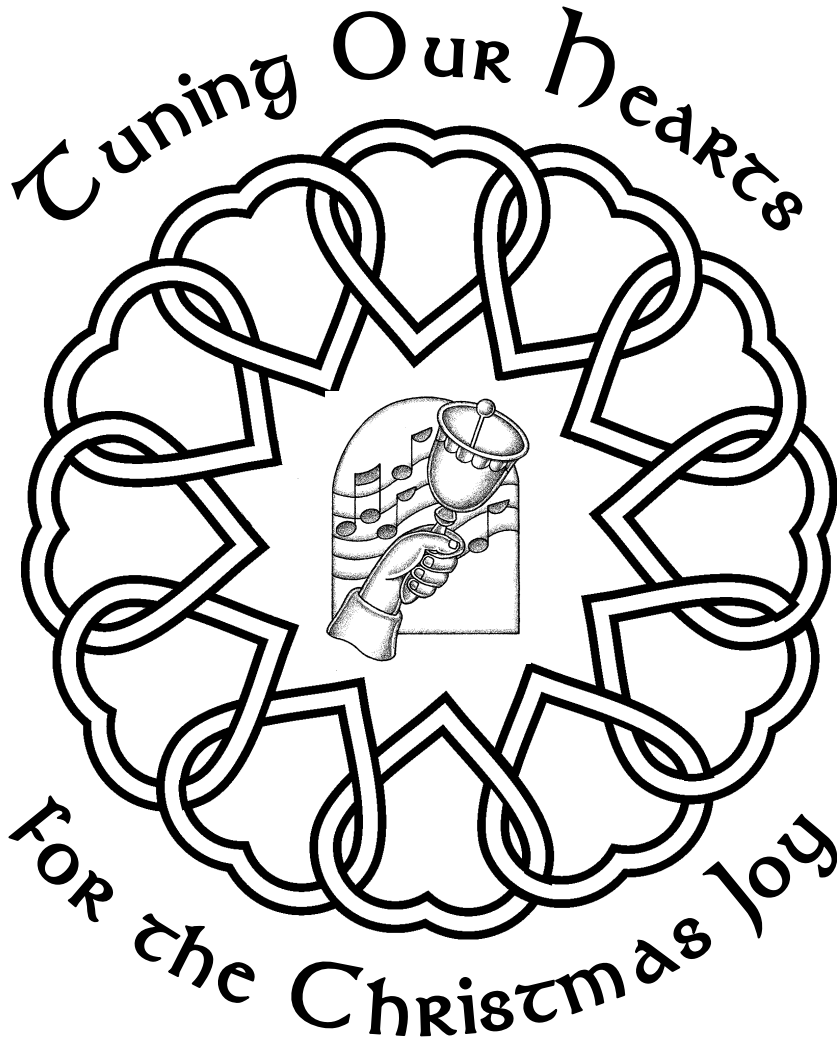


Click here to open service web page for: 2013/12/11/

Grace Lutheran Church
Advent 2013



Order of Advent Worship

Pre-Service Meditation:.....Psalm 98

1 Oh, sing to the Lord a new song! For He has done marvelous things; His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory. 2 The Lord has made known His salvation; His righteousness He has revealed in the sight of the nations. 3 He has remembered His mercy and His faithfulness to the house of Israel; All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. 4 Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth; Break forth in song, rejoice, and sing praises. 5 Sing to the Lord with the harp, With the harp and the sound of a psalm, 6 With trumpets and the sound of a horn; Shout joyfully before the Lord, the King. 7 Let the sea roar, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell in it; 8 Let the rivers clap their hands; Let the hills be joyful together before the Lord, 9 For He is coming to judge the earth. With righteousness He shall judge the world, And the peoples with equity.

Opening Hymn:

Opening Liturgy:.....Vespers, TLH p. 41

P: O Lord, open Thou my lips.

C [♩]: And my mouth shall show forth Thy praise.

P: Make haste, O God, to deliver me.

C [♩]: Make haste to help me, O Lord.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost:

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:

World without end. Amen. Hallelujah!

Confession & Absolution:

P: Let us confess our sins and find comfort in the Lord's mercy:

**C: I lay in fetters, groaning, You've come to set me free;
I stand, my sin, bemoaning, You've come to rescue me.
A glory You have given me, A peace found in Your love,
For You have now forgiven me, Will take me home above.**

*P: Sin's debt, that fearful burden, Let not your souls distress;
Your guilt the Lord has pardoned, In Him your soul now rests.
He comes to you, all willing, Moved by His Love alone,
Your woes and troubles stilling; For all to Him are known.*

Response:.....TLH 77: All My Heart This Night Rejoices

**Sing [♩]: Guilt no longer can distress me;
Son of God, Thou my load
Bearest to release me.
Stain in me Thou findest never;
I am clean, All my sin
Is removed forever.**

Responsive Psalm:..... Selected Psalms

December 4: Psalm 96, TLH p. 144

December 11: Psalm 98, TLH p. 144

Response:..... TLH 77: All My Heart This Night Rejoices

Sing [♩]: He becomes the Lamb that taketh

Sin away And for aye

Full atonement maketh.

For our life His own He tenders

And our race, By His grace,

Meet for glory renders.

Scripture Reading:.....Selected Readings:

December 4: Luke 1:5-25

December 11: Luke 1:26-38

Confession of Faith:.....Formula of Concord, Person of Christ (selected)

C:Christ did not receive His majesty, to which He was exalted according to His humanity, only after His resurrection from the dead and His ascension, but when He was conceived in His mother's womb and became man and when the divine and human nature were personally united. On account of this personal union and communion of the natures, Mary, the most blessed virgin, did not conceive a mere, ordinary human being, but a human being who is truly the Son of the most high God, as the angel testifies. He demonstrated His divine majesty even in His mother's womb in that He was born of a virgin without violating her virginity. Therefore she is truly the mother of God and yet remained a virgin. Here you must take your stand and say that wherever Christ is according to the deity, He is there as a natural, divine person and is also naturally and personally there, as His conception in His mother's womb proves conclusively.

Response:..... TLH 77: All My Heart This Night Rejoices

Sing [♩]: Forth today the Conqueror goeth,

Who the foe, Sin and woe,

Death and hell, o'erthroweth.

God is man, man to deliver;

His dear Son Now is one

With our blood forever.

Shall we still dread God's displeasure,

Who, to save, Freely gave

His most cherished Treasure?

To redeem us, He hath given

His own Son From the throne

Of His might in heaven.

Sermon: Tuning Our Hearts for the Christmas Joy

Tuning Our Hearts for the Christmas Joy:..... Luke 1:39-45

With the Song of Elizabeth

³⁹Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah, ⁴⁰and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴²Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed *are* you among women, and blessed *is* the fruit of your womb! ⁴³But why *is* this *granted* to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. ⁴⁵Blessed *is* she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord."

Hymns: TLH 66; TLH 90; TLH 653

December 11, 2013

Tuning Our Hearts for the Christmas Joy:..... Luke 1:46-55

With the Song of Mary

⁴⁶And Mary said: "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. ⁴⁸For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed. ⁴⁹For He who is mighty has done great things for me, And holy *is* His name. ⁵⁰And His mercy *is* on those who fear Him From generation to generation. ⁵¹He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered *the* proud in the imagination of their hearts. ⁵²He has put down the mighty from *their* thrones, And exalted *the* lowly. ⁵³He has filled *the* hungry with good things, And *the* rich He has sent away empty. ⁵⁴He has helped His servant Israel, In remembrance of *His* mercy, ⁵⁵As He spoke to our fathers, To Abraham and to his seed forever."

Hymns: TLH 70; TLH 76; TLH 558

December 4, 2013

Tuning Our Hearts for the Christmas Joy:..... Revelation 19:10

With the Song of the Prophecies

... the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

Candlelight Worship Service

December 18, 2013

Response: TLH 77: All My Heart This Night Rejoices

Sing [♩]: All my heart this night rejoices

As I hear Far and near

Sweetest angel voices.

"Christ is born," their choirs are singing

Till the air Everywhere

Now with joy is ringing.

Hymn:

Offering, Prayer, Lord's Prayer, & Benediction:

Closing Hymn: