



# **The Nativity of our Lord**

## *Welcome to Worship on this Christmas Day*

### **Grace Lutheran Church**

*Companion Congregation: Msindo Parish in Tanzania*

December 25, 2015

10:00 a.m.

*The Mission of Grace Lutheran Church is to bring the good news of God's saving grace, through Jesus Christ's life, death and resurrection to all to be free to be the people of God.*

**Prelude**                      “What Child is This”                      by Brian Glyncannon  
*Please prepare for worship through quiet reflection and meditation*

### **Welcome**

*Please stand as you are able*

### **Dialogue**

P: Who are these angels who come to earth,

**C: Bearing the news of the Christ child's birth?**

P: Who are these shepherds who run to see,

**C: And worship the babe on bended knee?**

P: Who is this child, so small, so slight,

**C: Of whom the angels sang that night?**

P: Who is this king, a manger his throne,

**C: Who humbles himself to make us his own?**

P: Who is this God who sends a Son

**C: Into our midst, the promised one?**

**Gathering Hymn**                      “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”                      #288

### **Prayer of the Day**

**C: Almighty God, you gave us your only Son to take on our human nature and to illumine the world with your light. By your grace adopt us as your children and enlighten us with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

*Please be seated*

**First Lesson: Isaiah 52:7–10**

*A messenger races home to Jerusalem with the marvelous words: "Your God reigns!" In comforting the people, God proves to be the best brother or sister (redeemer) they have ever known. Everyone will witness the victory (salvation) of God.*

<sup>7</sup>How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." <sup>8</sup>Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion. <sup>9</sup>Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. <sup>10</sup>The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

L: the Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God**

**Psalm 98**



All the ends of the earth have seen the vic-to-ry of our God.

<sup>1</sup>Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things, whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

<sup>2</sup>**O LORD, you have made known your victory, you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

<sup>3</sup>You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

<sup>4</sup>**Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing. R**

<sup>5</sup>Sing to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song.

<sup>6</sup>**With trumpets and the sound of the horn shout with joy before the king, the LORD. R**

<sup>7</sup>Let the sea roar, and all that fills it, the world and those who dwell therein.

<sup>8</sup>**Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to judge the earth.**

<sup>9</sup>The LORD will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity. **R**



*Please be seated*

## **Sermon**

*Please stand as you are able*

## **Hymn**

“Angels We Have Heard On High”

#289

## **Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **Prayers of the People**

L: Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Pondering the mystery of your love, we offer our prayers in the name of Christ, the Word made flesh.

**C: Amen.**

**All: God of love, have mercy on us. Pour out your Spirit upon us. Center us in worship. Hold us in grace. Strengthen us in love. Send us forth in mission. In Jesus' holy name. Amen.**

## **Passing of the Peace**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you all,

**C: And also with you!**

*Please be seated*  
**Announcements**

**The Offering**

**Offertory**

“Away in a Manger”

by Dorothy Wells

*Please stand as you are able*

**Offering Prayer**

P: Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

**Great Thanksgiving** (tune: Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!)

P: Oh, may the good Lord be with you,

**C: And may the Lord be with you too.**

P: Lift your hearts to him in praise.

**C: To the Lord our hearts we raise.**

P: Let us offer praises true.

**C: It is fitting so to do: Gratefully we sing to the Lord, our King.**

**Preface**

**The Sanctus** (tune: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord! God of hosts, by all adored!**

**Heav'n and earth cannot contain all the glory of Your name!**

**Hail, hosanna, God most high! Blest is He who now draws nigh**

**In the name of God the King! Halle-lujahs glad we sing:**

**Hail, hosanna! Praises due. Be for-ever, Lord to You!**

**Thanksgiving at the Table**

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim our Lord's death until he comes.

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Lord's Prayer** (tune: Away in a Manger)

**Our Father in heaven, all praise to your name!  
Your kingdom among us, your will done the same  
By mortals and angels. Come Lord, reign alone:  
Oh, hear us and bless us from heaven's high throne.  
The bread that we yearn for provide us each day;  
As we forgive others, our sins take away;  
In times of temptation, to lead us be near;  
From evil deliver your children most dear,  
For yours is the kingdom; o'er all things you reign.  
And yours is the power; all things you maintain.  
To you be the glory, resounding again  
From all of creation, forever! Amen.**

### **Invitation to Communion**

P: The mystery hidden for the ages is revealed for us in this meal. Come, behold and receive your God.

*Please be seated*

### **Lamb of God**



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

**Distribution Hymns:** 461, 466, 471

### **Prayer after Communion**

P: We give you thanks, O God, that in this bread and cup of Christ's very life, you give us food for our journey. As you led the magi by a star, as

you brought the holy family home again, guide us on the way unfolding before us. Wherever we go, may our lives proclaim good news of great joy in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

### **Blessing**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

### **Hymn**

“Go Tell It On The Mountain”

#290

### **Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Share the Good News.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **Postlude**

“Christmas Bells”

by Robert Thygerson

### **Welcome to Grace!**

**Ministers** —the people of Grace

**Pastor** – The Rev. Michael Schmidt

**Director of Laity Ministries** – Stephanie Johnson

**Director of Music Ministries** – Emma Stammer

**Developer of Youth and Family Ministry** – Ellen Rothweiler

**Organist** - Jennifer Wohlenhaus Bloomberg

**Grace Kids Care Director** - Heather Nelson

**Church Administrator** - Jacquelyn Holmes

**Director of Communications** - Michelle Voelker

**Custodian** – Todd Haugen

**Ushers** – Jay Wangerin, Tom McCleary, Mark Stumme

**Lector** – Carol Woodruff

**Altar Guild** – Jane Ridnour and Carol Woodruff

**Counters** – Tom McCleary and Mark Stumme

*In our prayers: Deb Bradwell (the mother of Jason Bradwell), Dorothy Dulepsingh, Margaret and Bill Freimuth (Mary Helt's parents), Betty Hirschauer, Bill Jensen, Lucy Krauss, Joseph Mattes, Moe Nielsen, Karin Swanson (Karla Swanson's mother), Verda Swanson, Dennis Thurston (brother of Ellen Batten), Mark Wonderlin, the family of Lyle Black*