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**GRACE LUTHERAN
CHURCH**
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
DECEMBER 17, 2008

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Fridley, MN 55432

The Birth Announcements of Jesus of Nazareth!

Opening Welcome & Prayer:

Hymn:..... *TLH 90: Come, Your Hearts*

1. Come, your hearts and voices raising,
Christ the Lord with gladness praising;
Loudly sing His love amazing,
Worthy folk of Christendom.
3. See how God, for us providing,
Gave His Son and life abiding;
He our weary steps is guiding
From earth's woe to heavenly joy.
4. Christ, from heaven to us descending
And in love our race befriending,
In our need His help extending,
Saved us from the wily Foe.
8. Gracious Child, we pray Thee, hear us,
From Thy lowly manger cheer us,
Gently lead us and be near us
Till we join th' angelic choir.

Opening Response:

P: Arise, sons of the Kingdom!

C: The King is drawing nigh;

P: Arise, and hail with gladness

C: The Ruler from on high.

P: Ye Christians, hasten forth!

C: Your praise and homage bring Him

P: And glad hosannas sing Him;

C: Naught else your love is worth.

1.

1st Lesson:..... *Genesis 3:8-15*

The announcement that the Seed of the woman would come to crush the serpent's head.

Choir:..... *Call to Advent*

2nd Lesson:..... *Genesis 22:15-18*

The announcement to Abraham that from his descendants the Savior of all the nations would come.

Hymn:..... *TLH 73: Lift Up Your Heads*

1. Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!
Behold, the King of Glory waits;
The King of kings is drawing near,
The Savior of the world is here.
Life and salvation He doth bring,
Wherefore rejoice and gladly sing:
We praise Thee, Father, now, Creator, wise art Thou!
2. A Helper just He comes to thee,
His chariot is humility,
His kingly crown is holiness,
His scepter, pity in distress,
The end of all our woe He brings;
Wherefore the earth is glad and sings:
We praise Thee, Savior, now, Mighty in deed art Thou!

3rd Lesson:..... *Micah 5:2-5a*

The announcement of the location of the Messiah's birth.

Hymn:..... *TLH 647: O Little Town of Bethlehem*

1. **[All]** O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy darkness shineth
The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.
3. **[Women only]** How silently, how silently,
The wondrous Gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heaven.
[Men only] No ear may hear His coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still,
The dear Christ enters in.

2.

4. **[All]** O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell:
Oh, come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel!

4th Lesson:..... *Isaiah 9:2,6-7*

The announcement of the Light coming in the darkness.

Hymn:..... *TLH 106: The People that in Darkness Sat*

1. The people that in darkness sat
A glorious light have seen;
The light has shined on them who long
In shades of death have been. ...
5. His name shall be the Prince of Peace,
The Everlasting Lord,
The Wonderful, the Counselor.
The God by all adored. ...
6. His righteous government and power
Shall over all extend;
On judgment and on justice based,
His reign shall have no end. ...

5th Lesson:..... *Luke 1:26-33*

The announcement is made to the Savior's mother.

CDS Children:..... *A La Nanita Nana*

6th Lesson:..... *Galatians 4:4-5*

But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

**THE BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT OF
JESUS OF NAZARETH:**

DATE/TIME: FULLNESS OF TIME

The Lighting of the Candles..... *Organ Interlude*

Note: The pastor will light the Christ candle (the white candle in the middle of the Advent wreath). Once the Christ candle is lit, the congregation is invited to come forward and light a candle from the Christ candle. Your candle will be presented to you by the usher. You may light your candle by tipping it to another lighted candle, but please do not tip a lighted candle. We ask that only children ages 5 and older hold their own candles.

3.

7th Lesson:.....*Luke 2:1-11*

The announcement by the angels to the shepherds.

Note: After singing the first stanza of Silent Night, please sing "oo" for two stanzas during the reading. Afterward the congregation may then again join in singing stanza 3:

**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.**

NOTE: TWO STANZAS OF "oo"

**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.**

Hymn:.....*WS 709: God Loves Me Dearly*

1. God loves me dearly, grants me salvation;
God loves me dearly, loves even me. *(Refrain)*
2. I was in bondage, sin, death, and darkness;
God's love was working to make me free. *(Refrain)*
3. He sent forth Jesus, my dear Redeemer;
He sent forth Jesus and set me free. *(Refrain)*
4. Jesus, my Savior, Himself did offer;
Jesus, my Savior, paid all I owed. *(Refrain)*

Refrain: Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly, loves even me.

8th Lesson:.....*Matthew 2:1-2,7-11*

The Magi from the east offer gifts befitting for the King.

Hymn:.....*WS 712: What Child Is This?*

1. **[Men only]** 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?
[Women only] 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. **[All]** 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. **[All]** 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!

9th Lesson:.....*John 1:29-36*

The announcement by John that Jesus was the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

SS Children:.....*Go Tell It on the Mountain*

Offering, Closing Prayer, Benediction:

Hymn:.....*Angels We Have Heard on High*

1. Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly song? Refrain ...
3. Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. Refrain ...

Silent Prayer:



**GRACE LUTHERAN
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**

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*The Birth
Announcements of
Jesus of Nazareth*

