



Christmas Eve

Grace Lutheran Church

Christmas Eve 2023 Lessons and Carols 5:00 & 7:30 p.m.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE “Joy to the World” Bell Choir

Arr. Douglas Wagner © 1990 Agape. Permission to stream this music obtained from OneLicense #A-708784.

GATHERING *(The assembly stands as you are comfortable)*

(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.)

P: Blessed be the Holy One of Israel, the Word made flesh, the Power of the Most High, + one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: Gathered in the name of Jesus, let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

L: Gracious God,

C: in Christ Jesus you come among us as light shining in darkness. We confess our failure to welcome this light. Forgive us and renew our hope, so that we may live in the light of your grace, and welcome the truth of Christ the Lord. Amen.

L: I bring you good news of great joy for all the people: To us is born a Savior, Christ the Lord. Our sins are forgiven in + Jesus' name.

C: Amen.

HYMN “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

R283



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!



come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain



Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2
Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade This selection is in the public domain.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray... Almighty God,

C: 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. Amen.

(the assembly may be seated)

A Reading from Isaiah 9:2-7

Special Music (5 pm) "Jesus, the Light of the World" Choir

Words: Charles Wesley, George D. Elderkin; Music arr. George D. Elderkin. Public domain.

(7:30 pm) "Holy Child within the Manger" Claire Schreiber, Solo

Words & Music: Marty Haugen © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc. Permission to stream this music obtained from OneLicense #A-708784.

HYMN "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

R279



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893

Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908 This selection is in the public domain.

A Reading from Luke 2:1-7

Special Music “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” Bell Choir

Arr. Douglas Wagner © 1990 Agape. Permission to stream this music obtained from OneLicense #A-708784.

A Reading from Luke 2:8-20

HYMN “What Child Is This” (vs. 1 & 3)

R296



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent. This selection is in the public domain.

Homily

(The assembly stands as you are comfortable)

HYMN “Angels We Have Heard on High”

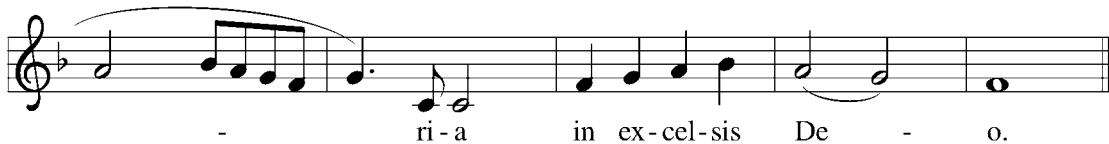
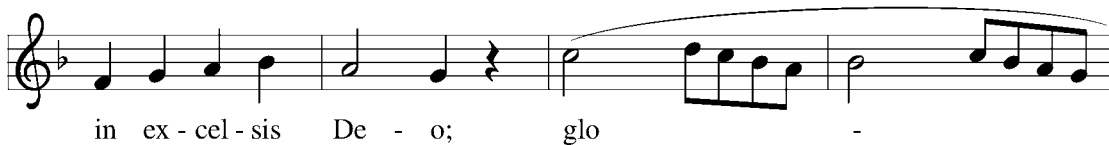
R289



- 1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
- 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
- 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864 This selection is in the public domain.
Music: GLORIA, French carol

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen**

OFFERING

DOXOLOGY *(the assembly stands as they are comfortable & sings as the gifts are brought forward)*

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all
crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye



heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING PRAYER *Unison*

God with us: You came as a baby to a manger. You slept on a straw and greeted shepherds. You come again in bread and wine. Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things. And then, through these gifts, help us to bless the lives of others in the strength of your holy name. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed our duty and our joy...*(concluding)*...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and



might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the



P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life...
In the night in which he was betrayed...*(concluding)*...one God, now and forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)

**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.**

P: Glory to God in the highest. Come to the table of peace.

HOLY COMMUNION- (all who desire to receive Christ's presence are welcome to the Eucharist.)



us.



mer-cy on us.



sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS

“Angels From the Realms of Glory”

R275



- 1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
- 2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
- 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
- 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4 This selection is in the public domain.
Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”

R282



- 1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
- 2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,
- 3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
- 4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.
who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:
when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,



“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king.”
A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,
look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!
and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810–1876

Music: CAROL, Richard S. Willis, 1819–1900 This selection is in the public domain.

“The First Noel”

R300



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . a star shin - ing
 3 And by the light of that . . same star three . .
 4 This star drew near to the . . north - west, o'er . .
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . men three, full . .



cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
 in . . the east . . be - yond . . them far; and to the
 wise . . men came . . from coun - try far; to seek for a
 Beth - le - hem . . it took . . its rest; and there it
 rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . so it con -
 king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . o - ver the
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . gold, . . . and

Refrain



night that was so deep.
 tin-ued both day and night.
 star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
 place where Je - sus lay.
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



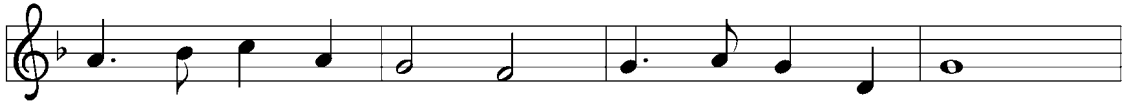
el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Text: English traditional

Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional This selection is in the public domain.

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

R294



1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor . . . earth sus - tain;
3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;
If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;



snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed
if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;



in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.
yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830–1894

Music: CRANHAM, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934 This selection is in the public domain.

(The assembly stands as you are comfortable)

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

Post-communion Prayer

C: On this day, O God, you gave us Christ the Son to save us. As you sent the one foretold, send us now with good news for all people. Let the gladness of this feast have no end as we share with others the joy that fills us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE AND CHRISTMAS CANDLES

(please keep lit candles vertical to avoid dripping hot wax)

P: We light the Christ candle to proclaim . . . May the Lord Jesus Christ take all darkness out of our hearts, now and forever. Amen.

C: **Jesus who is the Light, says that we are light also. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Let your light so shine in us O God that all may see your good works in us and give praise to You.**

HYMN “Silent Night”

R281



Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,
1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.
all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,



Hold - er Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher
Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your



Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.
peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792–1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885

Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1787–1863 This selection is in the public domain.

BLESSING

P: May Christ, who by his incarnation has filled us with grace and truth, give you peace this Christmas and always. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen

HYMN "Joy to the World"

R267



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872 This selection is in the public domain.

DISMISSAL

L: Glory to God in the highest!

C: **Peace to God's people on earth!**

L: Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE



ALTAR GUILD:

Gentry Family

COMMUNION

ASSISTANTS:

Wayne & Chris Christopherson

LECTORS:

Donna Czarnecki (5 p.m.)

Dawn Anderson (7:30 p.m.)

USHERS:

Gary & Kay Grove, Rick Engstrom, Cindy Domrase

LIVESTREAM TEAM:

Dawn Anderson, Jan Charter, Don LaBarre

LESSONS & CAROLS SERVICES

* Saturday December 30th at 5 PM

* Sunday December 31st at 9:30 AM

(Communion at both services)

**Large print worship folders &
hearing assistance devices
are available from ushers**



Christmas Flowers



Given by

Joel & Cindy Suszek

*In Memory of
Harry & Jeanette Grove
Ann & Martin Suszek*

Kelli & Shane

*In Memory of
Ken Liske*

Randy & Diane Prevost

*In Memory of
George & Phyllis VanWormer
Rena Prevost*

Gerri & Chris Moors

*In Memory of
Michael & Kimberly Moors*

Budd & Marlene Jobson

*In Honor of
Parents, Leonard & Viola Hanson*

Wayne & Chris Christopherson

*In Honor of
Our Church Family*

Bruce & Julie Dietz

*In Memory of
Carl Dietz
Bernard & Midge Schultz*

*In Honor of
Lorraine Dietz*

Audrey M. Garant

*In Memory of
Sandy Garant*

*In Honor of
My Children & Grandchildren*

The Dekett Family

*In Memory of
James L. Dekett*

*Mike, Tracey, Adam
& Allie Urlaub*

*In Memory of
Richard Neu
Lucas Spomer
Beverly Attwell*

The Schiller Family

*In Memory of
Grandpa Schiller*

Verna & Tammy Furze

*In Memory of
Don Furze, Husband & Father
Kevin Furze, Son & Brother*

Harry & Suzanne Kautz

*Given to
The Glory of God*

Children, Grandchildren, & Jo

*In Memory of
Gary Rich*

Janet Bettega

*In Honor of
Rosalia's First Christmas*

*With all our love,
Mom, Dad, Madi & Izzy*

*In Memory of
Ryan Marie Szymanski,
Our Beautiful Daughter & Sister*

Steve & Janie Hansen

*In Memory of
Arlene Wigner;
A Much Loved Teacher & Mentor*

Bill & Nancy Platt

*In Memory of
Dennis Powers
Ron Powers*

Gary & Kay Grove

*In Memory of
Harry & Jeanette Grove
John & Florence Newhouse*

The Gentry Family

*In Loving Memory of
Joseph, Dorothy & Michael Gentry
Dennis & Drew Diamond*

Elaine Hatch

*In Memory of
My Husband,
Eugene "Beaver" Hatch*

*My Parents,
Martin & Esther Hansen*

*In Honor of
My Children & Their Spouses,
Susan & Dominic Visel
Ken & Linda Hatch
Nancy & Ken Amelotte
Connie & Wade McElhanon
Joanne Coughlin*





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