

# Christmas Day



December 25, 2012

PRESERVICE MUSIC

Christmas Day Worship

CALL TO WORSHIP

OPENING HYMN

Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful  
*Christian Worship #55*



1. Oh, come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant, Oh,  
2. God from true God, and Light from Light e - ter - nal,  
3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion;  
4. Yea, Lord, we great thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;



Come ye, oh, come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
Born of a vir - gin, to earth he comes,  
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove.  
Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry giv'n,



Come and be - hold him, Born the King of an - gels. Oh,  
On - ly be - got - ten Son of God the Fa - ther.  
Glo - ry to God, all Glo - ry in the high - est  
Word of the Fa - ther, Now in flesh ap - pear - ing.



come, let us a - dore him, Oh, come, let us a - dore him, Oh,



come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

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.

## 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

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing  
*Christian Worship #61, stanza 1*

Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all you nations rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With th'angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"

## FIRST LESSON

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

*The Lord ‘proclaimed his name’ to Moses, explaining that he is a God of mercy and compassion, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who forgives sin. Yet Moses could not see the face of the holy God and live. So God put Moses in a cleft in the rock and covered him with his hand as he passed by.*

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.”

## HYMN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing  
*Christian Worship #61, stanza 2*

Christ, by highest heav’n adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold him come,  
Offspring of a virgin’s womb.  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see,  
Hail th’incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell,  
Jesus, our Immanuel!  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King!”

## SECOND LESSON

Hebrews 1:1-9 (NIV)

*Jesus is the embodiment of the mercy and compassion God spoke about to Moses. Even though he is true God, we could see Jesus face to face when he lived among us. Jesus is superior to the angels and rules all things for all time.*

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

**Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**  
*Christian Worship #61, stanza 3*

Hail, the heav'nly Prince of Peace!  
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
Ris'n with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
Born that we no more may die,  
Born to raise us from the earth,  
Born to give us second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"

## STAND

*The Apostle John unfolds the mystery of the incarnation. Jesus, the Word from all eternity, the light of the world and true God, became flesh and made his dwelling among us.*

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.

## BE SEATED

## HYMN

What Child Is This  
Christian Worship #67

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  
 3. So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to

sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet With an - thems sweet While  
 feed - ing? Good Chris - tians, fear; For sin - ners here The  
 own him. The King of kings Sal - va - tion brings; Let

shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is  
 si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall  
 lov - ing hearts en - throne him. Raise, raise the

Christ the King, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing.  
 pierce him on through; The cross he'll bear for me, for you.  
 song on high; The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by.

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!  
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the Son of Mar - y!

**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.

**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****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.

BE SEATED

## HYMN

### Gentle Mary Laid Her Child Christian Worship #56

1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;  
2 An - gels sang a - bout his birth; Wise men sought and found him.  
3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;

There he lay, the un - de - filed, To the world a stran - ger.  
Heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth, Glo - ry all a - round them.  
He is still the un - de - filed, But no more a stran - ger.

Such a babe in such a place — Can he be the Sav - ior?  
Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, Heard the an - gels sing - ing.  
Son of God, of hum - ble birth, Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;

Ask the saved of all the race Who have found his fa - vor.  
All the plains were lit that night; All the hills were ring - ing.  
Praise his name in all the earth, Hail the King of glo - ry!



## PRAYER

M: Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart, that being strengthened and comforted by your Holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, 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

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in -  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the

ceive her King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
songs em - ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
fest the ground; He comes to make his bless - ings  
na - tions prove The glo - ries of his right - eous -

room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture  
plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing  
flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is  
ness And won - ders of his love, And won - ders of his

sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
found, Far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, And won - ders, won - ders of his love.

## THOSE ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Worship Leader ..... Pastor Colin Rieke  
Accompanist..... Elaine Goldie  
Sound & Recording Tech..... Jason & Christian Watson

### 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



