

Children's Christmas Service



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

December 10, 2017

4:00 PM

About the Cover Art

This nativity scene depicts both the majesty and humility of our Savior as written about in Martin Luther's hymn, *From Heaven Above to Earth I Come*. Our King, by whom the heavens and earth were made, arrives as a little child of lowly birth. Within the scene you will also find the elements of Luther's seal, which will be highlighted during the service.

About the Hymn

Luther's hymn, *From Heaven Above to Earth I Come*, is actually a contrafactum (sacred text set to a popular folk melody) of *Ich Komm Aus Fremden Landen Her*. Note how Luther parodies the first verse of the original secular song:

Ich Komm Aus Fremden Landen Her

*Good news from far abroad I bring,
Glad tidings for you all I sing.
I bring so much you'd like to know
Much more than I shall tell you though.*

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

*From heav'n above to earth I come
To bear good news to ev'ry home;
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,
Whereof I now will say and sing.*

Eventually Luther would write his own tune, VOM HIMMEL HOCH, which is the melody found in most hymnals today. In Part 3 of this service, you will have an opportunity to hear an arrangement of the original tune, ICH KOMM AUS FREMDEN LANDEN HER.

If you are interested in learning more about how this hymn may have been used in the Luther home or desire to use it yourself this Christmas, you may pick up a booklet entitled "Luther's Christmas Pageant" at either exit today.



PRESERVICE MUSIC

Anna Kassulke	<i>Away in a Manger</i>	Carson Heinz	<i>Come, Little Children</i>
Logan Farley	<i>Go Tell It on the Mountain</i>	Colby Heinz	<i>Silent Night</i>
Naomi Kassulke	<i>Joy to the World</i>	Sam Kassulke	<i>Foom, Foom, Foom</i>
Elsa Wiechmann	<i>O Come, All Ye Faithful</i>	Naomi Kassulke	<i>God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen</i>
Connor Farley	<i>Silent Night</i>		<i>O Little Town of Bethlehem</i>
	<i>Now, Sing We Now Rejoice</i>		

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

A Children's Christmas Service Celebrating the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation By Rebecca Kramer

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Savior of the Nations, Come
Christian Worship #2 st. 1-3

This hymn is attributed to St. Ambrose and was originally written in Latin. Luther translated the text into German in 1523 and transformed the tune from a plainsong chant to a simplified chorale.

INTRODUCTION

Part 1: KNOW

Luther's explanation of his seal:

First, there is a black cross in a heart that remains its natural color. This is to remind me that it is faith in the Crucified One that saves us. It is a black cross, which mortifies and causes pain, but it leaves the heart its natural color. It doesn't destroy nature, that is to say, it does not kill us but keeps us alive, for the just shall live by faith in the Crucified One (Romans 1:17).

Stanzas 1-2: Know That Christ Is Born for You

Sung by the Children:

"From heav'n above to earth I come
To bear good news to ev'ry home;
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,
Whereof I now will say and sing:

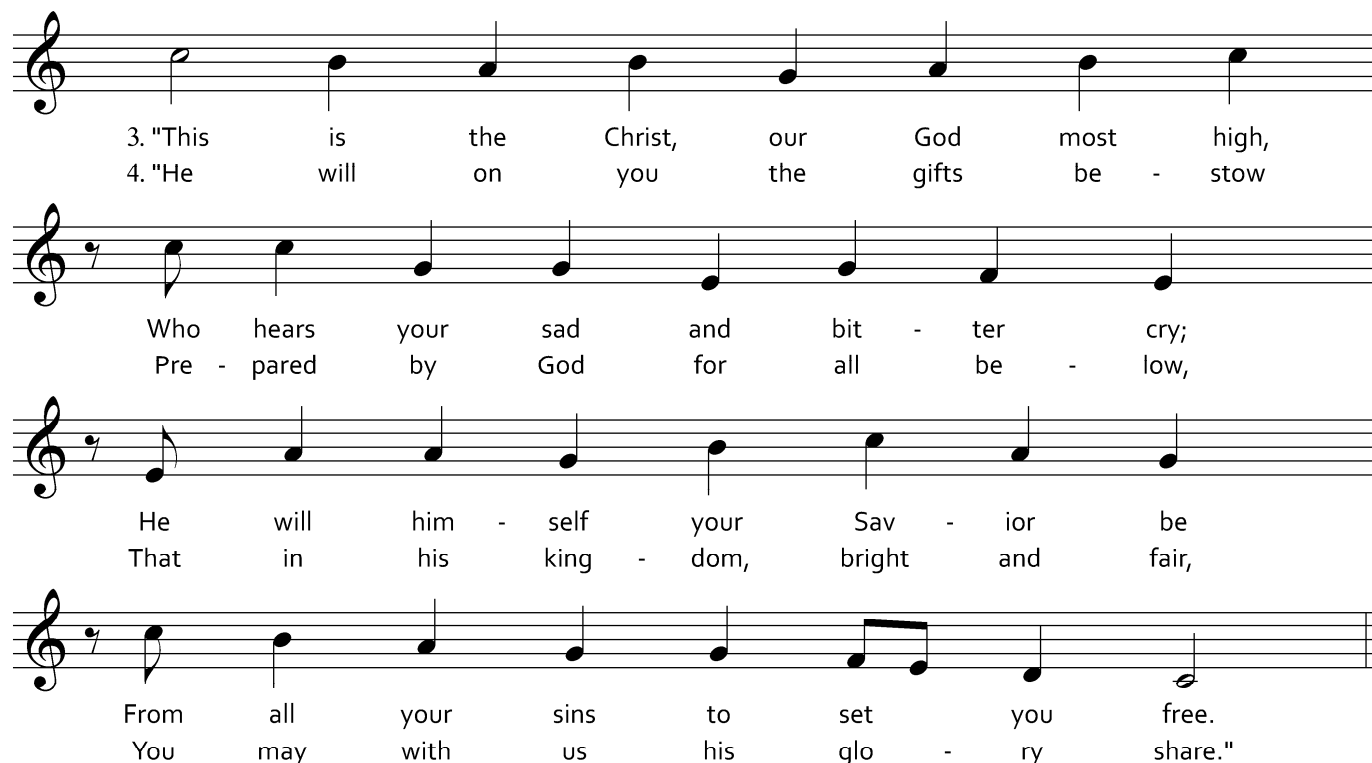
"To you this night is born a child
Of Mary, chosen virgin mild;
This little child of lowly birth
Shall be the joy of all the earth."

Recitations: Luke 2:1-7 Matthew 1:22-23 John 3:16

Luther: *Mary, you did not bear this child for yourself alone . . . but for me. . . . I have a greater honor than your honor as his mother. For . . . my honor is this, that you have my treasure, so that I know none, neither men nor angels, who can help me except this child whom you, O Mary, hold in your arms.*

Stanzas 3-4: Know Freedom From Sin

Sung by the Congregation



3. "This is the Christ, our God most high,
4. "He will on you the gifts be - stow

Who hears your sad and bit - ter cry;
Pre - pared by God for all be - low,

He will him - self - your Sav - ior and be
That in his king - dom, bright and fair,

From all your sins to set you free.
You may with us his glo - ry share."

Recitations: Psalm 51:1-2
1 John 2:2

Genesis 2:17
Luke 2:8-11

Genesis 3:15
1 Timothy 1:15-16

Galatians 4:4-5

Luther: *For, if it is true that the child was born of the virgin and is mine, then I have no angry God and I must know . . . that there is nothing but laughter and joy in the heart of the Father and no sadness in my heart. For, if what the angel says is true, that he is our Lord and Savior, what can sin do against us? "If God is for us, who is against us?" Greater words than these I cannot speak.*

HYMN: Children

All Praise to You, Eternal God
Christian Worship #33 st. 1-3
New hymn tune by Kathy Parra

All praise to you, eternal God!
Now clothed in human flesh and blood,
You took a manger for your throne
While worlds on worlds are yours alone.
Alleluia!

Once did the skies before you bow;
A virgin's arms contain you now
While angels, who in you rejoice,
Now listen for your infant voice.
Alleluia!

O little Child, you were our guest
That weary ones in you might rest;
Forlorn and lowly was your birth
That we might rise to heav'n from earth.
Alleluia!

The first stanza of this hymn was a popular German pre-Reformation song and was one of three hymns the German people were allowed to sing in the German language as congregational responses during the Latin Mass in the Middle Ages. Luther added additional stanzas for Christmas in 1523.

Stanza 5: Know the Signs of the Savior

Sung by the Children:

"These are the signs which you shall mark:
The swaddling clothes and manger dark.
There you will find the infant laid
By whom the heav'ns and earth were made."


Recitations: Luke 2:12 Luke 2:13-14

Luther: *If Christ had come with trumpets and had a cradle of gold, his birth would have been a splendid affair. But it would not have been comforting to me. He was rather to lie in the lap of a poor maiden and be considered of little consequence in the eyes of the world. Now I can come to him.*

HYMN: Children and Congregation

To Shepherds as They Watched by Night

Christian Worship #53 st. 1-2



Children 1. To shep - herds as they watched by night Ap - peared a
Congregation 2. At Beth - le - hem, in Da - vid's town, As Mi - cah

host did of of an - gels bright; "Be - hold the ten - der
did of old make known. It is the Christ, your

babe," they said, "In yon - der low - ly man - ger laid."
Lord and King, Who will to all sal - va - tion bring."

This Christmas hymn was written by Luther in 1542. It states the Christmas story in a more concise manner and was meant to be used when "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come" was thought to be too lengthy.

Part 2: GO

Luther's explanation of his seal:

Anyone who believes from the heart will be justified (Romans 10:10).

Stanzas 6-7: Go and See

Sung by the Choir:

How glad we'll be to find it so!
Then with the shepherds let us go
To see what God for us has done
In sending us his own dear Son.

Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes,
And see what in the manger lies.
Who is this child, so young and fair?
It is the Christchild lying there.

Recitations: Luke 2:15-16

Psalm 122:1

Luther: *We need to be kept in the diligent use of the Word and flee that deadliest of notions that we understand and know it well enough, as many nowadays imagine. . . . [We] want to be its steady pupils . . . daily filled with new ardor for the Word.*

HYMN: Children and Congregation

Now Praise We Christ, the Holy One

Christian Worship #39 st. 6-7

Tune: WEIMAR (CW 27)



Children 6. The heav'n-ly choirs re - joice and raise Their voice to God in songs of praise. To
Congregation 7. All hon - or un - to Christ the Lord, E - ter - nal and in - car - nate Word, With



hum - ble shep - herds is pro - claimed The Shep - herd who the world has framed.
Fa - ther and with Ho - ly Ghost, Till time in end - less time be lost.

This hymn was originally part of a longer 23-stanza Latin abecedarian (alphabetical) poem written by Coelius Sedulius during the fifth century glorifying the life of Christ. It was later divided into two hymns with the first seven stanzas (found in CW 39) designed to be used on Christmas Day. Luther's German translation of this hymn appeared in two German hymnals in 1524. (Additional stanzas from the original poem can be found in CW 91.)

Part 3: GLOW

Luther's explanation of his seal:

The heart should stand in the middle of a white rose. This is to show that faith gives joy, comfort, and peace—it puts the believer into a white, joyous rose. Faith does not give peace and joy like the world gives (John 14:27). This is why the rose must be white, not red. White is the color of the spirits and angels (cf. Matthew 28:3; John 20:12).

Stanzas 8-11: Glow with Confidence in Christ's Humble Sacrifice!

Sung by the Soloists:

Welcome to earth, O noble Guest,
Through whom the sinful world is blest!
You came to share my misery
That you might share your joy with me.

Were earth a thousand times as fair
And set with gold and jewels rare,
It would be far too poor and small
A cradle for the Lord of all.

Ah, Lord, though you created all,
How weak you are, so poor and small,
That you should choose to lay your head
Where lowly cattle lately fed!

Instead of soft and silken stuff
You have but hay and straw so rough
On which as King, so rich and great,
To be enthroned in royal state.

This arrangement of stanzas 8-11 features both the familiar tune (VON HIMMEL HOCH) and the hymn's original tune (ICH KOMM AUS FREMDEN LANDEN HER). Stanza 8: VON HIMMEL HOCH; Stanza 9: ICH KOMM AUS FREMDEN LANDEN HER; Stanzas 10 & 11: medleys of both tunes.

Recitations: 2 Corinthians 8:9 Isaiah 53:4,6

Luther: *This is the confidence of Christians and the joyousness of our conscience: that through faith our sins become not ours but Christ's, upon whom God laid the sins of us all and who bore our sins. . . . All the righteousness of Christ, in turn, becomes ours. For he places his hand upon us, and it is well with us; he, the Savior, blessed forever, spreads his garment and covers us.*

HYMN: Congregation

All Praise to You, Eternal God
Christian Worship #33 st. 4-5
New hymn tune by Kathy Parra



The musical score is written for a single melodic line in 6/8 time. It consists of four staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are as follows:

4. You came to us in dark - est night
5. All this your love for us has done;

To make us child - ren of the light;
By this our love for you is won;

Like an - gels in the realms di - vine
For this our joy - ful songs we raise

A - round your throne we, too, will shine. Al - le - lu - ia!
And shout our thanks in cease - less praise. Al - le - lu - ia!

Part 4: GROW

Luther's explanation of his seal:

This rose should stand in a sky-blue field, symbolizing that a joyful spirit and faith is a beginning of heavenly, future joy, which begins now, but is grasped in hope, not yet fully revealed.

Stanzas 12-13: Grow as Christ Remains Within

Sung by the Congregation:

Men 12. And so it pleas - es you to see
Women 13. Ah, dear - est Je - sus, ho - ly Child,

This sim - ple truth re - vealed to me:
Pre - pare a bed, soft, un - de - filed

That all the world's wealth, hon - or, might,
With - in my heart, made clean and new,

Are weak and worth - less in your sight.
A qui - et cham - ber kept for you.

Luther: *A man who has devoted himself to the wealth and honor of the world, meanwhile forgetting his soul and his God, resembles a little child which holds in its hand a beautifully shaped and colored apple and fancies it has something good. But on the inside the apple is rotten and full of worms.*

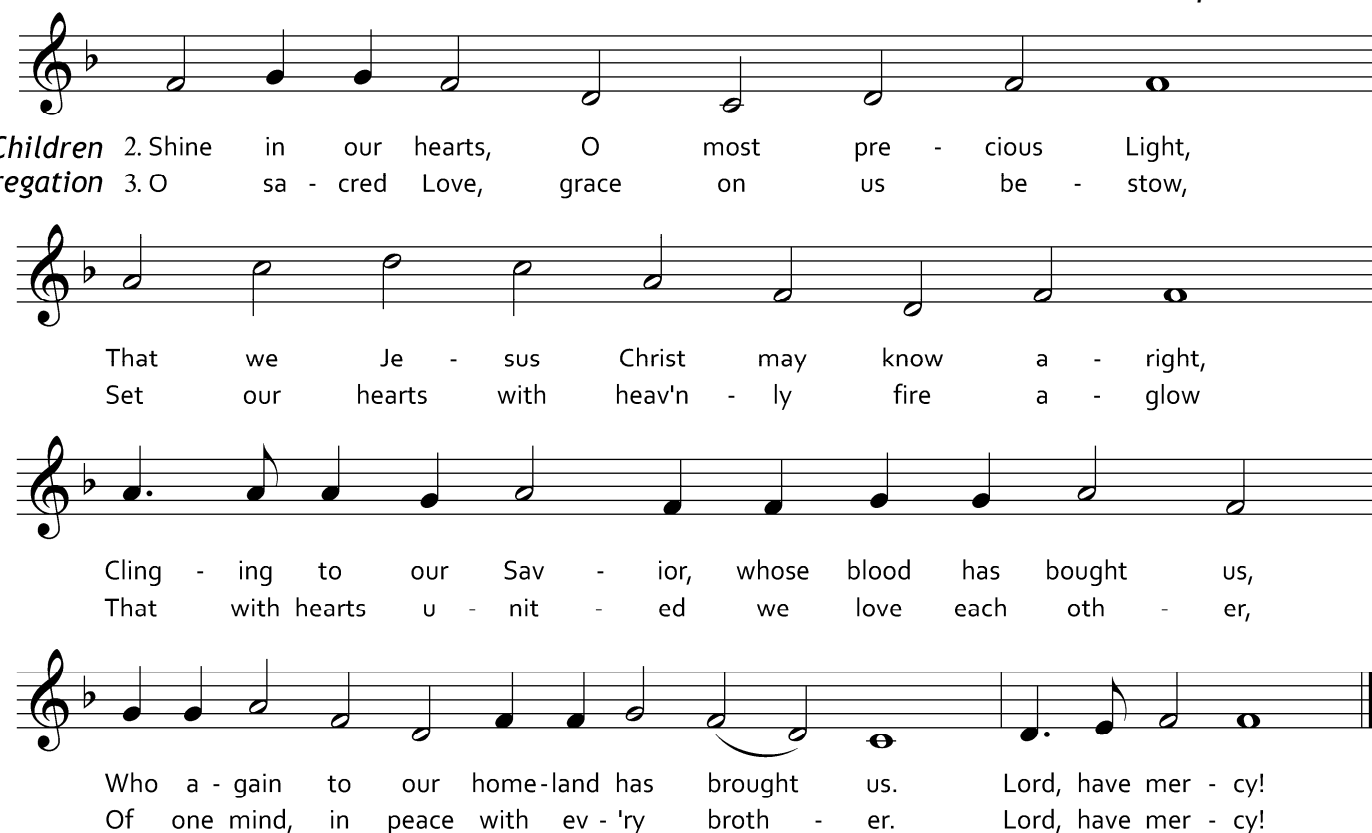
Recitations: Philippians 2:3-4 Ephesians 3:16-17

A legend states that as Martin Luther was walking home one evening, he was so in awe of the stars twinkling through the evergreens that he brought a tree into his home and decorated it with candles in an attempt to recreate the experience for his family. Although we do not know how much truth there is to the legend, some early artwork (1854) reflects a belief in the story.



HYMN: Children and Congregation

We Now Implore God the Holy Ghost Christian Worship #190 st. 2-3



The musical notation is written on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four lines of music, each with a corresponding line of lyrics. The lyrics are divided into two parts: 'Children' and 'Congregation'.

Children 2. Shine in our hearts, O most pre - cious Light,
Congregation 3. O sa - cred Love, grace on us be - stow,

That we Je - sus Christ may know a - right,
Set our hearts with heav'n - ly fire a - glow

Cling - ing to our Sav - ior, whose blood has bought us,
That with hearts u - nit - ed we love each oth - er,

Who a - gain to our home-land has brought us. Lord, have mer - cy!
Of one mind, in peace with ev - 'ry broth - er. Lord, have mer - cy!

The first stanza of this hymn dates from about the 13th century. It is an example of a popular medieval sacred folk song ending in "Kyrie eleison" (Lord, have mercy) and is thus called a Leise. Luther regarded this Leise highly and included it in his Formula Missae (Latin Mass) as a hymn that might be sung after Holy Communion. Shortly thereafter, he added three additional stanzas and the hymn gained great popularity among the German people.

Part 5: OVERFLOW

Luther's explanation of his seal:

Around the field of blue is a golden ring to symbolize that blessedness in heaven lasts forever and has no end. Heavenly blessedness is exquisite, beyond all joy and better than any possessions, just as gold is the most valuable and precious metal.

Stanzas 14-15: Overflow With Praise

Recitations: Luke 2:17-20 Acts 4:20

Sung by the Children:

My heart for very joy must leap;
My lips no more can silence keep.
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue
That sweetest ancient cradle song.

Recitation: 2 Corinthians 4:14-15

Luther: *We have nothing to give in return except praise, glory, and gratitude for the unspeakable gift . . . which through the Gospel God has shed on us abundantly.*

Sung by the Congregation:

15. Glo - ry to God in high - est heav'n,
Who un - to us his Son has giv'n!
While an - gels sing with pi - ous mirth
A glad new year to all the earth.

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!

OFFERING MUSIC:

To Shepherds as They Watched by Night

Piano: Elaine Goldie

Flute: Nicole McNamara

Please stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Almighty God, heavenly Father, we are thankful that you fulfilled all of your ancient promises and sent us a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. Your Son left the glory of heaven and became flesh of our flesh. He became our brother so that through him we might become your children. We marvel at his grace, that though he was rich, yet for our sakes he became poor, so that we through his poverty might become rich. We are indeed rich, for we have peace with you and access to your throne in every need.

Dear Savior, give us a simple, childlike faith that sees your glory even in your lowliness. Help us all to rejoice in your birth. In sincere faith we join the song of the angels and share the delight of the shepherds. May the truth, love, and redemption that you have brought dwell in our hearts and lives. Like Mary may we keep all these things and ponder them in our hearts. And since you came for all people, help us share the good news of great joy we have in you.

As you have shown us your glory, so one day bring us into your glory in heaven, where we will take our places among the saints and angels. There we will forever praise and glorify you for the grace and mercy you have shown to us poor sinners. Hear us, O Lord, for the sake of your name.

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.

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.

Please be seated

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RECESSIONAL HYMN: Congregation

Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice
Christian Worship #377 st. 1, 6, 7, 9

Written in 1523, this was Luther’s first congregational hymn. Because of its clear doctrinal statements, it grew popular with the German people and became an effective evangelism tool.

POSTLUDE

Joy to the World
By Jason. W. Krug
Violin: Maya Parra

THOSE ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

- Service Leader Pastor Timothy Patoka
- Luther Quotations..... Pastor Nathan Kassulke
- Accompanist.....Kathy Parra
- Christmas Service Directors Beth Kassulke and Kathy Parra
- Vocal Soloists..... Dylan Guenther and Nicole Peterson
- Trumpet..... Pastor Nathan Kassulke
- Clarinet..... Missy Wiechmann
- Adult Choir Director Teri Guenther
- Worship Folder Cover Art..... Laura Lipke
- Luther Seal Production..... Bob and Nadine Rentschler, Jeanette O’Donald, Sandy Weir
- Luther Seal PlacementDylan Guenther
- Sound and Recording TechsJeremy Snavelly, Chris Stuhr
- UshersDylan Guenther, Danny Koehler, Ferdie Kramm
- Greeters.....Nicole and Ronda McNamara

Sunday School and Catechism Teachers

Missy Wiechmann (Tucson)	Kathy Silver (Vail)
Amy Rudd (Tucson)	Betsy Guthrie (Vail)
Katie Patoka (Tucson)	Eric Prigge (Vail)
Meghan Heinz (Tucson)	Dolores Butcher (Sahuarita)
Phil Holden (Tucson)	Audrey Jacobs (Sahuarita)
Pastor Patoka (Tucson)	Pastor Heiman (Sahuarita)

Service Participants

Preschool/Kindergarten

Kaylie Broyles
Luke Cole
Kate Holden
David Kassulke
Asher Lane
Melanie Wiechmann

1-2 Grade

Jay Chandekar
Molly Farley
Toby Grcevich
Carson Heinz
Anna Kassulke
Zach Miller
Elsa Wiechmann
Leah Wiechmann

3-5 Grade

Jake Cole
Logan Farley
Hailey Grcevich
Colby Heinz
Sam Kassulke
Emma Miller
Dakota Wheeler

6-8 Grade

Anna Chute
Connor Farley
Owen Heiman
Naomi Kassulke
Bella Prigge
Emily Rudd

*If you would like to view this service again or to share it with friends or relatives,
it will be posted on the Grace website later this week.*

Find it at www.GraceLutheranSAZ.org, and click on "Worship & Study."

Thank you for joining us for worship. We pray that God will continue to strengthen you in your faith through his Word, during this blessed season and beyond. 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.



The Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS), a group of nearly 400,000 men, women, and children in nearly 1,300 congregations across the United States and Canada united by a common faith in Christ's saving love. We are committed to a common calling—encouraging each other in our faith and sharing God's gift of a Savior with the rest of the world.