Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

Celebrate
Teach
Share
God's Grace

Christmas Eve

December 24th, 2021

"By His Grace you are saved through faith"
Ephesians 2:8

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD

Image: "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. *(Luke 2:11)*

Welcome to Grace!
We're Glad You've Joined Us!

WORSHIP NOTES FOR OUR GUESTS

Worship bulletins & worship activity bags (age 2-8) are available for your children to use during the service. Please see an usher if you need assistance finding them.

Children are **always** welcome – we don't want anything to keep families from attending! From time to time a child will naturally have a difficult moment in worship. If that happens and you feel a need to step out, please make use of our Church Narthex and Entrance, so you may still be able to follow along in worship until your child is ready to return again!

If you would like to include a **prayer for someone** in our worship today, please add it to the **Prayer Request Sheet** found on the podium in the narthex.

We're glad you're with us. Please introduce yourself to Pastor Taggatz. If you are in search of a new church home, or are interested in learning more about Grace, we would be happy to visit with you. We hope you'll be back and give us an opportunity to know you!

As We Gather *"Fear Not"*

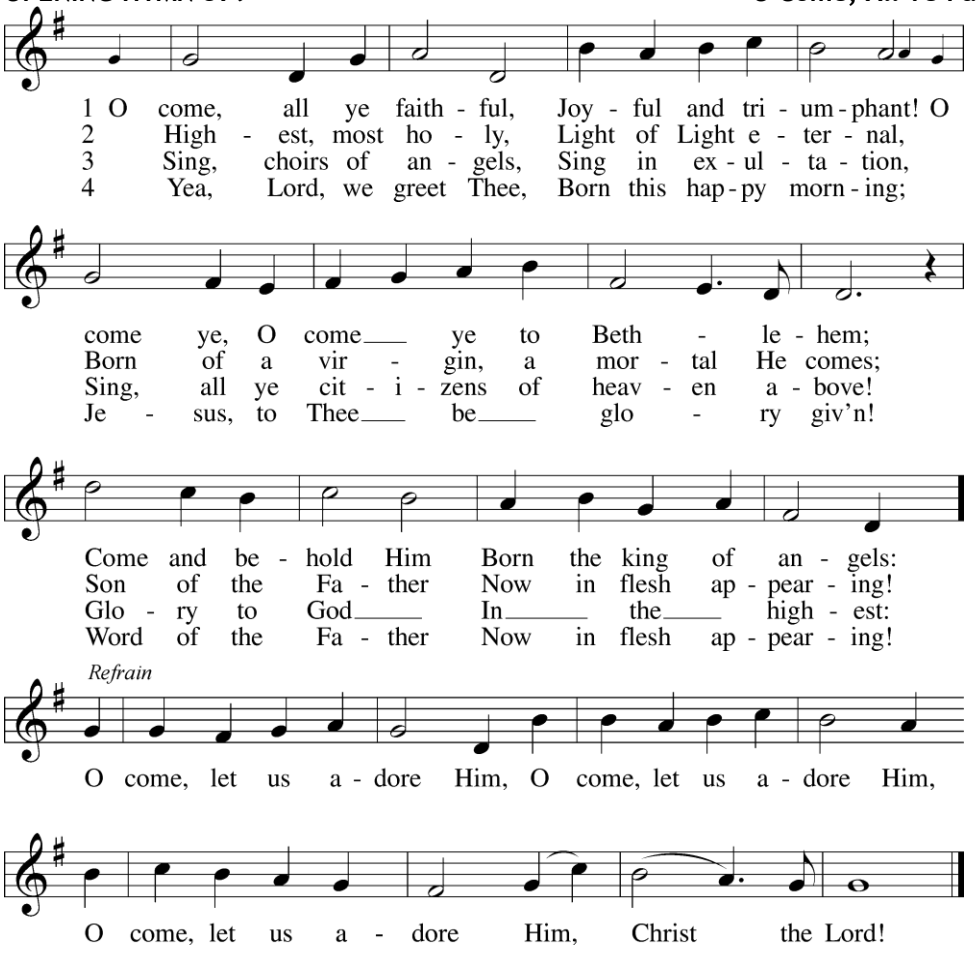
"Fear not." Nearly two thousand years ago, an angel of the Lord speaks these two simple words to shepherds on a dark night outside the little town of Bethlehem. However, this is not the first time an angelic messenger has spoken this profound imperative. "*Fear not*" is the angel Gabriel's message to Mary when it was announced that she would bear the Savior. *"Fear not"* are the angel's words to Joseph when he was instructed to not be afraid to take Mary as his wife. "*Fear not*" will be the comfort spoken to the women at the empty tomb of Easter. But "*fear not*" are words for your ears too. Whatever anxieties, heartaches, or fears you have this night, hear the message of the angel for you: "*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*" (Luke 2:10–11).

We invite a moment of silence during the prelude for Prayer

As our organist begins the prelude we move from our regular conversations and the happenings of the world around us in order to turn our attention to worship. **Please take these moments as an opportunity to focus on prayer.** Make use of this time to look through our service in anticipation of the scripture we will share and the hymns we will sing. God richly bless us as we gather in God's presence today! We hope you will take these moments as a time to transition into worship as we have entered into God's presence through Word and Sacrament.

Order of Service…as outlined in your bulletin

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN 379 **O Come, All Ye Faithful (vs. 1-4)**

Stand

OPENING SENTENCES *Isaiah 9:2; LSB* 361:1
Pastor: The people who walked in darkness
People: have seen a great light;

Pastor: those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
People: on them has light shined.

Pastor: O little town of Bethlehem,
People: How still we see thee lie!

Pastor: Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
People: The silent stars go by;

Pastor: Yet in thy dark streets shineth
People: The everlasting light.

Pastor: The hopes and fears of all the years
People: Are met in thee tonight.

INVOCATION
Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen.

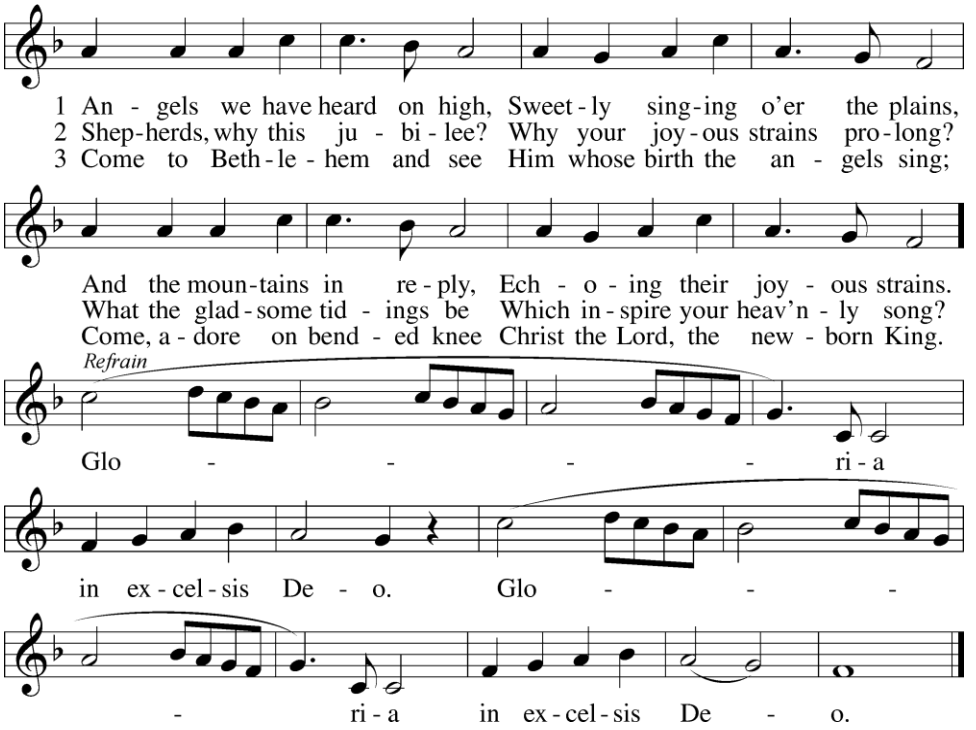
CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Titus 2:11–14*
Pastor: "For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age." As we gather together this Christmas Eve, let us confess our sins to God our Father.
People: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Pastor: Today we celebrate "the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession who are zealous for good works." Because of this Savior born for us, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

Sit

HYMN OF PRAISE 368 **Angels We Have Heard on High (vs. 1-3)**



Stand

PSALM *Psalm 96; antiphon: v. 2*
People: Sing to the LORD, bless His name; tell of His salvation from day to day.

Pastor: Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth!

Women: Sing to the LORD, bless His name; tell of His salvation from day to day.

Men: Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous works among all the peoples!

Pastor: For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; He is to be feared above all gods.

Women: For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the LORD made the heavens.

Men: Splendor and majesty are before Him; strength and beauty are in His sanctuary.

Pastor: Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!

Women: Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name; bring an offering, and come into His courts!

Men: Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness; tremble before Him, all the earth!

Pastor: Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns! Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved; He will judge the peoples with equity."

Women: Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it!

Men: Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the LORD, for He comes, for He comes to judge the earth.

Pastor: He will judge the world in righteousness, and the peoples in His faithfulness.

People: Sing to the LORD, bless His name; tell of His salvation from day to day.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light.
People: 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;

Pastor: through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
People: Amen.

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 9:2–7*
("The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.")

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

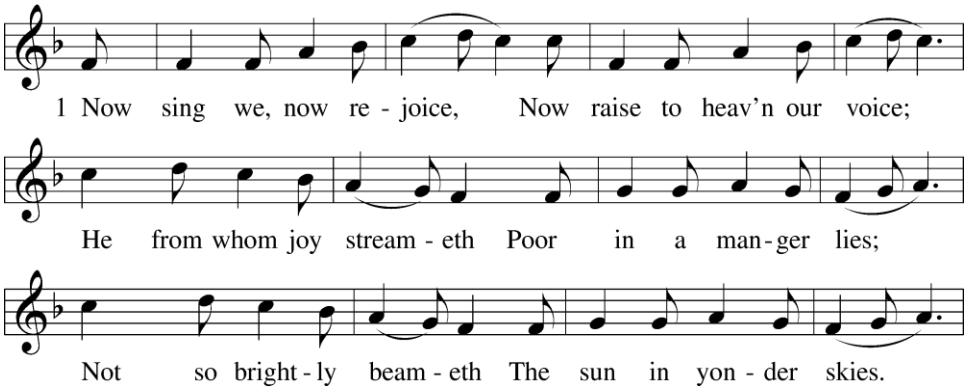
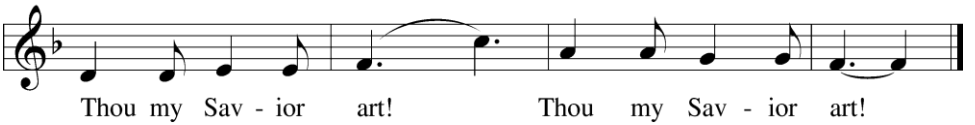
Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.
People:Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Titus 2:11–14*
(We await our blessed hope, the glory of our great God.)

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.
People:Thanks be to God.

HYMN 386 **Now Sing We, Now Rejoice (vs. 1)**



Stand

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 2:1-14*
(The birth of Jesus)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.
People:Glory to You, O Lord.

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.

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!"

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People:Praise to You, O Christ.

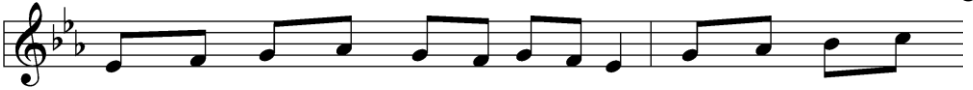
CREED *Nicene Creed*

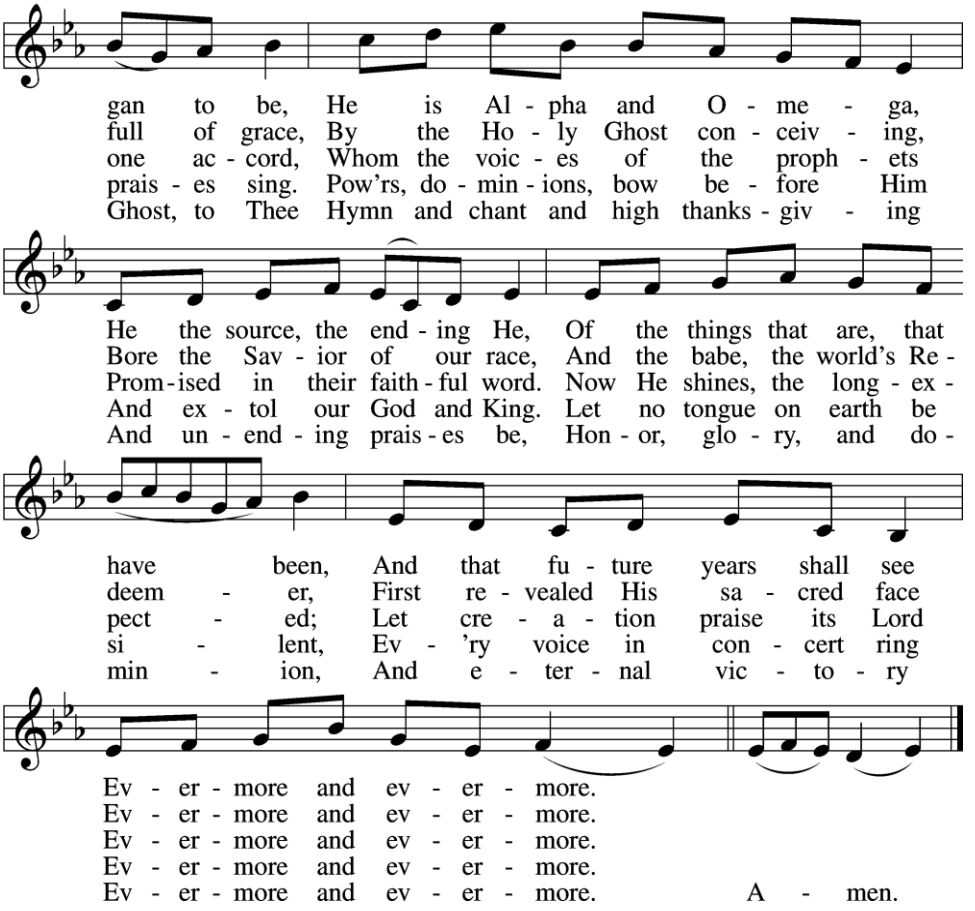
People:I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

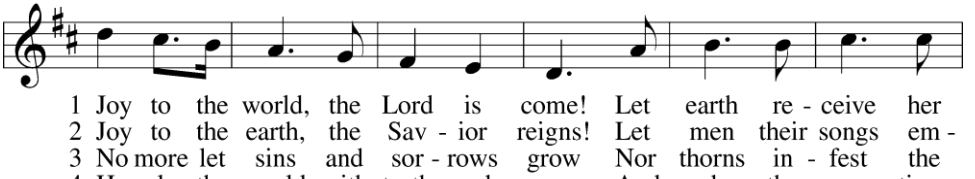
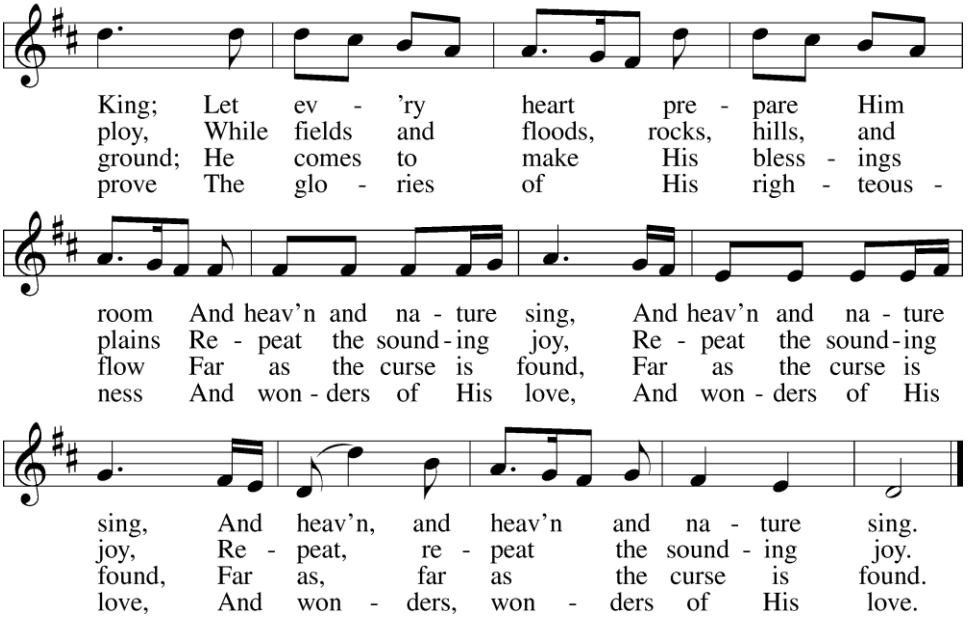
Sit

HYMN OF THE DAY 384 **Of the Father's Love Begotten (vs. 1-5)**

1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten Ere the worlds be -
2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, When the vir - gin,
3 This is He whom seers in old time Chant - ed of with
4 O ye heights of heav'n, a - dore Him; An - gel hosts, His
△ 5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Fa - ther, And, O Ho - ly



Sit

SERMON "Shining in the Darkness" (Isaiah 9.2-7)

OFFERTORY HYMN 387 **Joy to the World (vs. 1-4)**

OFFERING/ATTENDANCE

As the offerings are being passed to you by the ushers, we ask that you take this time to fill out the attendance pads located in your pews so that we can acknowledge your presence with us today. We are so glad that you have joined us in worship here at Grace!!! We also thank you for your generosity and support of Jesus Christ our Lord's Kingdom work!!! God bless you!!!

You can now give online. It's easy, fast, and secure. If you're able, we also encourage you to set up recurring giving by texting **graceoc** to 206-859-9405, use this QR Code or head to our web-site at graceoakcreek.org. You may give a onetime gift or set up your regular weekly or monthly offering. Those using this method of giving may still bring their envelope if they wish and simply write 'online giving' on the outside and place it in the offering plate.

Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: This Christmas Eve, we come before our Lord in prayer rejoicing that "for to us a child is born, to us a son is given." To us a Child is born, to us a Son is given! Lord, as we hear the angels' words, "Fear not," let us take their admonishment to heart. In the face of fears and anxiety, grant us peace in the Savior born for us. O come, let us adore Him,

People: Christ the Lord!

Pastor: To us a Child is born, to us a Son is given! Lord, during this season of celebration, cheer those who are lonely or mark this season with a painful grief. Give them the true joy that comes from the Savior born for us. O come, let us adore Him,

People: Christ the Lord!

Pastor: To us a Child is born, to us a Son is given! Lord, You chose Mary and Joseph to care for Your Son. Bless all those with whom You have given the vocation of mother or father, grandmother or grandfather that they care for the children entrusted into their care, sharing with them the Savior born for us. O come, let us adore Him,

People: Christ the Lord!

Pastor: To us a Child is born, to us a Son is given! Lord, continue to watch over those who suffer in body and spirit. Grant them healing and restoration from their afflictions according to Your gracious will, [*especially* . . .]. Give them peace in their affliction through the Savior born for us. O come, let us adore Him,

People: Christ the Lord!

Pastor: "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

People: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

People: 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.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES ***(The lights in the sanctuary are dimmed)***

(*The light is passed from pastor to the ushers who pass it to the congregation. Do NOT let small children hold candles unattended. For your safety and to prevent wax from dripping,* ***please do NOT tip the lit candle****. Tip only the unlighted candle. Hold the candles straight up and they will not drip. Blow them out gently. Thank you!!!*)

Pastor: As the light of these candles illumines our faces, it symbolizes the light of Christ, a child in the manger at Bethlehem, a Savior suffering our death on the cross, and soon to come from His throne on high as Judge of all. He is our Light here on earth and the eternal Light who enlightens heaven, where there is no need of candle or sun. Rejoice, for the Light of the world has come, who transforms us with the brightness of His glory. This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaimed to you: that God is Light and in Him is no darkness at all.

(*The candlelight begins to be spread throughout the congregation*.)

People: If we say we have fellowship with Him but still walk in darkness, we lie, and do not live according to the truth.

Pastor: But if we walk in the Light, as He is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another
People: And the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all our sins.

(*The candlelight is spread to the rest of the congregation*.)

Pastor: You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and then cover its light. Instead, they set the lamp on its stand, set it up high, and it lights everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before all people, that they may see your good works and give praise to your Father in heaven.

CLOSING PRAYER

Pastor: 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.

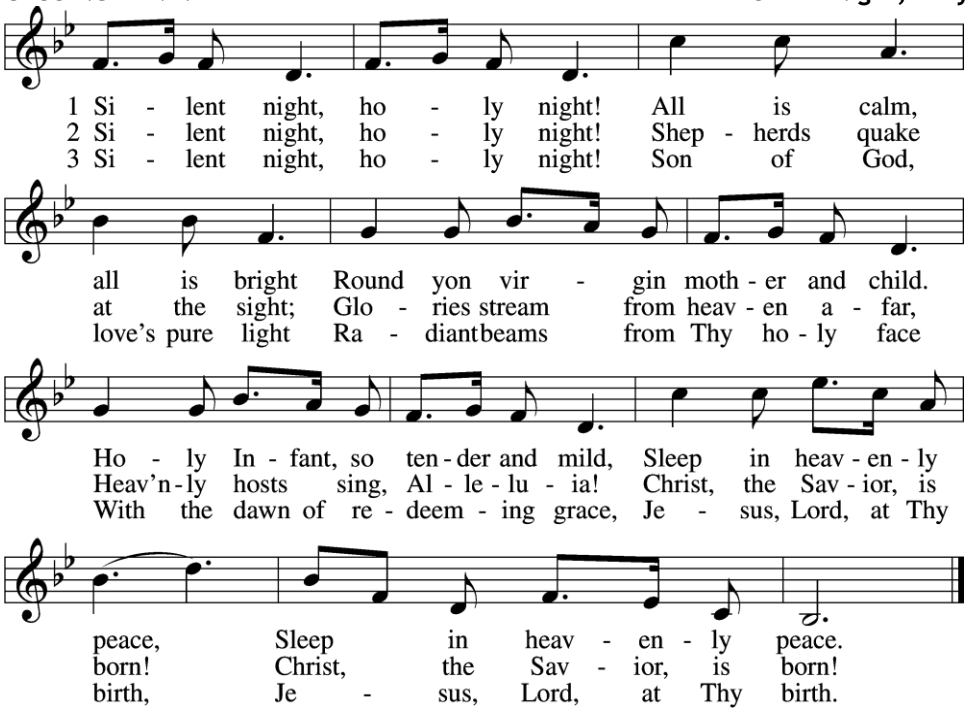
BENEDICTION *Luke 2:10–11*

Pastor: Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy
People: that will be for all the people.

Pastor: For unto you is born this day in the city of David
People: a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Pastor: 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.
People: Amen.

Sit

CLOSING HYMN 363 **Silent Night, Holy Night (vs. 1-3)**

Pastor: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord
People: Thanks be to God!!!

✠ ✠ ✠

"THE WORD BECAME FLESH AND MADE HIS DWELLING AMONG US." HAVE YOU MADE ROOM IN YOUR HEART FOR HIM?

"She gave birth to her firstborn, a Son. She …placed Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn" (Luke 2:7).

2021 Holiday Worship Schedule

Saturday, December 25th 9:30am
Christmas Day "Infinite Gifts in Finite Wrappings"
(John 1; Ex. 40; Titus 3) ***w/communion***

Sunday, December 26th 9:00am
ONE WORSHIP SERVICE ONLY
(No Adult Bible Class/Sunday School)

Thursday, December 30th
NO WORSHIP

Friday, December 31st 4:00pm
New Year's Eve "But Deliver Us This Day Our Daily Evil" (Psalm 90) ***w/communion***

SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

We have gathered today to celebrate the most precious gifts and treasures our Lord gives us: His forgiveness, life and salvation. It would be our honor to have you join us again next week as we "Celebrate, Teach, and Share" the Good News of God's Grace among all people.

Grace is committed to supporting families through our Early Childhood Center, Day School, and High School. We are blessed to be a member of the Lutheran High School Association of Milwaukee.

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ECC Director	Mrs. Rachel Miliacca	414-762-8755
Director of Music	Mrs. Lisa Hengst	
Choir Director	Mrs. Kathy Kolb	
Congregation President	Mr. Duane Meyer	414-840-1873
Fax:	Church/School	414-762-8869
	ECC	414-856-9262

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