



For unto you
is born this day
in the city of David
a Saviour,
which is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:11

The Nativity of our Lord

Welcome to Worship on this Christmas Day

Grace Lutheran Church

Companion Congregation: Msindo Parish in Tanzania

December 25, 2023

10:00 a.m.

OUR STATEMENT OF MISSION

*Grace Lutheran Church is a community of faith, centered in worship,
held in grace, strengthened in love, sent forth in mission, in Jesus' name.*

Prelude Improvisation on the hymn "Wake, Awake, For Night Is Flying" - P. Nocolai arranged by P. Manz

Please prepare for worship through quiet reflection and meditation

Welcome

Please stand as you are able

Dialogue

L: Who are these angels who come to earth,

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

L: Who are these shepherds who run to see,

C: And worship the babe on bended knee?

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

C: Of whom the angels sang that night?

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

C: Who humbles himself to make us his own?

L: Who is this God who sends a Son

C: Into our midst, the promised one?

Gathering Hymn

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

#283

Prayer of the Day

L: Almighty God,

C: Thank you for Jesus, the good news of great joy for all people. Like the shepherds in the fields, may we too respond to this news with gratitude, glorifying and praising you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Please be seated

Reading: Luke 2:8-20

The angel of the Lord proclaims the birth of the Messiah to the shepherds in the fields, who then go on to share the good news with others after meeting Jesus in Bethlehem.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And

suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” ¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

L: The Word of the Lord
C: Thanks be to God

Please be seated

Sermon

Please stand as you are able

Hymn of the Day “While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks”
ACS #913

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: God, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: We lift up all of our prayers, spoken and unspoken to you. In Jesus' name we pray.

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

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

C: And also with you!

Please be seated

Announcements

Please stand as you are able

Offering Prayer

L: God of heaven and earth,

C: from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day. Amen.

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

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

C: And may the Lord be with you too.

L: Lift your hearts to him in praise.

C: To the Lord our hearts we raise.

L: 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

L: In the night in which he was betrayed...

L: 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

L: A child has been born for us, a Son given to us. Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

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: #472, #296, #272

Prayer after Communion

L: Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy.

C: Amen

Blessing

L: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy. 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.

Sending Hymn

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

#279

Dismissal

L: Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude Choral prelude on the hymn "From Heaven Above
To Earth I Come" - M. Luther arranged by J. S. Bach



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**Thank you to all who sponsored poinsettias
to brighten our sanctuary this Christmas.**

Poinsettias are given by:

Jenny Rehder in memory of my parents.

Carli Stee in memory of Connie Beall.

Jane and Ed Ridnour in honor of family and friends.

Marla Gowdey in memory of Carolyn Lehnus.

*Carter and Carol Woodruff in honor of our children, Dmitri, Emily,
and Bailey; and all children around the world.*

Virgil Olson In memory of my wife Gayle and to honor my family.

*Carrie Schall and Bob and Rita Stackhouse in memory of John
David Schall.*

Jason and Laura Irwin in memory of Geno Zamarripa.

*Louie and Sue Anderson in memory of our parents, Bob and JoAnn
Young and Lou and Sue Anderson; brother Steve Young; and
loving friend Connie Heuton.*

Patty Allen in memory of my parents and brother and in honor of family.

Lenny and Pam Palmer in honor of our families, past and present.

Karla Swanson in memory of my parents: Erwin and Karin Swanson.

Brent and Valerie Culp in memory of Dean and Betty Culp, Mary Vasey, and John Barkley.

Mike, Jenie, Allison, and Samantha in memory of loved ones.

Larry and Mary Weaverling in memory of our parents.

Jason Galle in memory of Kristina Galle.

Dean and Cathy Watson in memory of our loved ones.

Jon and Cherie Rissman in memory of our loved ones and in honor of God's glory.

The Brandsfield family in memory of Bob Brandsfield.

The Brandsfield family in memory of Barb Mixdorf.

Ernie and Cheryl Weatherington in memory of our parents.

Deanna and Erik Weber in memory of Elmer Weber.

