

Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 18, 2011



From the fullness of his GRACE we have all received one blessing after another.

John 1:16

DIVINE SERVICE I
Christian Worship Supplement

WELCOME

HYMN

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You
Christian Worship #19

STAND

MINISTER: In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

CONGREGATION: Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray; Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Kyrie

Please join in singing the response below following a brief introduction:

C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy on us. Lord have mer - cy on us. A - men.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

GLORY TO GOD

Gloria in Excelsis

Please join in singing the response below following a brief introduction:

The musical score is written for a single melodic line on a treble clef staff. It begins in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests. The lyrics are printed below the staff, aligned with the notes. The score includes a repeat sign with a '2' above it, indicating a second ending. The key signature changes to one flat (Bb) after the second ending. The score concludes with a double bar line.

C: Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his peo-ple on earth. Lord God,
heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry! Glo - ry to God in the
high - est and peace to his peo - ple on earth. *(music)* Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. You are seat - ed at the
right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer, re - ceive our prayer.
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth. For
you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: Let us pray. Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

BE SEATED

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

M: We light four Advent candles remembering Jesus, the Son of God and Son of Mary. He came to share our humanity.

C: **We remember Jesus, whose name means Savior. He came to save his people from their sins.**

M: We hear his call to give him a place in our hearts.

C: **We light four Advent candles as a sign of our joy and hope.**

M: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

C: **Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.**

Four Advent candles are lit.

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

2 Samuel 7:8-16

“Now then, tell my servant David, ‘This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture and from following the flock to be ruler over my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men of the earth. And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies. The LORD declares to

you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you: When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, who will come from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with the rod of men, with floggings inflicted by men. But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.’”

WORSHIP CHOIR (10:00 AM)

*Jesus, name above all names, beautiful Savior, glorious Lord,
Emmanuel, God is with us, blessed Redeemer, Living Word.*

*Jesus, name above all names, beautiful Savior, glorious Lord,
Emmanuel, God is with us, blessed Redeemer, Living Word.*

*God is with us, God is with us, God is with us,
beautiful Savior, blessed Redeemer, Living Word.*

*Jesus, name above all names, beautiful Savior, glorious Lord,
Emmanuel, God is with us, blessed Redeemer, Living Word.*

*Jesus, name above all names, beautiful Savior, glorious Lord,
Emmanuel, God is with us, blessed Redeemer, Living Word.*

Jesus Name Above All Names

Arranged by Bill Wolaver

SECOND LESSON

Romans 16:25-27

Now to him who is able to establish you by my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, but now revealed and made known

through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all nations might believe and obey him—to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Matthew 1:23

M: Alleluia. The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel. Alleluia.

STAND

GOSPEL

Luke 1:26-38

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father

David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end." "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God." "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



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 fully 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 in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian 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.

BE SEATED

HYMN OF THE DAY

God's Own Son Most Holy
Christian Worship #17

SERMON

Luke 1:26-38
Preparing A Place For God

STAND

After the sermon, please join in singing the response below following a brief introduction:

C: Cre - ate in me a pure heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Do not cast me a - way from your pres-ence or
take your Ho - ly Spir-it from me. Re - store to me the joy of your sal-
va - tion, and up - hold, up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

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BE SEATED

Please fill out the Friendship Register located in the red folder at the end of the pew and pass it along. Thank You!

STAND

THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

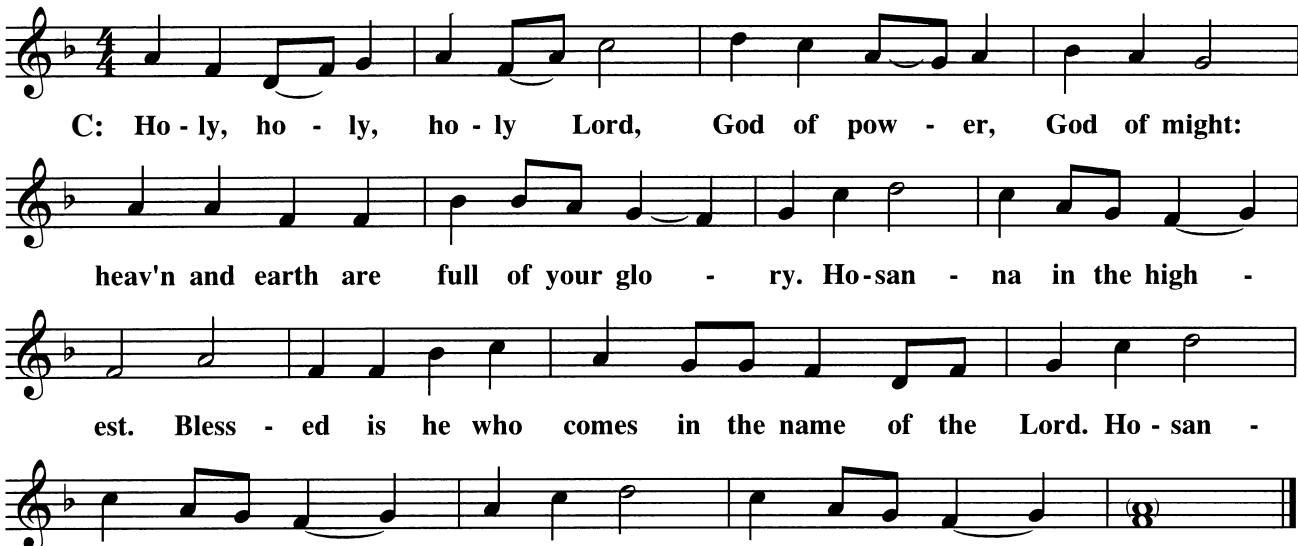
M: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

C: **It is good and right so to do.**

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er, God of might:
heav'n 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 high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **Amen.**

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

Agnus Dei

Please join in singing the response below following a brief introduction:

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of
God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - - - men. A - - - men.

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BE SEATED

DISTRIBUTION

Our church practices "Member Communion." If you are a guest today and are a confirmed member of another WELS church, we invite you to the Lord's Table with us. If you are a guest today and are not a member of one of our Wisconsin Synod churches, we ask that you would speak to one of the pastors after church today or at some other time to discuss receiving the Lord's Supper with us in the future.

Please fill out the Friendship Register located in the red folder at the end of the pew and pass it along. Thank You!

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

7:45 AM

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Arr. by Charles Lindberg

10:00 AM

Christmas Selections

Played by Sarah Oberhofer

DISTRIBUTION HYMN (10:00 AM)

When Sinners See Their Lost Condition

Christian Worship #32

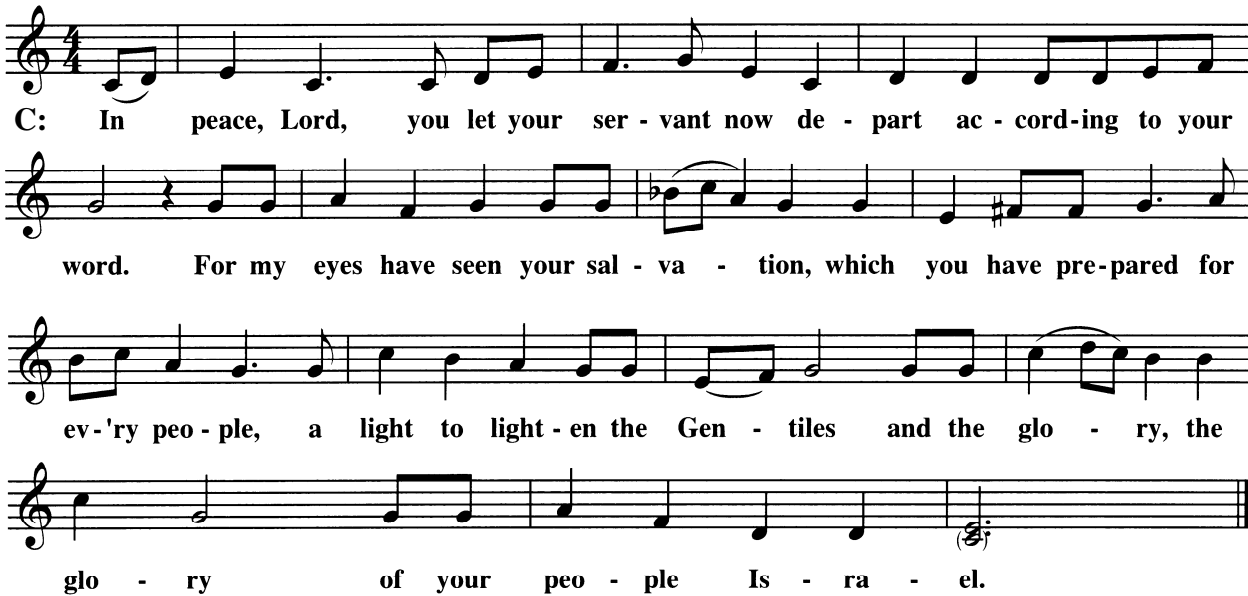
STAND

THANKSGIVING

SONG OF SIMEON

Nunc Dimittis

Please join in singing the response below following a brief introduction:



C: In peace, Lord, you let your ser - vant now de - part ac - cord-ing to your
word. For my eyes have seen your sal - va - tion, which you have pre-pared for
ev - 'ry peo - ple, a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry, the
glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

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M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: And his mercy endures forever.

M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this Holy Supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

M: 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.

C: Amen.

BE SEATED

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN

Come, O Precious Ransom, Come
Christian Worship #8

POSTLUDE

7:45 AM Arise, O Christian People
Christian Worship #14

10:00 AM Break Forth Into Joy
Johann Sebastian Bach



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To Aid You in Worship...

- LARGE PRINT BULLETINS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX. ASK A GREETER OR USHER FOR A COPY.
- *For those with young children:* A private Mother's Room is located across the courtyard in the Ladies' Restroom. Parents of young children may also use the Child Care Room in the basement at any time to quiet and care for them (the service can be heard in both locations).
- Sermon copies & service CDs are available in the narthex.

Welcome to Grace!

Our mission at Grace is to teach the inspired and inerrant Word of God, to proclaim that Jesus Christ is the crucified and risen Savior of the world and to nurture believers for lives of Christian service.

Holy Communion

There are before-communion and after-communion prayers in our Christian Worship hymnal on p. 11, and a personal preparation guide on p.156 to help prepare you to receive the Lord's Supper. If you are a guest with us today, please see p. 8 in today's worship folder under "Distribution" for information about our practice of Member Communion.

THOSE ASSISTING IN WORSHIP THIS MORNING

Preacher Pastor Sam Clemons
Worship Leader Pastor Colin Rieke, *Grace's Mission Pastor to Vail*
Communion Assistants Pastor Ron Koehler, Pastor Nathan Kassulke
Accompanists Stephanie Kania (7:45 AM)
Tina Christianson (10:00 AM)
Acolytes Analiese Kincade (7:45 AM)
Olivia Holz (10:00 AM)
Worship Choir Director Teri Guenther (10:00 AM)
Brass Ensemble Director Missy Wiechmann (10:00 AM)
Sound & Recording Tech Jeremy Snively (10:00 AM)

Read Ahead for Next Sunday:

Isaiah 52:7-10
Hebrews 1:1-9
John 1:1-14

Next Sun. Sermon Text & Theme:

John 1:1-14
*The True Light was
Coming into the World*

You Are Invited

You are invited to a coffee fellowship following 10:00 AM worship today hosted by the Miller and Weinstein families. Please join us in the courtyard.

HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve Children's Service

Saturday, December 24 at 7:00 PM.

Christmas Day Festival Worship

Sunday, December 25 at 10:00 AM.

Please note that there will only be
one service that day.

New Year's Eve Worship

Saturday, December 31 at 7:00 PM.

This Week's Schedule (12/18/11 - 12/25/11)

Today

- Worship Services/Communion.....7:45 & 10:00a
- Children's Christmas Service Rehearsal.....8:45a
- Youth Confirmation Class (Christmas Rehearsal)8:45a
- Adult Bible Classes:
 - *The Life of Christ: The Temptation of Jesus* (F. Hall).....9:00a
 - *Grow in Grace Class* (Conference Room in Office).....9:00a
- Lifeliners (High School Group): *Bible Study*9:00a
- Coffee Fellowship Following 10 AM Worship.....

Monday

- Financial Peace University in Vail..... 12:00p

Tuesday

- Handbell Practice..... 5:30p
- Voters' Meeting** 7:00p

Wednesday

- Wind Ensemble Practice 5:30p

Thursday

- NO** Women's Bible Class
- Worship Choir..... 6:30p
- Men's Bible Study..... 7:30p

Saturday

- Children's Christmas Eve Service** 7:00p

Sunday

- Christmas Day Worship**..... 10:00a

Invite a Friend for Christmas

Invite a friend or family member who has no church home to join you at Grace as we celebrate our Savior's birth. Invitation postcards are available on the tables in the fellowship hall.

Voters' Meeting

The next voters' meeting is **this Tuesday, December 20 at 7:00 PM**. Pastor and Council reports can be found at both exits and in the Fellowship Hall. The report keeps members informed and helps voters prepare for the meeting.

Men's Bible Study this Week

Please join us in the Grace Fellowship Hall this Thursday, December 22 at 7:30 PM for a men's Bible Study that will focus on the roles and responsibilities of a Christian man in today's world.

Tuition Tax Credit

Students from Grace at Redeemer Lutheran School and Arizona Lutheran Academy have received over \$30,000 this year in tuition tax credit awards. You can help support Lutheran education and receive a credit on your Arizona state income taxes (up to \$500 per person and up to your income tax liability). Donations made to the HELP Scholarship Foundation before the end of the year will be awarded to students in early spring. Please make use of this program if you are able to do so. If you have any questions, please speak to Stephanie Weinstein (623-3759) or one of the pastors. **Pick up a flyer and a donation form brochure in the Fellowship Hall.**

Grace currently has 11 students enrolled at Redeemer and 5 at ALA.

Thank You

Ron Stevens and his family would like to thank you for your thoughts and prayers during his recent surgical procedure and health issues this year.

Women of Grace Epiphany Dinner Out—January 6

The Women of Grace will be having an Epiphany Dinner Out at the Claim Jumper (3761 E. Broadway), Friday, January 6 at 6:00 PM. This will be a fun night of food and women's fellowship. We intend to invite the new women from Grace-Vail as well. **Please RSVP to Lois Thornton (323-8772) or Sue Sargent (647-3049) by January 1 if you plan to attend.** You may also RSVP to Cora in the church office at 623-6633.

Christian Fellowship Group White Elephant Bingo Party

Christian Fellowship Group will meet on Saturday, January 14, at noon in the Fellowship hall for a Pot Luck White Elephant Bingo party. Everyone is welcome. Bring a dish to pass and a cleverly wrapped or disguised "White Elephant." We are always looking for new members. Come, give us a try! *The Christian Fellowship Group provides people 55 and older with an opportunity to enjoy the company of others on a very informal basis.*

Engaging Christians In Outreach Ministry

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend the Kingdom Workers' annual Spiritual Renewal Event scheduled for Saturday, January 28, 2012, at Paradise Valley Lutheran Church, in Phoenix. Continental breakfast will be served starting at 7:45 AM with the meeting to start at approximately 9:00 AM. Kingdom Workers board members have heard each presentation, and each one is excellent! Each presentation is directly related to our command to "go and make disciples." The lead presenter, Pastor Hintz, is the Director of our Commission on Evangelism. The other two couples speaking, the Kimerleys and the Felgenhauers have been actively involved in home and world mission projects.

Cans for the Women of Grace



The Women of Grace are collecting aluminum cans and will use the recycling proceeds for upcoming projects. If you have cans please bring them to Grace and put them in the receptacle located just inside the parking lot gates.

TVs & Equipment Available

The 36" TVs and equipment that used to be in the Fellowship Hall are now available for donation. Please talk to Jeff Weinstein (909-7649) or call the church office (623-6633) if you are interested in them.

Anniversary Items Great As Christmas Gifts!

There are still anniversary items available for purchase. These include 100th Anniversary Scrapbook DVDs, Grace ornaments, and history booklets. DVDs are \$1 and ornaments and history booklets are \$10. If you are interested in purchasing anniversary items, ask the Kramms (743-5134) or Rauhs (296-8840) for help.

Bible Verse Calendars

The Lifeliners still have several 2012 "God's Creation" Bible Verse Calendars available for purchase (\$8 each or 2 for \$15). The calendars feature beautiful color pictures paired with Bible verses for each month, and a weekly Bible verse throughout the year. Proceeds support our Lifeline activities. Please speak to Pastor Kassulke or one of our high school students if you would like to purchase a calendar.

"Chrismons"

Christ-Monograms

Chrismons are symbols that proclaim Jesus' name and his works of salvation for us. Here are explanations for the Chrismons you see on our Christmas trees.



THE ANCHOR CROSS represents our certain hope of salvation anchored in Christ.



THE BUDDED CROSS with its trefoil ends emphasizes the Trinity.



THE CELTIC CROSS has a circle in the middle symbolizing eternity. Because it has ancient ties to Christians in Ireland, Iona and Scotland, it is also called the Irish or Iona Cross.



THE CROSS WITH ORB symbolizes the world united under Christ, as the Lord cares for heaven and earth.



THE GREEK CROSS has four arms of equal length. Early Greek artists used this cross.



IHS is the acrostic of the first three letters of Jesus' name in Greek (**Ιησους**). Various meanings have been attached to each letter. The horizontal line that forms the cross is the sign for an abbreviation.



THE IOTA CROSS is the first letter of "Jesus" in Greek (**I=IOTA**) combined with the first letter of "Christ" in Greek (**X=CHI**).



THE JERUSALEM CROSS (also known as the CRUSADER'S CROSS) represents the city of peace. The 5 crosses represent the 5 wounds of our Lord. The 4 smaller crosses are also said to represent the spread of the gospel to the 4 corners of the earth.



THE MALTESE CROSS is comprised of 4 arms shaped like spear-heads. Each points to the center, with the broad end having 2 points. The 8 points in all represent the beatitudes (Matt. 5:3-10). This is the emblem of John the Baptist. The cross was the emblem of the Knights of St. John, who were driven from Rhodes to the island of Malta by the Turks. Malta is the island where St. Paul was shipwrecked.



THE ROMAN CROSS consists of the Latin Cross and the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, the alpha (**Α**) and omega (**Ω**) symbolizing Jesus as the Eternal One: the 'First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.' Though he died on the cross, he reigns in glory forever.



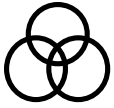
THE STAR (NATAL) CROSS reminds us of the star that marked our Savior's birth.



THE TAU CROSS, shaped like the Greek letter **Τ** (tau), depicts the type of cross Moses is believed to have raised in the desert with the serpent on it. It is also the traditional sign that Israelites made with lamb's blood on their doorposts in Egypt on the night of Passover. Therefore this is the cross of penitence and prophecy.



CHALICE AND WAFER represent the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.



THREE INTERLACING CIRCLES represent the three distinct persons of the Holy Trinity, yet just one God.



THE DESCENDING DOVE symbolizes the Holy Spirit, remembering the baptism of Jesus when he descended in the form of a dove.



THE TABLET OF STONE is a symbol of the Ten Commandments given by God to Moses on Mt. Sinai.



THE BUTTERFLY brings to mind our Lord's resurrection from the dead and reminds us that all believers in Christ will also rise to eternal life. The first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, the alpha (Α) and omega (Ω) are sometimes added to signify the eternal life enjoyed by those who die in the Lord.



THE CROSS CROWN is a symbol of the Kingship of our Lord, reminding us that he is the King of kings and the Lord of lords. It also reminds us of the crown of life given to believers for their lives of faith.



THE CHI-RHO is a monogram consisting of the first two Greek letters of 'Christ', **Χ** and **Ρ**.



THE FISH is the most ancient symbol of Christ. Christians drew the image of the fish to identify each other in times of persecution. The Greek word for fish is **ΙΧΘΥΣ** (ichthus). The acrostic represents this meaning: **Ι**=Jesus **Χ**=Christ **Θ**=God's **Υ**=Son **Σ**=Savior.



THE 5-POINTED STAR/EPIPHANY STAR represents the star of Bethlehem and is shaped roughly like a human being representing Christ's incarnation.



THE 6-POINTED STAR/CREATOR'S STAR/STAR OF DAVID symbolizes creation. Each point refers to a day of God's creating work.



THE TREFOIL AND TRIANGLE is a symbol of the Holy Trinity showing both the unity of the Godhead as well as the diversity of the Persons.

May these Christian symbols enrich your worship and fill your Christmas celebration with even more meaning and joy!

