

shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

HYMN: ELW 270 - *Hark, Now Hear the Angels Sing*

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 angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing,

Christ, by highest adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come,
offspring of a Virgin's womb.

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Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail, incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the heav'n Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lay his glory by,
Born that we no more may die
Born to raise each child of earth,
born to give us second birth

SERMON

JESUS STORY: Pastor Fred

(through this reading, individual member's candles will be lit in sanctuary)

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HYMN: ELW 281 - *Silent Night*



Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht
Alles schläft; einsam wacht
Nur das traute hochheilige Paar.
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace. Sleep in heavenly peace.

Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from your holy face,

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With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth. Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

PRAYERS

In the face of the Gospel, let us ask God for a good Christmas:
that no powerful nation should tax the poor or uproot them; that no
unmarried mother should be put away in disgrace that no door will be shut
on those who need to find it open; that shepherds and sheep and all of
nature need not be afraid; that foreigners will be welcomed and wisdom be
recognized wherever it might appear in that children may be preserved
from those who would abuse them; that this Christmas, worship may
become a manger and the church a stable, and the rumor become a reality
that Christ has come among us. And this we pray in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Adapted from Cloth for the Cradle by Wild Goose Worship Group

THE LORD' PRAYER

**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**

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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.

BENEDICTION



May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, and the everlasting peace of Jesus who is Savior, Christ, and Lord, Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you now and forever. **Amen**

CANDLES EXTINGUISH

HYMN: ELW 267 - Joy to the World

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,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, 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,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sin and sorrow grow
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.



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GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Day, December 25th – Worship at 10:30 a.m.
Sunday, December 26th – Worship Service at 10:30 a.m.
Sunday; -DQØUQG –Worship Service at 10:30 a.m.



Christmas wishes from Grace Lutheran Staff: A Blessed Christmas to all members and friends of Grace Lutheran! Pastor Fred Schneider, Kathy Coroluick, Betty Grayson, Tasha Mackay, Dorothy Schmidt and their families; and from our Church Council members.



A PRAYER BEFORE BED ON CHRISTMAS EVE. (after the kids are in bed, as you finish your eggnog, and take one last look at the tree before turning out the lights....)

“O God, bless me and all to whom I have drawn close on this night of nights. As I sleep quietly and as softly as snowfall, flake by flake, let your peace settle over this tired, broken world. Then with the coming of the light in the birth of Jesus, wake me with a shout, and set my heart singing with unspeakable joy. So may Christmas come to me and to my house and to your world. Amen.” (Robert D. Hershey 1901-1993)



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