

Christmas Day



December 25, 2012

PRESERVICE MUSIC

Joy to the World
Go Tell it on the Mountain
Played by the Handbell Choir

Angels We Have Heard On High
Setting by Michael Burkhardt
Organ Arrangement

Ding Dong! Merrily on High
Arr. by Dale Elmshaeuser
Played by the Brass Trio

Christmas Day Worship

VOICES OF GRACE

Gloria, sing praise, alleluia! Gloria sing praise!

Come celebrate the gift of the ages. Jesus Christ is born.

Come celebrate, you saints and you sages. Jesus Christ is born.

Emmanuel is lying in a manger, Jesus Christ is born.

So come and worship this tiny little stranger. Jesus Christ is born.

"Glory," sang the choirs of angels; "Hallelu," the shepherds cried.

Peace on earth has come from heaven on a cold December night.

Gloria, sing praise, alleluia! Gloria sing praise! Sing praise!

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Gloria! Sing Praise! Alleluia!
Words and Music by Gary Hallquist

CALL TO WORSHIP

OPENING HYMN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
Christian Worship #61

STAND

INVOCATION

Minister: The grace of our Lord (†) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Congregation: And also with you.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CHILD CANDLE

M: We light the central candle of the Advent Wreath, the Christ Child Candle.

C: **We remember Jesus, whose birth we celebrate today.**

M: In him was life,

C: **And that life was the light of the world.**

M: The light shines in the darkness,

C: **But the darkness has not understood it.**

M: Welcome to earth, O noble Guest,

C: **Through whom our sinful world is blessed.**

The Christ Child Candle is lit.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

M: It is with great joy that we gather this morning to celebrate the birth of our Savior. Yet on this occasion we remember that it was for our sin that he came into this world. With humble hearts let us come before our God in repentance, acknowledging our sinfulness and seeking his forgiveness.

- C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am a sinner from birth and that I have offended you in what I think, what I say and what I do. Forgive me for my lack of love toward you and others. Throughout my life and especially at this Christmas season I have often failed to truly appreciate the gift of salvation won for me by the life and death of your Son, Jesus. Forgive my many sins and have mercy on me, a sinner.
- M: God our Heavenly Father has been merciful to us. We have redemption and forgiveness through the blood of his Son, Jesus, in accordance with the riches of God's grace. We are the people on whom God's favor rests.
- C: Glory to God in the highest! Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- M: Son of God, we praise you for coming to earth on the first Christmas to live the life we could not live and to die the death we were doomed to die. As we celebrate your coming to earth to be one of us, help us rejoice also that you continually come to us in your Word and Sacrament. Strengthen our faith. Cause our love to increase and our hope to grow. Bless all we say and do to the glory of your Name.
- C: Amen.

BE SEATED

HYMN

Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful
Christian Worship #55

FIRST LESSON

Exodus 33:12-23; 34:5-7 (NIV)

Moses said to the LORD, "You have been telling me, 'Lead these people,' but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. You have said, 'I know you by name and you have found favor with me.' If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you. Remember that this nation is your people." The LORD replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." Then Moses said to him, "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?" And the LORD said to Moses, "I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you and I know you by name." Then Moses said, "Now show me your glory." And the LORD said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the

LORD, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live." Then the LORD said, "There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock. When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by. Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen." Then the LORD came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the LORD. And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation."

WORSHIP CHOIR

Child of Promise / Shout the Good News
Words by Lloyd Larson, Isaac Watts and John W. Work
Music by Lloyd Larson

*This is the Child of Promise born to set God's people free:
Messiah King, now lives among us, gift of love and victory!*

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
let ev'ry heart prepare Him room, and heav'n and nature sing.*

*Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy.*

*Shout the good news for the Lord has come!
O shout the good news from the mountain's height!
Loudly proclaim that a new day dawns, a day of glorious Light!*

*Shout the good news for the Lord has come!
O shout the good news from the mountain's height!
People of God, celebrate His coming, the King of glory and might!*

*Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!*

*Shout the good news for the Lord has come!
O shout the good news from the mountain's height!
Loudly proclaim that a new day dawns, a day of glorious Light!
People of God, celebrate His coming, the King of glory and might!*

Shout the good news!

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SECOND LESSON

Hebrews 1:1-9 (NIV)

In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son;

today I have become your Father"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"? And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." In speaking of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, his servants flames of fire." But about the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever, and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy."

HYMN

Rejoice, Rejoice This Happy Morn
Christian Worship #49

STAND

GOSPEL

John 1:1-18 (NIV)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his

name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John testifies concerning him. He cries out, saying, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’” From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father’s side, has made him known.

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

BE SEATED

HYMN

A Great and Mighty Wonder
Christian Worship #36

SERMON

“Among Us”

John 1:1-18

STAND

CONFESSION OF FAITH *(Dr. Martin Luther’s Explanation to the Second Article of the Apostles’ Creed)*

C: I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord.

He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death.

All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally.

This is most certainly true.

BE SEATED

OFFERING

Members of Grace respond to their Savior's love with offerings that are given joyfully, generously, regularly, and in a way that is proportionate to how the Lord has blessed them. Their cheerful gifts support the mission and ministry of our congregation. If you are a guest today, please know that we do not expect you to contribute to our congregation's work. However, if you would like to give an offering to the Lord in response to his love to you, we are happy to receive it and put it to work in God's kingdom.

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

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Rejoice, Rejoice Believers
Clarinet/Organ Duet

STAND

PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS

M: Precious Savior Christ Jesus, Eternal Word, you became flesh and dwelt among us because of your great love for mankind. Though you were God, you humbled yourself out of love for your creation, and came to earth as one of us. We stand in reverent awe before your manger bed, contemplating the mystery of your incarnation.

You are the Light of all the earth. The message of salvation through faith in you is meant to gladden every heart. Send out your light and your truth to nations everywhere, that every knee may bow before you, and every heart worship you as true God incarnate, who came to earth to save mankind from sin.

Keep your light of love and truth shining brightly in our hearts by faith. Lead us more and more into the truths of your Word. Watch over us so that we are not led aside into the paths of sin and unbelief. Increase our understanding of your Word and give us wisdom to apply it to our daily lives.

Special prayers may be included here.

M: Hear us Lord as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent Prayer.

M: Rejoicing in your birth and trusting in your mercy, O Christ, Light of the world, we commend to you all for whom we pray.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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.

THE SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

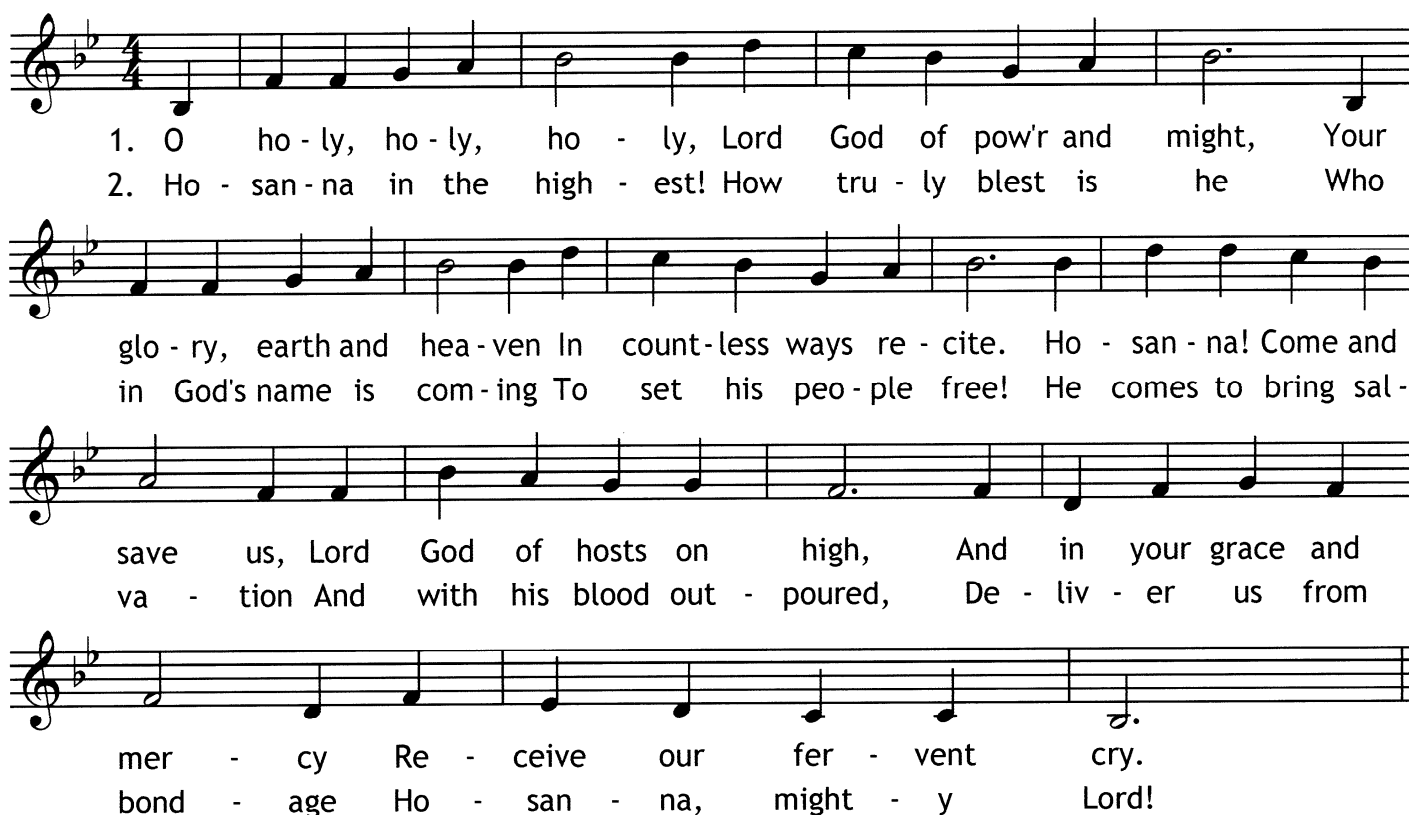
C: We lift them up to the Lord.

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, for in the wonder and mystery of his birth you have opened our eyes to the glory of your grace and renewed in our hearts the fervor of your love. Therefore with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (Tune: "O Jesus King of Glory" *Christian Worship*, 94)



1. O ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of pow'r and might, Your
2. Ho - san - na in the high - est! How tru - ly blest is he Who
glo - ry, earth and hea - ven In count-less ways re - cite. Ho - san - na! Come and
in God's name is com - ing To set his peo - ple free! He comes to bring sal -
save us, Lord God of hosts on high, And in your grace and
va - tion And with his blood out - poured, De - liv - er us from
mer - cy Re - ceive our fer - vent cry.
bond - age Ho - san - na, might - y Lord!

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.

BE SEATED

DISTRIBUTION

*The Bible teaches that the Lord's Supper is a unique communion of Christ and the individual believer as well as a coming together of people who hold to the same beliefs. Because of these Scriptural truths, we practice **Member Communion** at Grace. Those who are confirmed members of Wisconsin Synod congregations (WELS) are invited to receive the Lord's Supper with us.*

If you are not a WELS member but have an interest in receiving Holy Communion, please speak with one of our pastors after church today or at another time. We are aware that there are a number of other teachings about Holy Communion, and we want it to be a blessing for you, so we would look forward to sharing with you what God says about this Sacrament.

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

STAND

SONG OF SIMEON

(Tune: "O Savior, Precious Savior" *Christian Worship* 368)



1. O Lord, now let your ser - vant de - part in peace, as -
2. All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, all glo - ry to the



sured; For I have seen your pro - mised in - car - nate sav - ing Word. A
Son All glo - ry to the Spir - it, for - ev - er three in one; For



Light that will en - light - en all gloom where Gen - tiles dwell; The
as in the be - gin - ning, is now, shall ev - er be, God's



bril - liant, crown - ing glo - ry of those in Is - ra - el!
tri - une name re - sound - ing through all e - ter - ni - ty.

PRAYER

M: We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

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

CLOSING HYMN

Joy To the World
Christian Worship #62

POSTLUDE

Angels From the Realms of Glory
Setting by Michael Burkhardt

THOSE ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Worship Leader Pastor Sam Clemons
Communion Assistant.....Pastor Mark Hallemeier
Accompanist.....Tina Christianson
Acolyte Dustin Pauley
Handbell Choir Director.....Beth Kassulke
Brass Trio Director Missy Wiechmann
Clarinet.....Beth Kassulke
Trumpets..... Pastor Ron Koehler, Pastor Nathan Kassulke, Tyler Koehler
French Horn Cora Kosanke
Timpani..... Danny Koehler
Voices of Grace Director.....Beth Kassulke
Worship Choir Director..... Teri Guenther
Sound & Recording Tech.....Jeremy Snavelly



Have a Blessed Christmas!

Thank you for joining us for worship this Christmas Day. We hope and pray that the joy of this day will be yours throughout the season, in the New Year, and throughout your life. If you are a guest with us today and do not have a church home, we would consider it a special privilege to share God's Word with you on a regular basis. Please take a guest packet from the table near the exit to learn more about Grace and the ministries God has allowed us to undertake.

We invite you to join us for these holiday worship services and other upcoming special worship opportunities:

- **New Year's Eve, Monday, December 31 at 7:00 PM.** Join us as we celebrate God's goodness to us in the year coming to a close and as we ask for God's blessing on the year ahead. This service will include the reading of the names of our members whom the Lord called home during the past year. Our New Year's Eve Service is at Grace-University.
- **Branches Band, Sunday January 6 at 7:45 and 10:00 AM.** The WELS group Branches Band will be our guest musicians during our Epiphany worship services at Grace-University.
- **Mission Festival and Chupala Lunch, Sunday, January 20.** Join us at Grace-University for Mission Festival, including guest preacher Pastor Matt Vogt, who is the Chairman of our District Mission Board. In the Bible study hour he will share with us information about WELS Home Missions. After the 10:00 Worship Service, the Lifeliners (our high school youth group) will host their annual Chupala Lunch. Donations to the Lifeliners for the lunch are appreciated.
- **Stephen Bautista, Sunday, February 17 at 10:00 AM.** WELS singer Stephen Bautista will be the guest musician at Grace-Vail. Join us to hear some of his original Christian songs in our regular worship service that Sunday.

Regular Sunday Worship Schedule

At Grace-Vail

Worshiping at Cottonwood
Elementary 9950 E. Rees Loop

9:00 AM	Children's Sunday School
9:00 AM	Adult Bible Study
10:00 AM	Worship Service

At Grace-University

830 N. First Avenue

7:45 AM	Worship Service
8:45 AM	Children's Sunday School
9:00 AM	Adult Bible Study
10:00 AM	Worship Service



"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 (**Ι=IOTA**) combined with the first letter of "Christ" in Greek (**Χ=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.



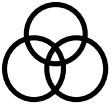
THE STAR (NATAL) CROSS reminds us of the star that marked our Savior's birth.



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!