

CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 24, 2025



**CHRIST + THE
SAVIOR IS BORN**



GRACE EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

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Glendale, Arizona 85301

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WELCOME TO GRACE!

We're glad you're here! May the Word of God bring you comfort in Christ alone. You can follow along with the service using this worship folder or using the screens above the chancel. If you're new here, below is some helpful information about our sanctuary and our worship...

- Please reserve the **BACK PEWS** for parents with **SMALL CHILDREN**.
- A **PARENT'S ROOM** with private changing area and restroom is available through the door at the back of the middle aisle. Windows from the room allow you to still watch the service and speakers allow you to hear as well. A volume control is available on the wall by the door.
- Ask an usher to receive an **AUDIO RECEIVER** and **HEADSET** if you need hearing assistance in the sanctuary or Fellowship Hall.
- **RESTROOMS** are available in the Narthex. Exit out of the north doors from the Sanctuary and go to the left. They are located in the alcove behind Luther's Seal.
- **LARGE PRINT** bulletins are available. See an usher to receive one.
- Visit our **WEBSITE** at <http://www.graceglendale.org> for additional information about our ministries and upcoming events.

CONTACT US...

Feel free to reach out directly to our office staff via email or telephone. Call 623-937-2010 and use the extension to the right.

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AT TODAY'S SERVICE...

Presiding Minister: Pastor Jacobson

Senior ushers: 5:00 PM – Jon Floerke
7:00 PM – Dean Rovey

Organist: Jeff Wegner

A/V Team: 5:00 PM – Jon Scheel / Tracy Moreland
7:00 PM – Paul Sullivan

ORDER OF SERVICE

HYMN: ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY

CW 347



1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, wing your
2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing
3 Ma - gi, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er
4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing
5 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the



flight o'er all the earth; once you sang cre -
o'er your flocks by night, God with us is
vi - sions beam a - far; seek the great de -
long in hope and fear, sud - den - ly the
Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son, ev - er - more your



a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
now re - sid - ing; yon - der shines the in - fant light.
sire of na - tions, you have seen the Sav - ior's star.
Lord, de - scend - ing, in his tem - ple shall ap - pear.
voic - es rais - ing to th'e - ter - nal Three in One.



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship,



wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Text (sts. 1–3): James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt.; (st. 4): Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, alt.

Tune: Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

Text and tune: Public domain

Please stand

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples:
But the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you.

Nations will come to your light:
And Kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Arise, shine, for your light has come.
And the glory of the Lord rises upon you.” (Isaiah 60:1-3)

O Holy Spirit, bless this candlelight service for us. Help us to remember how dark, empty, and hopeless our lives would be without our Savior, Jesus. Lead us to appreciate that he is our true light, our only hope of living in the light of our Father’s eternal love. Bless this time together as we sign, listen and pray. In Jesus name.
Amen.

HYMN: O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

CW 333 st. 4



4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell;
O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893, abr., alt.

Tune: Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908

Text and tune: Public domain

Please be seated

FIRST READING

Micah 5:2–5a

The prophet foretold that a person would come from a little town called Bethlehem to bring peace to the world.

²“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
though you are small among the clans of Judah,
out of you will come for me
one who will be ruler over Israel,
whose origins are from of old,
from ancient times.”

³Therefore Israel will be abandoned
until the time when she who is in labor bears a son,
and the rest of his brothers return
to join the Israelites.

⁴He will stand and shepherd his flock
in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they will live securely, for then his greatness
will reach to the ends of the earth.

⁵And he will be our peace

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.



HYMN: PEACE CAME TO EARTH

CW 330



1 Peace came to earth at last that cho-sen night when an - gels
 2 And who could be the same for hav-ing held the in - fant
 3 You show the Fa - ther none has ev - er seen, in flesh and
 4 How else could I have known you, O my God! How else could



clove the sky with song and light and God em - bod - ied
 in their arms and lat - er felt the wound - ed hands and
 blood you bore our griefs and pain, in bread and wine you
 I have loved you, O my God! How else could I em -



love and sheathed his might— Who could but gasp: Im-man-u-el!
 side, all doubts dis-pelled— Who could but sigh: Im-man-u-el!
 vis - it us a - gain— Who could but see: Im-man-u-el!
 brace you, O my God! Who could but pray: Im-man-u-el!



Who could but sing: Im - man - u - el!
 Who could but shout: Im - man - u - el!
 Who could but thrill: Im - man - u - el!
 Who could but praise: Im - man - u - el!

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008

Tune: Richard Jeffrey, b. 1952; arr. Mark Kellner, 1959–2015, alt.

Text: © 1984 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 705990

Tune: © 2000 MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 705990

SECOND READING

Titus 2:11–14

The grace God showed us in sending his Son changes not only our present lives but also our eternal destiny.

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. ¹²It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³while we wait for the 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 wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN: WHAT CHILD IS THIS

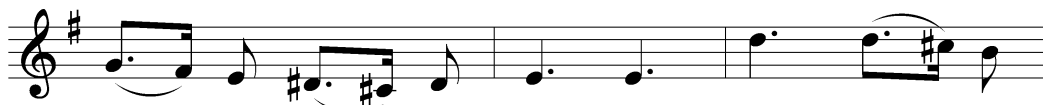
CW 344 sts. 1-2



1 What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox - en now are



sleep - ing, whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while
feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is
si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall



Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;



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!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt.

Tune: English, 16th cent.

Text and tune: Public domain

Please stand

THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL

Luke 2:1–20

This child's birth changed the relationship of human beings and God.

¹In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ²(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

⁸And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

¹³Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

¹⁶So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY: WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED THEIR FLOCKS BY NIGHT

CW 336



1 While shep - herds watched their flocks by night, all
 2 "Fear not," said he for might - y dread had
 3 "To you, in Da - vid's town, this day is
 4 "The heav'n - ly babe you there shall find to



seat - ed on the ground, an an - gel of the
 seized their trou - bled mind; "glad ti - dings of great
 born of Da - vid's line a Sav - ior, who is
 hu - man view dis - played, all hum - bly wrapped in



Lord came down, and glo - ry shone a - round.
 joy I bring to you and all man - kind.
 Christ the Lord; and this shall be the sign:
 swad - dling clothes and in a man - ger laid."

Then suddenly in heav'n's bright sky
 appeared a shining throng
 of angels praising God, who thus
 addressed their joyful song:

"All glory be to God on high,
 and to the earth be peace;
 to those on whom his favor rests
 goodwill shall never cease."

Text: Nahum Tate, 1652–1715, alt.

Tune: The Whole Booke of Psalmes, London, 1592; attr. George Kirbye, c. 1560–1634

Text and tune: Public domain

THE CHRISTMAS EVE MESSAGE

OFFERINGS OF LOVE TO OUR LORD

Please complete the "Welcome to Grace" register in your pew at this time.

CANDLE LIGHTING

The candles for our candle lighting portion of the service were handed to you prior to the beginning of the service. For safety purpose we request that only those who are 13 years or older hold a lighted candle. During the service when you light your candle, please remember to tip your unlit candle towards the one that is burning. This will avoid the spilling of melted candle wax.

1 THE DARKENING OF THE SANCTUARY

As we extinguish the lights, the tree, the candles on the altar and on the advent wreath, with the exception of the Christ candle, we are reminded of the darkness of sin, the darkness of unbelief, even more, the darkness of eternal separation from God.

We are also reminded how dark and hopeless our condition would be without the Babe of Bethlehem.

The Pastor lights his candle from the Christ candle.

2 LIGHTING OF THE PASTOR'S CANDLE

As I hold this one candle, we are reminded tonight, that Jesus Christ, born in Bethlehem, is the only true light of this world. For it is only through Him that we can become children of the heavenly Father.

As Jesus Himself said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

The ushers will now light their candles from the Pastor's candle.

3 LIGHTING OF THE USHERS' CANDLES

As these candles are now being lit we are reminded that the light of our faith is to shine throughout the world. Jesus' words are clear, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation." Because the light of the Gospel has gone out into all the world, carried by faithful Christians in the past,

Tonight people throughout the world are joining us in worshipping the Christ-child as their Savior and Lord.

The ushers will now pass their light on to the congregation.

4 LIGHTING OF THE CONGREGATION'S CANDLES

As the ushers pass their light on to us, we are reminded how the light of the Gospel was passed on to us by Christian parents, pastors, teachers, relatives, or friends. As we in turn pass our light on to another, we are reminded that we are to pass the light of the Gospel on to those who are near to us, our families, our friends, our neighbors, even as Jesus said, "Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."

Once the congregation's candles have all been lit, the service continues.

As we appreciate the effect of a church filled with glowing candles, let us reflect on these comforting truths of Scripture:

"The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life, of whom shall I be afraid?"

"Arise, shine, for your light is come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn."

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Let us now contemplate the Light that Jesus has brought into our hearts and lives through His coming as we join in singing Silent Night.

HYMN: SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT

CW 337



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 - dant 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: Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792–1848; tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885

Tune: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1787–1863

Text and tune: Public domain

5 EXTINGUISHING OF CANDLES

As the lights are being raised and our Christmas trees re-lit, please extinguish your candles carefully by blowing on them gently.

Please stand

PRAYER

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true light. Grant that as we have known on earth the wonder of that light, we may also behold him in all his glory in the life to come; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

Amen.

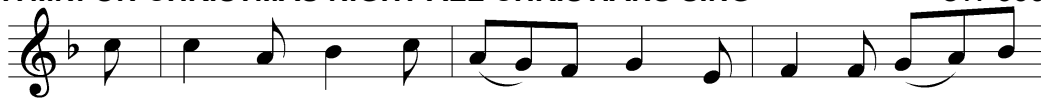
Please be seated



**FOR TO US
A SON IS GIVEN**

HYMN: ON CHRISTMAS NIGHT ALL CHRISTIANS SING

CW 338



1 On Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing to hear the news the
2 When sin de-parts be-fore his grace, then life and health come
3 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
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
life and health come in its place; an-gels and saints with
made the an-gels sing this night: "Glo-ry to God and



of great mirth, news of our mer-ci-ful King's birth.
joy may sing, all for to see the new-born King.
peace to men now and for-ev-er-more. A-men."

Text: English, abr.

Tune: English

Text and tune: Public domain

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Setting One from Christian Worship

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ABOUT THE THEME

Families cherish their Christmas traditions. Year after year, they decorate the tree with the same ornaments, play the same music, bake the same Christmas cookies. Without asking, family members know when they will open presents. If you try to change your family's Christmas traditions, you might be in trouble! When it comes to family Christmases, people generally don't like things to change.

Because our celebration of Christmas has so many unchanging traditions, we might miss the fact that the birth of Christ the Savior meant radical change for the world. Would the change be an improvement or another step in decline? The angels answer the question. They don't sing "Watch out for impending doom!" They sing "glory" and "peace," praising God with alleluias!

ALTAR FLOWERS

Christmas week flowers were donated by:

- Judy & Cindy Burmeister
- Brittany & Drew Sydow
- Joan Allen, in memory of her son, James Allen
- Carleen Junas and Sara & Brian Cortez, in memory of Edwin, Brad & Eddie Junas, and Gilbert & Adele Cortez

MUSICIANS

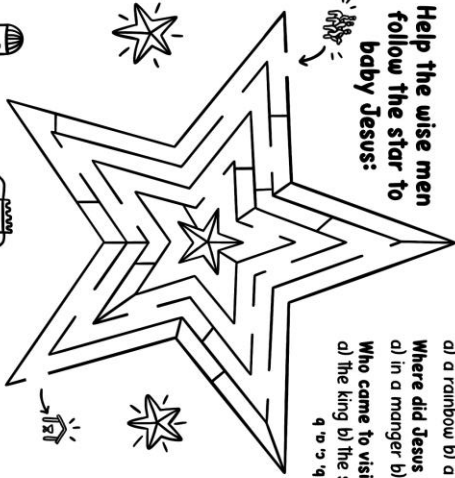
Director.....	Rachel Kulhanek
Flutes.....	Makenzie McDunn, Mara Tech, Sarah Ortiz, Xaris Sellnow Ayla Johnson, Lara Johnson, Megan Sullivan
Clarinet.....	Hannah Groth, Rachel Kulhanek
Violin.....	Miriam Sellnow, Brylee Grams, Rachel Kulhanek Michael Wilde, Brooklyn McDunn
Viola	Lyla Paul
Cello	Michael Wilde
Bass	Lydia Wilde

How many small stars can you find?



Answer: 12

Help the wise men follow the star to baby Jesus:



JOY TO THE WORLD

BIBLE QUIZ

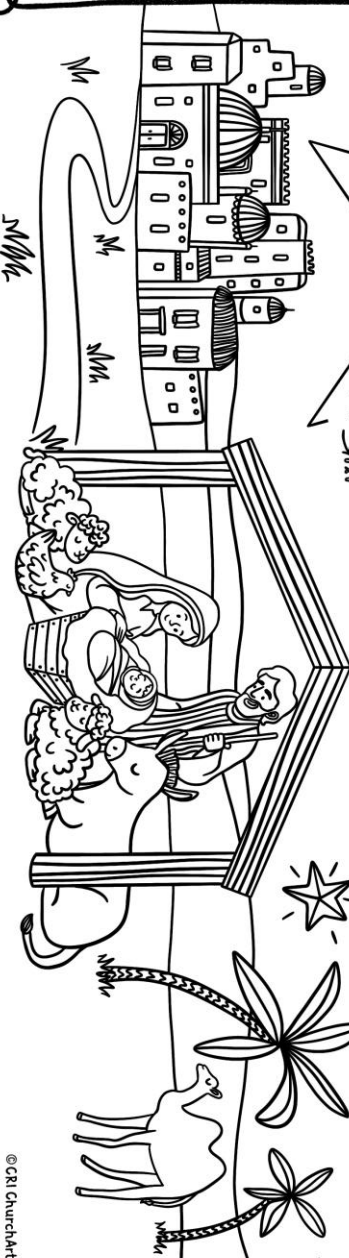
- What city was Jesus born in?
a) Jerusalem b) Bethlehem c) Nazareth
- What did the wise men follow to find Jesus?
a) a rainbow b) a dove c) a star
- Where did Jesus sleep when he was born?
a) in a manger b) in a basket c) in a cradle
- Who came to visit baby Jesus first?
a) the king b) the shepherds c) the wise men

Are you as wise as the wise men that visited Jesus? Unscramble the words!

- GLANE _____
- RNAGEM _____
- TASR _____
- ECEAP _____
- LROYG _____

Answers: angel, manger, star, peace, glory

Fill in the blanks! What gifts did the wise men bring Jesus?





Grace Groups

Gathering Together Around God's Word

HEAVENLY HOSTS SING ALLELUIA

Titus 2:11-14

The grace of God appeared to the shepherds wrapped in cloths and in a manger. In what ways has the grace of God appeared to you?

Were the shepherds a “one-night-wonder”? What does the grace of God teach us about living in this present age?

Mary pondered. We wait. Christian, what do you know about the blessed hope – the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior?

Heavenly hosts sing alleluia! What Christmas song do you like best and why?

UPCOMING SERVICES

Christmas Day

(Thursday - One Service with Communion)

TOMORROW @ 9:00 AM

Christmas 1

(Sunday Worship –
Special Fellowship time (*bring your leftover
Christmas goodies*) & All Ages Bible Class

December 28, 8:00 & 10:30 AM

9:00 – 10:15 AM

New Year's Eve

(Wednesday – One Service with Communion)

December 31, 6:00 PM