE PRELUDE WELCOME

Stand

The Processional Hymn: Angels We Have Heard on High
Congregation and Children

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.*
- 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 Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**
- P** What Child is this? A babe is born.
C **An infant in a stall forlorn.**
- P** Who can this Son of promise be?
C **We marvel at the mystery.**
- P** What Child is this? He came as King.
C **The nations shout; His praises ring.**
- P** What Child is this? He came to die.
C **Forgiven, we can live on high.**
- P** What Child is this? He came in love.
C **One day, He'll bring us home above.**
- P** What Child is this? Oh, go and tell.
C **Christ Jesus is Immanuel!**

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 Child's Birth is Announced – Luke 1:26-33

Hymn: A Great and Mighty Wonder

LSB 383

The Congregation and The Children

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|-----|---|---|---|
| 1 | A great and mighty wonder,
A full and holy cure:
The virgin bears the infant
With virgin honor pure! Refrain. | 3 | While thus they sing your Monarch,
Those bright angelic bands,
Rejoice, O vales and mountains,
And oceans, clap your hands. Refrain. |
| ref | Proclaim the Savior's birth:
"To God on high be glory
And peace to all the earth!" | 4 | Since all He comes to ransom,
By all be He adored,
The infant born in Beth'lem,
The Savior and the Lord. Refrain. |
| 2 | The Word becomes incarnate
And yet remains on high,
And cherubim sing anthems
To shepherds from the sky. Refrain | 5 | All idols then shall perish
And Satan's lying cease,
And Christ shall raise His scepter,
Decreeing endless peace. Refrain |

Children's Action Rhyme: The Promised Child

Hymn: What Child Is This

LSB 370, st. 1

The Children Only

- 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!

II. The Child is Born – Luke 2:1-12

Hymn: O Little Town of Bethlehem

LSB 361

The Congregation and The Children

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| 1 | O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight. | 2 | For Christ is born of Mary,
And, gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king
And peace to all the earth! |
|---|---|---|--|

3 How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming;
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

4 O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel!

Children's Action Rhyme: The Lord of All

Hymn: What Child Is This

LSB 370, st.2

The Children Only

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!

III. The Child is Worshiped – Luke 2:13-20

Hymn: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

LSB 380

The Congregation and The Children

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!"

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_incarate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel! *Refrain*

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

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*

Children's Rhyme: The King of Love

Hymn: What Child Is This

LSB 370, st.3

The Children Only

- 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!

IV. The Child Makes Us God's Children – Galatians 4:4-7

Hymn: Away in a Manger

LSB 364

Stanzas 1-2: The Children Only

- 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.

Stanza 3: The Congregation and The Children

- 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 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 Michael, 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 Donald 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? (Psalm 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!”