

December 24, 2018  
Christmas Eve 5:00 pm



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church  
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Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

Pastor Daniel Wagenknecht (714) 624-9001

WELCOME! We are happy you are with us today. It would be a pleasure to get to know you better. We invite you to join any of our activities. See the schedule in the bulletin. When the offering is being received, please sign the friendship register as it is passed down the pews.

The ushers are here to help you during the service. If you need anything (temperature adjustment, restrooms, large print worship materials, hearing amplifiers, etc.) please ask them. Rest rooms and a drinking fountain can be found across the breezeway in Grace Hall. Our Information Table contains free devotions, Bibles, pamphlets, and other things for you to take home.

Five or ten minutes before the service, the organist will be playing music to encourage worshipers to find seats and get ready for worship. We ask that during the time before the service, please refrain from loud talking so that those who wish to

pray and meditate silently may do so. Please turn off cell phones when you enter the church.

The Nursery is available for parents whose children become restless. It is located behind the right pews.

To request prayers, hymns for future services, etc. please fill out an index card and hand it to an usher or Pastor.

## THE COMMON SERVICE

(Christian Worship Page 15)

OPENING HYMN: 67 What Child Is This

1 What child is this who, laid to rest,  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet With anthems sweet  
While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing.  
Haste, haste to bring him laud,  
The babe, the Son of Mary!

2 Why lies he in such mean estate  
Where oxen now are feeding?  
Good Christians, fear; For sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through;  
The cross he'll bear for me, for you.  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
The babe, the Son of Mary!

3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
Come, peasant, king, to own him.  
The King of kings Salvation brings;  
Let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high;  
The virgin sings her lullaby.  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
The babe, the Son of Mary!

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of  
the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

HYMN: Let All the People Praise You 289 Still, Still,  
Still

1. Still, still, still, Your heart with joy I'd fill.  
I'd sing you a song and watch by your manger,  
Guard you from harm and keep you from danger.  
Still, still, still, Your heart with joy I'd fill.
2. Sleep, Sleep, sleep, Mid the oxen and the sheep.  
The shepherds come to see your glory;  
Angels bend low to tell the story.  
Sleep, sleep, sleep, Mid the oxen and the sheep.
3. Still, still, still, Within your holy will.  
To you, great God, my voice I'll raise,  
With awe and wonder sing your praise.  
Still, still, still, within your holy will.

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Let us pray. Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true light. Grant that as we have known on earth the wonder of that

light, we may also behold him in all his glory in the life to come; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

## THE WORD

First Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7

<sup>2</sup>The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

For those living in the land of the shadow of death, the light has dawned.

<sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation. You have increased its joy.

They rejoice before you like the joy at harvest time, like the celebration when people divide the plunder.

<sup>4</sup>For you have shattered the yoke that burdened them.

You have broken the bar on their shoulders and the rod of their oppressor,

as you did in the day of Midian.

<sup>5</sup>Every boot that marched in battle and the garments rolled in blood will be burned.

They will be fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup>For to us a child is born.

To us a son is given.

The authority to rule will rest on his shoulders.

He will be named:

Wonderful Counselor,

Mighty God,

Everlasting Father,

Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup>There will be no limit to his authority  
and no end to the peace he brings.

He will rule on David's throne and over his  
kingdom,

to establish it and to uphold it with justice and  
righteousness

from now on, into eternity.

The zeal of the LORD of Armies will accomplish this.

Psalm 96 (CW 102)

Refrain

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord a new  
song.

Sing to the LORD, praise his name;\*  
proclaim his salvation day after day.

Declare his glory among the nations,\*  
his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

Worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness;\*  
tremble before him, all the earth.

Refrain

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord a new  
song.

Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;\*  
let the sea resound, and all that is in it;

let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them.\*  
Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy;

for he comes to judge the world in righteousness\*  
and the peoples in his truth.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son\*  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning,\*

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord a new song.

Second Lesson: 1 John 1:1–9

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have observed and our hands have touched regarding the Word of Life—<sup>2</sup>the life appeared, and we have seen it. We testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. <sup>3</sup>We are proclaiming what we have seen and heard also to you, so that you may have fellowship with us. Our fellowship is with the Father and his Son Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>We write these things to you so that our joy may be complete.

<sup>5</sup>This is the message we heard from him and proclaim to you: God is light. In him there is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup>If we say we have fellowship with him but still walk in darkness, we are lying and do not put the truth into practice. <sup>7</sup>But if we walk in the light, just as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, his Son,

cleanses us from all sin. <sup>8</sup>If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

VERSE OF THE DAY: Alleluia. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. Alleluia. (Luke 2:11)

C: Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governing Syria. <sup>3</sup>And everyone went to register, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup>And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the town of Nazareth, into Judea, to the town of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was from the house and family line of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, his wife, who was pledged to him in marriage and was expecting a child.

<sup>6</sup>And so it was that while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her

firstborn son, wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup>There were in the same country shepherds staying out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock at night. <sup>9</sup>An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified! <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. For behold, I bring you good news of great joy, which will be for all people: <sup>11</sup>Today in the town of David, a Savior was born for you. He is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>And this will be a sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup>Suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude from the heavenly army, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward mankind.”

<sup>15</sup>When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Now let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup>So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they had seen him, they told others the message they had

been told about this child. <sup>18</sup>And all who heard it were amazed by what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

## APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## HYMN OF THE DAY: 68 Away in a Manger

1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

2 The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,  
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay  
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,  
And take us to heaven to live with you there.

SERMON: “Into a Sinful World, to save the World  
from Sin”

707

## Peace Came to Earth



1 Peace came to earth at last that cho - sen night  
 2 And who could be the same for hav - ing held  
 3 You show the Fa - ther none has ev - er seen,  
 4 How else could I have known you, O my God!



When an - gels clove the sky with song and light And  
 The in - fant in their arms and lat - er felt The  
 In flesh and blood you bore our griefs and pain, In  
 How else could I have loved you, O my God! How



God em - bod - ied love and sheathed his might— Who could but  
 wound-ed hands and side, all doubts dis - pelled— Who could but  
 bread and wine you vis - it us a - gain— Who could but  
 else could I em - brace you, O my God! Who could but



gasp: Im - man - u - el! Who could but sing: Im - man - u - el!  
 sigh: Im - man - u - el! Who could but shout: Im - man - u - el!  
 see: Im - man - u - el! Who could but thrill: Im - man - u - el!  
 pray: Im - man - u - el! Who could but praise: Im - man - u - el!

*The picturesque language of this Jaroslav Vajda hymn vividly illustrates the weighty significance of God becoming man in Christ.*

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## OFFERING

There may be special music during the offering...

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

### LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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.

### CHIMES OF GRACE: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

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.

CHOIR: "Sleep in Heavenly Peace"  
"Brazilian Christmas Carol"

## CLOSING HYMN: 60 Silent Night! Holy Night

1 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.

2 Silent night! Holy night!  
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!

3 Silent night! Holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Dec 25 Christmas Day worship  
10:00 am
- Dec 31 New Year's Eve worship 7:00  
pm
- Jan 1, 2019 Festival of the Circumcision and Name  
of Jesus (no worship service)
- Mar 6 Ash Wednesday worship and supper  
6 pm and 7 pm
- Mar 13 NO WEDNESDAY WORSHIP
- Mar 14 Luther Prep School Touring Choir  
concert at 7 pm (Supper at 6)
- Mar 20, 27 Lenten worship and supper
- Apr 3, 10 Lenten worship and supper
- Apr 13 Spring Celebration
- Apr 18 Maundy Thursday worship 7:00  
pm

Apr 19 pm	Good Friday Tenebrae	7:00
Apr 20 pm	Holy Saturday Vigil	6:30
Apr 21 and 9:30 am	Easter worship	7:00

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