

GOD'S LOVE ETERNAL



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Fridley, MN 55432

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2020 Christmas Eve Service

Processional:.....*Come Hither, Ye Children*

Congregation: Stanzas 1, 3 (Children: Stanza 2)

1. Come hither, ye children, O come one and all,
To Bethlehem haste to the manger so small,
God's Son for a gift has been sent you this night
To be your Redeemer, your joy and Delight.
2. He's born in a stable for you and for me;
Draw near by the bright gleaming starlight to see,
In swaddling clothes lying, so meek, and so mild,
And purer than angels - the heavenly Child.
4. Kneel down and adore Him with shepherds today
Lift up little hands now and praise Him as they;
Rejoice that a Savior from sin you can boast,
And join in the song of the heavenly Host.

Wales: Unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given:

Oman: and the government shall be upon His shoulder:

Baker: And His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Boe: Of the increase of *His* government and peace *There will be* no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom,

Nelson: To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever.

Dahl: The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this. Isaiah 9:6-7



Pastor: *The Lord be with you.*

Congregation: And also with you and the children.

Scripture Reading:.....*John 1:1-5, 10-14*

Prayer:

Congregation:*TLH 88:1-3: This Night a Wondrous Revelation*

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| 1. This night a wondrous revelation
Makes known to me God’s love and grace;
The Child that merits adoration
Brings light to our benighted race;
And though a thousand suns did shine,
Still brighter were that Light divine. | 2. The Sun of Grace for thee is beaming;
Rejoice, my soul, in Jesus’ birth!
The light from yonder manger streaming
Sends forth its rays o’er all the earth.
It drives the night of sin away
And turns our darkness into day. |
| 3. This light, which all thy gloom can banish,
The bliss of heaven glorifies;
When sun and moon and stars shall vanish,
Its rays shall still illumine the skies.
This light thro’ all eternity
Thy heav’n and all to thee shall be. | |

Children: Tonight we once again approach the manger of Bethlehem. There we see the love of God manifest toward sinners with the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Our service will focus on the Law to expose our sin and the timeless Christmas Gospel to heal us. Listen to this message as we consider our theme: **“GOD’S LOVE ETERNAL.”**

Children: *God’s Love Eternal (Tune of WS 709)*

Congregation: Please join in on final refrain after children sing stanza 6.

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| 1. God’s love eternal
Planned my redemption
God’s boundless mercy
Sought even me. | 2. I was in bondage,
Sin, death and darkness;
God’s love was working
To make me free. | 3. God’s love brought Jesus,
Gentle and faithful,
Seeking and saving
That which was lost. |
| 4. I shall inherit
Eternal pleasure,
Through Christ inherit
Eternal rest. | 5. God’s love is soothing
All of my sorrows,
God’s love is healing
All of my wounds. | 6. Thus I am praising
God’s love eternal,
For aye adoring
My Savior King. |

Refrain: Therefore rejoice and praise His boundless mercy;
His love eternal Sought even me.

♥ PART 1: THE WORTH OF YOUR SOUL ♥

Cam: “For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?” Mark 8:36-37

Lilly: None *of them* can by any means redeem *his* brother, Nor give to God a ransom for him-- For the redemption of their souls is costly, ... Psalm 49:7-8

Sienna: “What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it?” Luke 15:4

Lucas: “Even so it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.” Matthew 18:14

Reagan: “This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day.” John 6:39

Riley: For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s. 1 Corinthians 6:20

Alexandra: ... knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, *like* silver or gold, from your aimless conduct *received* by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. 1 Peter 1:18-19

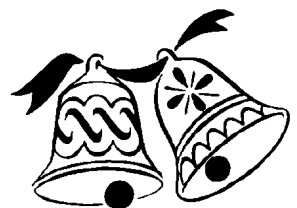
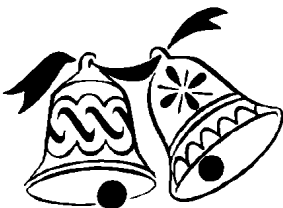
Naomi: “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” Mark 10:45

Congregation:..... **TLH 324:1,3,8: Jesus Sinners Doth Receive**

1. Jesus sinners doth receive;
Oh, may all this saying ponder
Who in sin’s delusions live
And from God and heaven wander!
Here is hope for all who grieve -
Jesus sinners doth receive.

3. Sheep that from the fold did stray
No true shepherd e’er forsaketh
Weary souls that lost their way
Christ, the Shepherd, gently taketh
In His arms that they may live -
Jesus sinners doth receive.

8. Jesus sinners doth receive
Also I have been forgiven;
And when I this earth must leave,
I shall find an open heaven.
Dying, still to Him I cleave -
Jesus sinners doth receive.



♥ PART 2: GOD'S ESTIMATE OF YOU ♥

Uriah: "There is none righteous, no, not one; There is none who seeks after God. ... There is none who does good, no, not one." Romans 3:10-12

Tavia: But we are all like an unclean *thing*, And all our righteousnesses *are* like filthy rags; ...
Isaiah 64:6

Fiona: Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me. Psalm 51:5

Zara: Yet God in His mercy, leaves us not in our deplorable, lost, forsaken condition. He seeks us out to rescue us from our plight.

Benno: [God] desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. 1 Timothy 2:4

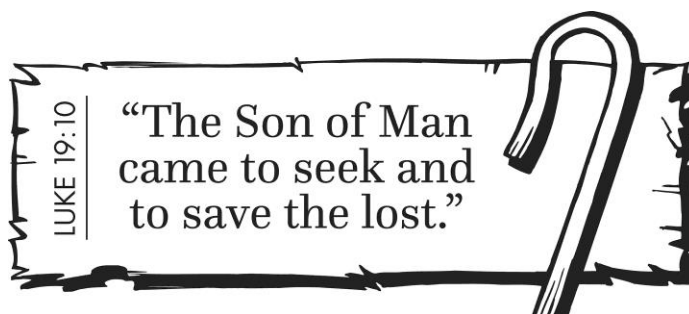
Sydney: "... for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost." Luke 19:10

Samuel: "I will seek what was lost and bring back what was driven away, ..." Ezekiel 34:16

Cecelia: "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand." John 10:28

Children:*Rejoice Ye Sons of Men Always! (Tune TLH 85)*

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| 1. Rejoice, ye sons of men always!
God comes to you from heav'n today;
The Lord is born a little child
Of Mary, chosen virgin mild. | 2. He brings us peace and happiness,
He heals all sorrow and distress
Which on account of Adam's fall
Forever weighed upon us all. |
| 3. Through His low birth and holy blood
We are all saved by Christ, true God;
The angel's glory we shall share
And in His kingdom live fore'er. | |



♥ PART 3: THE PENALTY FOR YOUR SIN ♥

Benno: For if you live according to the flesh you will die; ... Romans 8:13

Sydney: The wages of sin is death. Romans 6:23

Samuel: “The soul who sins shall die.” Ezekiel 18:20

Cecelia: ... through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned. Romans 5:12

Uriah: “And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.” John 3:19

Fiona: Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? ... 1 Corinthians 6:9

Zara: Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 1 Corinthians 15:50

Tavia: Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels. Matthew 25:41

Naomi: Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “Cursed *is* everyone who hangs on a tree”), ... Galatians 3:13

Alexandra: For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, ... 1 Peter 3:18

Congregation:..... *TLH 369:1,3-5: All Mankind Fell in Adam’s Fall*

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| 1. All mankind fell in Adam’s fall,
One common sin infects them all;
From sire to son the bane descends,
And over all the curse impends. | 3. From hearts depraved, to evil prone,
Flow thoughts and deeds of sin alone;
God’s image lost, the darkened soul
Nor seeks nor finds its heavenly goal. |
| 4. But Christ, the second Adam, came
To bear our sin and woe and shame,
To be our Life, our Light, our Way,
Our only Hope, our only Stay. | 5. As by one man all mankind fell
And, born in sin, was doomed to hell,
So by one Man, who took our place,
We all received the gift of grace. |

♥ PART 4: YOUR UTTER HELPLESSNESS TO SAVE YOURSELF ♥

Riley: For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. Romans 7:15

Reagan: For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. Galatians 5:17

Lucas: Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin. Romans 3:20

Sienna: Our efforts to save ourselves will only fail. Only God in His grace can save us! For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, ... Titus 2:11

Cam: ... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ... Romans 3:23-24

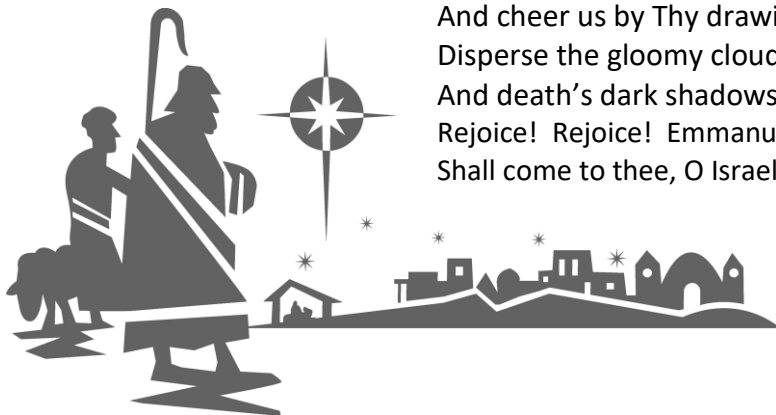
Lilly: For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. Ephesians 2:8-9

Children: *TLH 62:1-3 Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel*

1. Oh, come, Oh, come Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

2. Oh, come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

3. Oh, come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.



♥ PART 5: YOUR NEED FOR A NEW BIRTH ♥

Zara: “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” John 3:3

Uriah: “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ... ‘You must be born again.’” John 3:5,7

Reagan: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. 2 Corinthians 5:17

Naomi: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to living hope ... having been born again ... through the word of God which lives and abides forever. 1 Peter 1:3,23

Alexandra: ... not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ... Titus 3:5-6

Sienna: [God] has saved us and called *us* with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began, ... 2 Timothy 1:9

Lucas: Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, ... Ephesians 1:3

Congregation:.....***TLH 63:1-4 On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry***

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| 1. On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Come, then, and hearken for he brings
Glad tidings from the King of kings. | 2. Then cleansed be ev’ry Christian breast
And furnished for so great a Guest.
Yea, let us each our hearts prepare
For Christ to come and enter there. |
| 3. For Thou art our Salvation, Lord,
Our Refuge, and our great Reward.
Without Thy grace our souls must fade
And wither like a flow’r decayed. | 4. Lay on the sick Thy healing hand
And make the fallen strong to stand;
Show us the glory of Thy face
Till beauty springs in every place. |

♥ PART 6: THE ONLY REMEDY FOR YOUR SIN ♥

Oman: “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” John 1:29

Dahl: ... the blood of Jesus Christ [God’s] Son cleanses us from all sin. 1 John 1:7

Oman & Dahl:.....*TLH 371:1: Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness*

Jesus, Thy blood and righteousness
My beauty are, my glorious dress;
Midst flaming worlds, in these arrayed,
With joy shall I lift up my head.

Baker: But God demonstrates His love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

Nelson: ... not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us. Titus 3:5

Baker & Nelson:*TLH 373:4: By Grace I’m Saved, Grace Free and Boundless*

By grace God’s Son, our only Savior,
Came down to earth to bear our sin.
Was it because of thine own merit
That Jesus died thy soul to win?
Nay, it was grace, and grace alone,
That brought Him from His heavenly throne.

Boe: In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins. 1 John 4:10

Wales: “Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” Acts 4:12

Boe & Wales: *TLH 342:2: Chief of Sinners Though I Be*

Oh, the height of Jesus’ love!
Higher than the heav’ns above,
Deeper than the depths of sea,
Lasting as eternity.
Love that found me – wondrous thought –
Found me when I sought Him not.

Children: For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. John 3:16

Congregation:.....*TLH 114:1-3,5: Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love*

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| 1. Jesus! Name of wondrous love,
Name all other names above,
Unto which must ev'ry knee
Bow in deep humility. | 2. Jesus! Name decreed of old,
To the maiden mother told -
Kneeling in her lowly cell -
By the angel Gabriel. |
| 3. Jesus! Name of priceless worth
To the fallen sons of earth
For the promise that it gave,
"Jesus shall His people save." | 5. Jesus! Only name that's given
Under all the mighty heaven
Whereby man, to sin enslaved,
Burns his fetters and is saved. |

♥ PART 7: GOD’S FREE GIFT OF SALVATION TO YOU ♥

Lilly: We now present what the Bible says about Jesus’ priceless birth, coming to us in love.

Children:*Luke 2:1-7*

¹ And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. ² (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) ³ And all went to be taxed, everyone into his own city. ⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) ⁵ To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. ⁶ And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. ⁷ And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

Grades P-4:*In a Little Stable*

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| 1. In a little stable
Far across the sea
Was a little Baby
Just like you and me. | 2. Not a bed or cradle,
Not a pillow deep,
But a lowly manger
Was His place to sleep. |
| 3. Shepherds stood around Him,
Angels watched with care,
For this Babe was Jesus,
Lying smiling there. | 4. Oh, I love this Jesus,
Who was little then,
For He surely loves me,
Little though I am. |

Children:*Luke 2:8-14*

⁸ And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. ¹⁰ And the angel said unto them, "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. ¹¹ "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. ¹² "And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

Children:*As Lately We Watched*

1. As lately we watched o'er our fields through the night,
A star there was seen of such glorious light;
All thro' the night angels did sing
Sweet carols in praise of the birth of a King.
2. A King of such beauty was ne'er before seen,
And Mary, His mother, so calm and serene.
Blest be the hour, welcome the morn,
For Christ, our dear Savior, on earth now is born.
3. His throne is a manger, His court is a loft,
But troops of bright angels, in lays sweet and soft,
Him they proclaim, our Christ by name,
And earth, sky, and air straight are filled with His fame.
4. Then, shepherds, be joyful, salute your liege King,
Let hills ring and dales to the song that ye sing;
Blest be the hour, welcome the morn,
For Christ, our dear Savior, on earth now is born.



Children:*Luke 2:15-20*

¹⁵ And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, "Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known to us." ¹⁶ And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. ¹⁷ And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this Child. ¹⁸ And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. ¹⁹ But Mary kept all these things, and pondered *them* in her heart. ²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

Cam: And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him. 1 John 4:16

Children: In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. 1 John 4:9

“GOD’S LOVE ETERNAL!”

Children:*I am so Glad Each Christmas Eve (Tune ELH 127)*

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| 1. I am so glad each Christmas Eve,
The night of Jesus’ birth!
Then like the sun the star shone forth,
And angels sang on earth. | 2. The little child in Bethlehem,
He was a king indeed!
For He came down from heav’n above
To help a world in need. |
| 3. He dwells again in heaven’s realm,
The Son of God today;
And still He loves His little ones
And hears them when they pray. | 4. I am so glad each Christmas Eve!
His praises then I sing;
He opens now for ev’ry child
The palace of the king. |

Closing Prayer:

Benediction:

Congregation [♫]: Amen, Amen, Amen

Congregation:*TLH 87: Joy to the World, the Lord is Come*

Congregation: Stanzas 2-4 (Children: Stanza 1)

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| 1. 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. | 2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ,
While fields & floods, rocks, hills, & plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy. |
| 3. No more let sins and sorrows 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. | 4. 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. |