

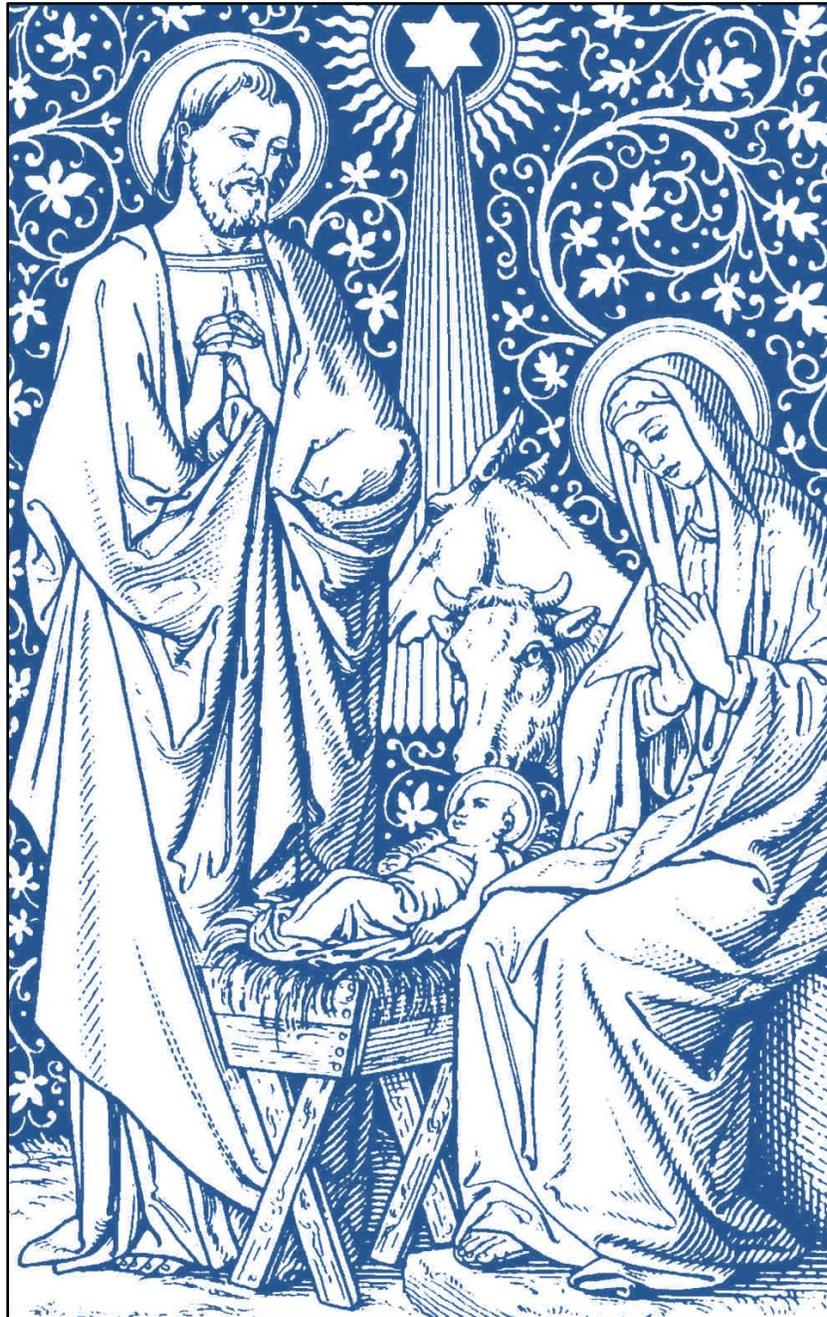
Grace Lutheran Church

8th and Holt – PO Box 1530, El Centro, CA 92244-1530



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

December 24, 2020



Opening Hymn: On Christmas Night All Christians Sing

LSB 377



1 On Christ-mas night all Chris - tians sing To hear the news the
 2 Then why should men on earth be so sad, Since our Re - deem - er
 3 When sin de - parts be - fore His grace, Then life and health come
 4 All out of dark-ness we have light, Which made the an - gels



an - gels bring, On Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing To
 made us glad, Then why should men on earth be so sad, Since
 in its place, When sin de - parts be - fore His grace, Then
 sing this night, All out of dark-ness we have light, Which



hear the news the an - gels bring, News of great joy, news of great
 our Re - deem - er made us glad, When from our sin He set us
 life and health come in its place; An - gels and men with joy may
 made the an - gels sing this night: "Glo - ry to God and peace to



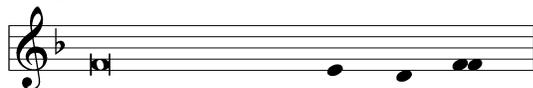
mirth, News of our mer - ci - ful King's birth.
 free, All for to gain our lib - er - ty?
 sing, All for to see the new - born King.
 men Now and for - ev - er - more. A - men."

Text and tune: Public Domain

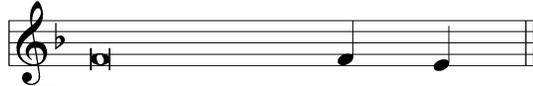
✠ EVENING PRAYER ✠

Stand

Opening Versicles



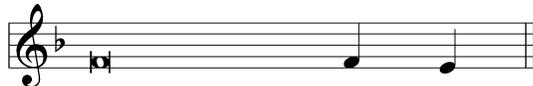
L The Spirit and the Church cry out:



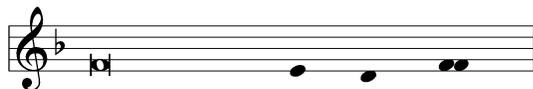
C Come, Lord Je - sus.



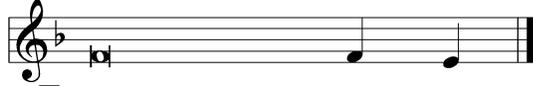
L All those who await His ap - pear - ance pray:



C Come, Lord Je - sus.



L The whole cre - a - tion pleads:



C Come, Lord Je - sus.

Sit

Phos Hilaron (The Hymn of Light)

The musical score is written on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: Joy - ous light of glo - ry: of the im - mor - tal Fa - ther; heav - en - ly, ho - ly, bless - ed Je - sus Christ. We have come to the set - ting of the sun, and we look to the eve - ning light. We sing to God, the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it: You are wor - thy of be - ing praised with pure voic - es for - ev - er. O Son of God, O Giv - er of life: the u - ni - verse pro - claims Your glo - ry.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

P Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The first advent candle is lit.

P Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The second advent candle is lit.

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The third advent candle is lit.

P Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The fourth advent candle is lit.

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.

The Christ candle is lit.

Hymn: O Come, All Ye Faithful

LSB 379



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,



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!



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:

Refrain



O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,



O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

Text and tune: Public Domain

READINGS

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 9:2–5

P The Old Testament Reading is from Isaiah, chapter nine.

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. ³You 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. ⁴For 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. ⁵For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Hymn: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

LSB 357, st. 1

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.

Refrain
Re - jice! Re - jice! Em - man - u - el
Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Text and tune: Public Domain

OLD TESTAMENT READING (continued)

Isaiah 9:6-7

P The Old Testament Reading continues from Isaiah, chapter nine.

⁶For 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.

⁷Of 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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Hymn: It Came upon the Midnight Clear

LSB 366, st. 1

1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, That glo - rious song of old,
From an - gels bend - ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good-will to all, From heav'n's all - gra - cious king."
The world in sol - emn still - ness lay To hear the an - gels sing.

Text and tune: Public Domain

SERMON, PART I

Rev. Griebenaw

EPISTLE READING

Titus 2:11–14

P The Epistle is from Titus, chapter two.

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹²training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who 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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HYMN: O Little Town of Bethlehem

LSB 361, st. 1



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!
A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.
The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.

Text and tune: Public Domain

SERMON, PART II

Rev. Griebenaw

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18–25

P The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the first chapter.



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.” ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son,
and they shall call His name Immanuel”

(which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a Son. And he called His name JESUS.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

HYMN: Away in a Manger*LSB 364, st. 1*

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,
 The lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet head.
 The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
 The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.

Text and tune: Public Domain

SERMON, PART III*Rev. Griebenaw***HOLY GOSPEL***Luke 2:1-7*

P The Nativity of our Lord according to Saint Luke, chapter two.

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And 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, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And 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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HYMN: What Child Is This*LSB 370, st. 1*

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is
 sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While
 shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is
 Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
 Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text and tune: Public Domain

HOLY GOSPEL (continued)

Luke 2:8–14

P The continued Nativity of our Lord according to Saint Luke.

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰And 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. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a Baby wrapped in swaddling cloths 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,
and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HYMN: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

LSB 380, st. 1

1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new - born King;
Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!”
Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, “Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!”

Refrain
Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new - born King!”

Text and tune: Public Domain

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:15–20

P The continued Nativity of our Lord according to Saint Luke.

¹⁵When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HYMN: Angels We Have Heard on High

LSB 368



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.



Glo - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - -



- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text and tune: Public Domain

SERMON, PART IV

Rev. Griebenaw

Stand

APOSTLE'S CREED

C 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 \dagger everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER

Kneel or Remain Standing

P Friends in Christ, I urge you all to lift up your hearts to God and pray with me as Christ our Lord has taught us and freely promised to hear us.

God, our Father in heaven, look with mercy on us, Your needy children on earth, and grant us grace that Your holy name be hallowed by us and all the world through the pure and true teaching of Your Word and the fervent love shown forth in our lives. Graciously turn from us all false doctrine and evil living whereby Your precious name is blasphemed and profaned. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P May Your kingdom come to us and expand. Bring all transgressors and those who are blinded and bound in the devil's kingdom to know Jesus Christ, Your Son, by faith that the number of Christians may be increased. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Strengthen us by Your Spirit according to Your will, both in life and in death, in the midst of both good and evil things, that our own wills may be crucified daily and sacrificed to Your good and gracious will. Into Your merciful hands we commend [name(s)] and all who are in need, praying for them at all times: Thy will be done. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Grant us our daily bread, preserve us from greed and selfish cares, and help us trust in You to provide for all our needs. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Forgive us our sins as we also forgive those who sin against us so that our hearts may be at peace and may rejoice in a good conscience before You, and that no sin may ever frighten or alarm us. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lead us not into temptation, O Lord, but help us by Your Spirit to subdue our flesh, to turn from the world and its ways, and to overcome the devil with all his wiles. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P And lastly, O heavenly Father, deliver us from all evil of both body and soul, now and forever. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P We trust, O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

Stand

SHARING THE LIGHT

P Jesus Christ is the light of the World, the light no darkness can overcome. As the light of these candles illumines our faces, let us remember the Christ child in the manger at Bethlehem, the Savior suffering our death on the cross, and the Judge who will come again with glory. He is our Light and the eternal Light of Heaven. Rejoice! For the Light of the World has come.

P This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.

C **If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.**

P But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another,

C **And the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.**

Sit

The congregation is invited forward, family by family, to light their candles from the Christ candle.

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the Light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the Light, but came to bear witness about the Light.

⁹The true Light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world did not know Him. ¹¹He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him. ¹²But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Stand

- P** For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given.
- C** In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

HYMN: Silent Night, Holy Night

LSB 363

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,

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 Thy ho - ly face

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 Thy

peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Text and tune: Public Domain

The congregation may extinguish their candles.

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26

- P** 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.
- C** Amen.

✠ SOLI DEO GLORIA ✠
(TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY)