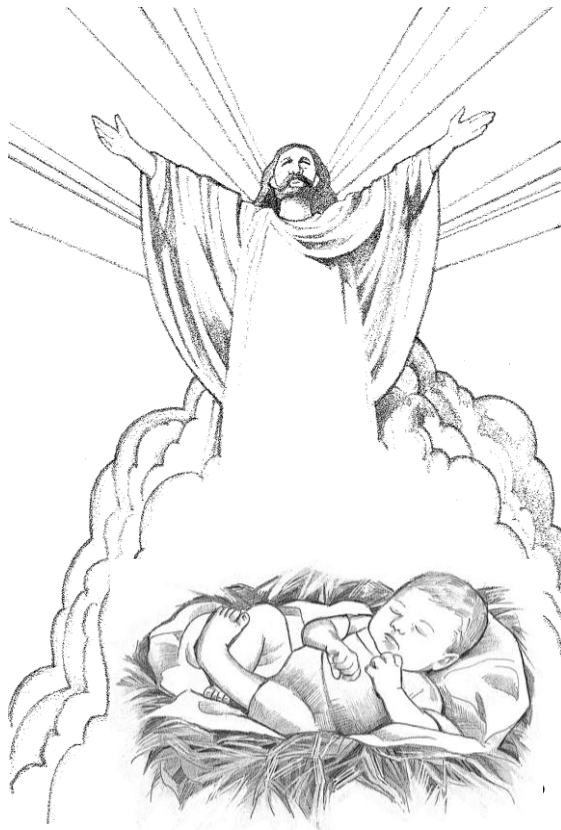

Grace Lutheran Church
Advent 2023

From the Paradise of Eden



To the Paradise of Heaven

Order of Advent Worship

Pre-Service Meditation: Psalm 118, TLH p. 148 f.

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. Amen.

Response: TLH 105: Praise God the Lord, Ye Sons of Men

Sing [♩]: Praise God the Lord, ye sons of men,

Before His highest throne;

Today He opens heav'n again

And gives us His own Son,

And gives us His own Son.

Responsive Psalm: Selected Psalms

December 6: Psalm 2, TLH p. 123

December 13: Psalm 8, TLH p. 124

Response:.....TLH 105: Praise God the Lord, Ye Sons of Men

**Sing [♫]: He leaves His heav'nly Father's throne,
Is born an infant small,
And in a manger, poor and lone,
Lies in a humble stall,
Lies in a humble stall.**

Scripture Reading:Selected Readings:

December 6: Genesis 2:1-9; 3:1-24

December 13: 1 Corinthians 5:1-21

Confession of Faith:.....Luther's Explanation to the 2nd Article

C:I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sin, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and His innocent suffering and death. He did this that I should be His very own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and joy; just as He is risen from death, lives and reigns in eternity. This is most certainly true.

Response:.....TLH 105: Praise God the Lord, Ye Sons of Men

**Sing [♫]: A wondrous change which He does make!
He takes our flesh and blood,
And He conceals for sinners' sake
His majesty of God.
His majesty of God.**

Sermon:.....See Back of Bulletin for Text and Themes

December 6: Paradise Lost (Genesis 3:22-24)

December 13: Paradise Promised (Isaiah 51:3, 6)

Response:.....TLH 105: Praise God the Lord, Ye Sons of Men

**Sing [♫]: Christ opens us again the door
Of Paradise today;
The angel guards the gate no more.
To God our thanks we pay.
To God our thanks we pay.**

Hymn:

Offering, Prayer, & Lord's Prayer:

Benediction:

Closing Hymn:

FROM THE PARADISE OF EDEN TO THE PARADISE OF HEAVEN

Paradise Lost: Genesis 3:22-24

(22) Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"; (23) therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. (24) So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

Hymns: TLH 65; TLH 91; TLH 558

December 6, 2023

Paradise Promised:..... Isaiah 51:3, 6

(3) For the LORD will comfort Zion, He will comfort all her waste places; He will make her wilderness like Eden, And her desert like the garden of the LORD; Joy and gladness will be found in it, Thanksgiving and the voice of melody. ... (6) Lift up your eyes to the heavens, And look on the earth beneath. For the heavens will vanish away like smoke, The earth will grow old like a garment, And those who dwell in it will die in like manner; But My salvation will be forever, And My righteousness will not be abolished.

Hymns: TLH 61; TLH 56; TLH 552, st. 1-3, 8

December 13, 2023

Paradise Nurtured:..... 2 Peter 1:19

And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts;

Candlelight Service

December 20, 2023

Paradise Realized:..... Revelation 2:7b

"To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God."

Christmas Day

December 25, 2023