

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
DECEMBER 25, 2024
10:00AM



ANNOUNCEMENTS

P God loves you all the time.

C **All the time God loves you.**

Please stand as you are able

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon.

C **Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God of mercy and mercy in our midst,

C **we confess that we have sinned.**

We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.

We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

We have turned away from our neighbors.

We have trusted false promises.

We plead: come to us.

Bring your mercy to birth in us.

P A righteous branch springs forth
it is Christ the Lord our Savior,
in whom we have forgiveness, life and mercy.

By the power of the Holy Spirit,
receive the grace and forgiveness of God
through † Christ Jesus,
whose day draws near

C **Amen.**

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.

GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

A In the beginning was the Word,

C **and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

A In the Word was life,

C **and the life was the light of all people.**

A The Word became flesh and lived among us,

C **and we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P 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..

C **Amen.**

Please be seated.

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 52:7-10

⁷How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

⁸Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the LORD to Zion.

⁹Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the LORD has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰The LORD has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 98

Read Responsively

- ¹ Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.
- ² **O LORD, you have made known your victory,
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**
- ³ You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.
- ⁴ **Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands;
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**
- ⁵ Sing to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and the voice of song.
- ⁶ **With trumpets and the sound of the horn
shout with joy before the king, the LORD.**
- ⁷ Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,
the world and those who dwell therein.
- ⁸ **Let the rivers clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to judge the earth.**
- ⁹ The LORD will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with equity.

SECOND LESSON: Hebrews 1:1-12

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

⁵For to which of the angels did God ever say,

"You are my Son;
today I have begotten you"?

Or again,

"I will be his Father,
and he will be my Son"?

⁶And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

"Let all God's angels worship him."

⁷Of the angels he says,

"He makes his angels winds,
and his servants flames of fire."

⁸But of the Son he says,

"Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,
and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom.

⁹You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions."

¹⁰And,

"In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth,
and the heavens are the work of your hands;

¹¹they will perish, but you remain;
they will all wear out like clothing;

¹²like a cloak you will roll them up,
and like clothing they will be changed.

But you are the same,
and your years will never end."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL: John 1:1-14

P The holy gospel according to Saint John, the first chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

MESSAGE

Please stand at the last verse.

1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath
 2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man

sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as
 mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the
 air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the
 woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who

seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -
 vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she
 dark-ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from
 dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to

mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
 bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.
 sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.
 the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

NICENE CREED

- A In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.
C **We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.**
A Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

.Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

A brief silence.

The church sings a new song for you, O God. By the water of rebirth, you claim us as your own. Renew all the baptized by your Spirit of grace and truth, and embolden us to announce your salvation to all. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

The heavens and the earth are the work of your hands. By your Word, all things have come into being. Protect coastlands and waters. Awaken in us a heightened care for habitats threatened by rising sea levels. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Beautiful are the feet of your messengers who announce peace. Sustain the work of diplomats, relief agencies, and all who strive for peace in places of conflict and violence. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

You guard the lives of your faithful ones and rescue them in times of distress. Heed the cries of all who are afraid. Comfort the grieving and despairing, the lonely and forgotten, and those who are ill . God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Voices and instruments ring out with melodies of praise to you. Bless the music ministries of this congregation and all who lead us in making a joyful noise in worship . God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give you thanks for our ancestors in faith. As their lives bear witness to your light and love, inspire us to testify to the hope we share in you. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

All share a sign of peace and reconciliation.

Please be seated.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Sanctuary

$\text{♩} = 4\text{c}$

Lord, pre - pare me to be a sanc - tu - ar - y, pure and ho - ly, tried and
true; With thanks - giv - ing, I'll be a liv - ing sanc - tu - ar - y for You.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a tempo marking of quarter note = 4 counts. The lyrics are written below the notes. The second staff starts with a measure rest of 4 measures, indicated by a '4' above the staff. The lyrics continue below the notes.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A God of heaven and earth,
from the beginning, you have called forth life,
in which you take delight.
The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy.
Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty,
that we may join the chorus of creation
to tell of your salvation from day to day.

C **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

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 all the choirs of angels,

with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth
in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

C Come, Lord Jesus.

P Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

C Come, Holy Spirit.

P All praise and glory are yours,

Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High,
one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

A A child has been born for us, a Son given to us.
Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

LAMB OF GOD



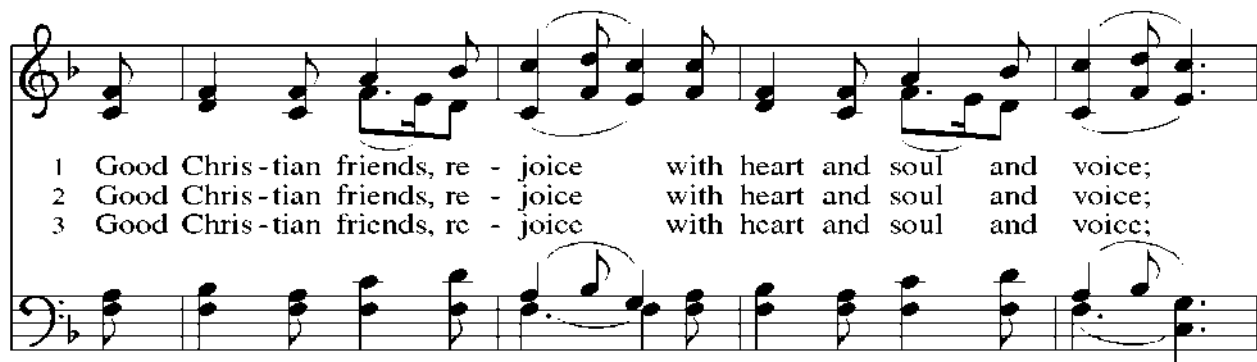
1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
c - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

COMMUNION HYMN

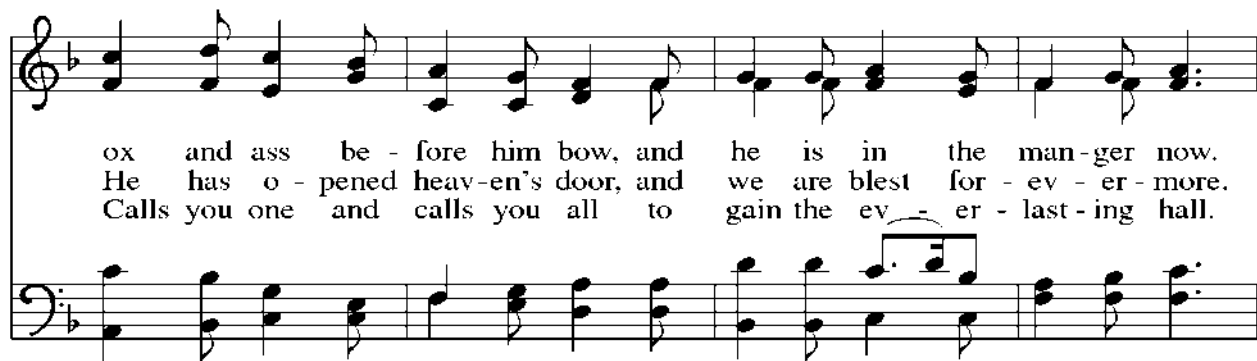
Good Christian Friends, Rejoice ELW 288



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

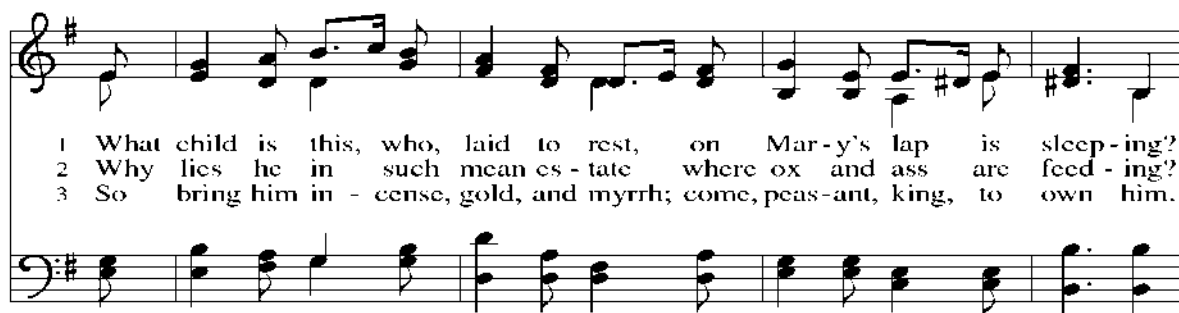


Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

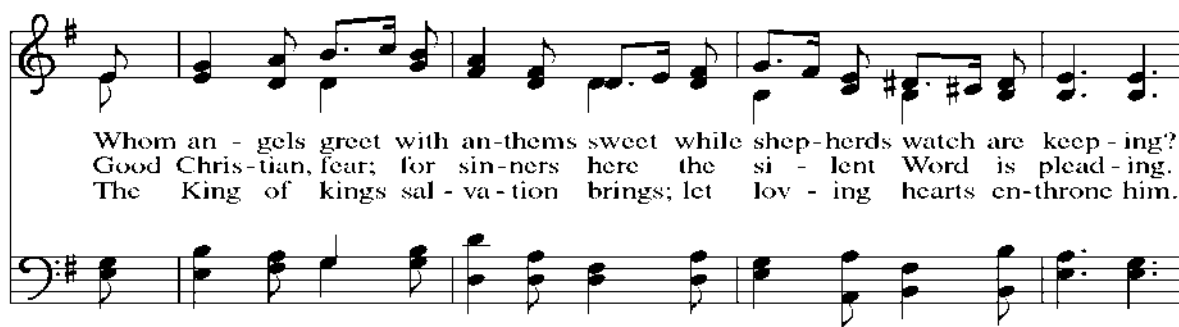
COMMUNION HYMN

What Child is This


ELW 296



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!

COMMUNION HYMN

Once in Royal David's City ELW 269

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of six systems of music. Each system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are printed below the vocal lines.

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,
2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of all,
3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love;
4 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing by,

where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:
and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;
for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav' n a - bove;
we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;

Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
with the poor and meek and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.
there his chil - dren gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.

COMMUNION BLESSING

- P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- C** Amen.

Please stand as you are able.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Merciful God,
we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food.
Strengthened by this goodness,
send us forth to announce your peace,
comfort the afflicted,
and share the good news of great joy.

C **Amen.**

BLESSING

P The God of love,
Father + Son, and Holy Spirit,
lavish you with grace,
illumine your path,
and increase your joy,
today and always.

C **Amen.**

Refrain

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



- 1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
- 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
- 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born;



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

*Refrain*

DISMISSAL

- A Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.
C **Thanks be to God.**



Worship Assistants

Assisting Minister: Elinor Knodel

Greeter: Jean Warren

Usher: Jay Snyder

Reader: Peter Tuhy

Sound: Paul Warren

Streamer: Jeremy Magoon

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

2033 Graves Road, Hockessin, Delaware 19707

(302) 239-6481 office@glcde.org www.glcde.org

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The people of Grace Lutheran Church, Ministers

The Rev. Tara Magoon, Pastor

Jordan Irazabal, Director of Music

Susan Wells Allen, Office Manager

Louis Jones, Custodian