



Christmas Eve

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

11:30 p.m.

December 24, 2019

**" A Community of Servants Sharing in the
Word and Work of Jesus"**

HOLY COMMUNION

Based on *Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Setting Four*
Congregational responses are in bold print

*We welcome all our visitors, members, friends and family to this wonderful evening of light, music, the Holy Word and fellowship. We gather each week to worship, study and share fellowship so we can joyfully serve others. We especially welcome those new to our worship. If you are looking for a church home, we would love to tell you more about Grace! Please fill in a visitor card and place it in the offering plate. **We ask that all who commune fill in a communion card. We have Gluten Free Communion Wafers available please inform Communion Assistant of your need.***

The Evangelical Lutheran Worship is the (red) book located in the racks in back of pews. The Holy Bible (red) is located in the racks under the pews. If you need help, any of our members will gladly give you friendly assistance.

*We have **4 assisted listening units** that are simple to operate. They consist of a small unit with an earpiece and volume control, each unit is replaced after each use. See the ushers to use one today.*

Restrooms: Located to your left as you face the rear of the church.

*During worship, you'll notice parts of the service in regular type, which are spoken/prayed by various worship leaders. Then there are parts the you and the rest of the congregation respond and/or pray in **bold type**. All of us are participants as we worship God! When asked to **stand**, please do so as you are able. As Jesus welcomed all in the crowds who gathered around him, so he welcomes us.*

Welcome

Pastor Pingel

Prelude:

"Now the Holly Bears a Berry"

Powell

Caroline Biggers, Flute

"Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head"

Arr. Row

Amber Bokelman

"The Wexford Carol"

Arr. Collinsworth

Caroline Biggers, Flute

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, † one God,
Love from the beginning,
Word made flesh,
Breath of heaven.

Let us confess our sinfulness before God and one another,
trusting in God's endless mercy and love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,
we confess that we are not perfect.
We have said and done things we regret.
We have tried to earn your redeeming grace,
while denying it to others.
We have resisted your call
to be your voice in the world.
Forgive us, loving God.
Give us your righteousness,
the strength to put aside our failures,
and the courage to try again. Amen.

Dear people of God, hear the good news:
Christ the Savior is born!
You are loved and forgiven
in the name of ✝ Jesus, who has come among us.
You are freed from proving that you deserve to be loved,
because God's love is given to you
as the most precious gift of all.
Rejoice in this love and share it with the world.

Gathering Song: *"On Christmas Night"*

#274, Page 5

Christmas Dawn Prayer of the Day

All powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

On Christmas Night



1 On Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing to hear the news the
2 Then why should we on earth be sad, since our re-deem-er
3 When sin de-parts be-fore his face, then life and health come
4 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
made us glad? Then why should we on earth be sad, since
in its place. When sin de-parts be-fore his face, 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 of great
our re-deem-er made us glad, when from our sin he set us
life and health come in its place. An-gels re-joice with us and
made the an-gels sing this night: "Glo-ry to God in high-est



mirth, news of our mer-ci-ful king's birth.
free, all for to gain our lib-er-ty?
sing, all for to see the new-born king.
heav'n; peace on earth, and good-will. A-men."

Text: Luke Wadding, d. 1686, alt.
Music: SUSSEX CAROL, English traditional

First Reading: Titus 3:4–7

A reading from Titus, the Third Chapter

⁴But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. ⁶This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*The congregation **stands** to welcome the gospel.*

Carol: “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

#288, Verses 1,2; Page 7

Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the Second Chapter

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,
¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

(continued on next page)

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi - ce with heart and soul and voice;
 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi - ce with heart and soul and voice;
 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi - ce with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.
 He has o - pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866
 Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German carol, 14th cent.; arr. Robert L. Pearsall, 1795–1856

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

Pastor Pingel

Silence for reflection follows the sermon

*The congregation **stands** to proclaim the word of God in song*

Carol: "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

#282, Verses 1, 2, 4; Page 9

Prayers of Intercession

Gathered with all who seek the Christ child, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Each portion of the prayers end with these or similar words

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Into your gracious hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your steadfast mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, saying, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

*The congregation is **seated**.*

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
 2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,
 3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
 4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,

from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold;
 and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world,
 who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:
 when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,

“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king.”
 A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,
 look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,

The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
 and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
 oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!
 and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810–1876
 Music: CAROL, Richard S. Willis, 1819–1900

MEAL

Offering

All loose offering (bills and change) - and checks made payable to Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church with "LFS" written in the memo line—will be given to the Lutheran Family Services of Virginia. (LFS).

All envelopes (and checks made out to Grace Lutheran Church without a memo designation to LFS) will be given to Grace and its ministries.

Offertory:

"Where The Young Child Sleeps"

Sewell

Amber Bokelman

*The congregation **stands***

The Ushers bring the offering to the Altar.

Carol: *"Hark, the Herald Angels Sing"*

#270, Verses 1,3; Page 11

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king;
 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness!

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
 born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Refrain
 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.
 Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831-1915

Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

**Generous God, you have given us life, this community, and these gifts of the earth that become the meal of your grace. Move in our hearts, that we might use your gifts to bring hope and blessing wherever we go, through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise

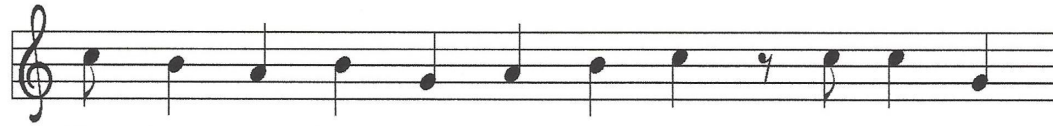
Preface

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory; that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus: *“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”*

**Page 13
Verses 1 and 14**

From Heaven Above



1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come to bear good
 2 "To you this night is born a child of Mar - y,
 3 "This is the Christ, God's Son most high, who hears your

Insert additional stanzas as desired.

12 Ah, dear - est Je - sus, ho - ly child, pre - pare a
 13 My heart for ve - ry joy now leaps; my voice no
 14 "Glo - ry to God in high - est heav'n, who un - to



news to ev - 'ry home! Glad tid - ings of great joy I
 cho - sen vir - gin mild; this new - born child of low - ly
 sad and bit - ter cry, who will him - self your Sav - ior

bed, soft, un - de - filed, a qui - et cham - ber in my
 long - er si - lence keeps; I too must sing with joy - ful
 us the Son has giv'n." With an - gels sing in pi - ous



bring to all the world, and glad - ly sing:
 birth shall be the joy of all the earth.
 be and from all sin will set you free."

heart, that you and I may nev - er part.
 tongue the sweet - est an - cient cra - dle - song:
 mirth a glad new year to all the earth!

Thanksgiving at the Table

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

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Love has come: God's love for all people.
Come and eat, for Christ invites you.

Thanks be to God!

The congregation may be seated.

The Holy Communion

*The congregation may be **seated**.*

OUR LORD BIDS YOU WELCOME TO THIS HOLY MEAL! At the table of our Lord Jesus Christ, God nourishes faith, forgives sin, and calls us to be witnesses to the Gospel. Here we receive Christ's body and blood and God's gifts of forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation to be received by faith for the strengthening of faith. In this sacrament the crucified and risen Christ is present, giving his true body and blood as food and drink. This real presence is a mystery. Admission to the Sacrament is by invitation of the Lord — regardless of Church denomination — to those who are baptized. (Taken from the ELCA statement on worship. The Use and Means of Grace ©1997)

Communion Distribution: *One communion team will serve the left side of the nave; another team will serve those on the right. You are invited to come to the altar by the center aisle; take an empty individual glass (or filled grape juice glass) available at the railing, and proceed to the railing, filling in from the center out toward the side aisle. As you receive the bread and wine, you may respond as follows:*

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

and each person may respond

Amen.

Agnus Dei: *“What Child is This”*

#296, Verses 1,2; Page 16

Communion Hymns

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

#279, Page 17

“Infant Holy”

#276, Page 18

*After all have returned to their places, the congregation **stands**.*

What Child Is This

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.

Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?
 Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead-ing.
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.

This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
 Raise, raise the 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!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898
 Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
 4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
 while mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won-d'ring love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
 O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ-mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893
 Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly



1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing new



ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, an - gels sing - ing, bells are ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Text: Polish carol; tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885–1933, alt.
Music: W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY, Polish carol

The Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

On this day, O God, you gave us Christ the Son to save us. As you sent the one foretold, send us now with good news for all people. Let the gladness of this feast have no end as we share with others the joy that fills us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Blessing

Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen

The Communion Blessing

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

#281, Page 20

Dismissal

Christ is born!

Go tell it on the mountain and everywhere.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude *“Go Tell it on The Mountain”*

Traditional/Hayes

Silent Night, Holy Night!
Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!

Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,
 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,

ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.
 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 - diant beams from your ho - ly face,

Hol - der Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher
 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 your

Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792–1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885
 Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1787–1863



The Church Office will be closed December 25 and 26 for Christmas holiday. We hope everyone has a joyous time with family and friends. May God truly bless each and everyone of you with health and happiness.



Poinsettias for decorating the Nave are given in memory of:

Barbara Aaslestad by H. G. Aaslestad
Welford Smethie by H. G. Aaslestad
My Parents by Berenice Archambeault
Our Parents by Jack and Antoinette Eckstrom
Catherine Constantino by Cathy Firkin
Our Parents by Jerry and Gwen Kite
Sarah and Jerry Gum by Ron and Sandy Knicely
Ruby by the McKechnie Family
Gerrie by the McKechnie Family
Mamie by the McKechnie Family
Their Parents: Mr. & Mrs. V. A. Moyer, Sr. and Mr. & Mrs. S. W. Kibler by Minnie and Joe Moyer
Alvin and Valla Myers by Mike and Susan Myers
Charles and Margaret Parkel by Mike and Susan Myers
Linda C. Owens by Jimmy Owens
L. Wallace Neely and Melvin E. Pingel by Paul and Jill Pingel
Elmer and Myrtle Swanson; Seward and Elizabeth Proctor and Marion Tollisen by The Proctors
Dick Sheaffer by Dottie Sheaffer and Family
Brian Dolan by Dottie Sheaffer and Family
Brian Dolan by Lydia Dolan and Family
Joanne Hagwood by Phil and Bonnie Hagwood
Mildred Shumate by Robert Shumate
Rev. and Mrs. Alfred Shumate by Robert Shumate
Brett Stein by Karl and Jane Stein
Bob Walck by Flo Walck



Poinsettias for decorating the Nave are given in honor of:

To the Glory of God by Linda Meyer
Choirs of Grace by Mike and Susan Myers
Kaitlyn and Kristen Myers by Mike and Susan Myers
Proctor, Traynor and Clark Families by The Proctors
Amber and Isabelle Bokelman by Terry and Gail Rotruck
Sandy Knicely by Dottie Sheaffer
Lisa by Dick and Linda Tomey
Rew and Karen Walck; Hal and Hunter Walck; and Nick and Sarah Altic by Flo Walck

Poinsettias for decorating the Nave are given in celebration of:

Cathy and Robin Crowder's 39th Wedding Anniversary
by their Grandchildren: Mason, Maddie, Macklin and Grayson.

Please feel free to take your poinsettias home after the 5:00 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. services

Thanks to Our Worship Assistants This Evening

<i>Assisting Minister:</i>	<i>Karla Rankin</i>
<i>Communion Assistants:</i>	<i>Donna Gum and Jerry Kite</i>
<i>Ushers:</i>	<i>Pat Brady, Marge Cloutier, Jean Morgan and Bob Moyer</i>
<i>Offering Stewards:</i>	<i>Pat Brady and Bob Shumate</i>
<i>Council Person of the Week & Sunday School Support:</i>	<i>Kim Hull</i>



Members of Grace, Ministers

Linda Meyer, President
Gordon Putnam, Vice President
Zach Bandy, Holly Carper, Pete Giesen,
Kim Hull, Gail Johnson, Kathryn Johnson,
Carrie Jones, Jerry Kite, and
Rudolph Yobs
Deloris Wertman, Secretary
Ron Almarode, Treasurer
Donna Marshall, Assistant Treasurer
Charles Goodrich, Financial Secretary



Rev. Paul Pingel, Pastor
Mike Myers, Organist, Director of Music
Nancy Dowdy, Administrative Secretary

Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. (lunch 12:00 - 12:30) - Monday - Thursday;
8:30 a.m.—Noon - Friday

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