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GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
DECEMBER 20, 2006

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Angels We Have Heard on High

CALL TO WORSHIP:.....*TLH 104, s. 1, 6-7: Now Praise We Christ*

OPENING DIALOG:*Hebrews 2:9-10*

P: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world.

C: The Light no darkness can overcome.

P: We see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels,

C: for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor,

P: that He, by the grace of God,

C: might taste death for everyone.

P: For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory,

C: to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings."

P: Announcements ... Let us pray:

Lord, open our minds and hearts by the power of Your Holy Spirit, that we may hear and rejoice in the Gospel of our Savior's coming birth, told in story and song this night. We ask this in the name of that Savior, Jesus Christ, the Light of the world.

C: [Sung] Amen.

HYMN:.....*TLH 77: All My Heart This Night Rejoices*

1. **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.
5. **If our blessed Lord and Maker**
Hated men, Would He then Be of flesh partaker?
If He in our woe delighted,
Would He bear All the care Of our race benighted?

OFFERING HYMN:.....*TLH 127: As with Gladness Men of Old*

1. **As with gladness men of old**
Did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward, beaming bright,
So, most gracious Lord, may we
Evermore be led by Thee!
4. **Holy Jesus, every day**
Keep us in the narrow way;
And when earthly things are past.
Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide,
Where no clouds Thy glory hide.
5. **In the heavenly country bright**
Need they no created light;
Thou its Light, its Joy, its Crown,
Thou its Sun which goes not down.
There forever may we sing
Alleluias to our King!

Hallelujah!



CLOSING PRAYER & BLESSING:

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

1. **[Women]** Angels we have heard on high,
 Sweetly singing o'er the plains.
 And the mountain in reply
 Echoing their joyous strains:
All: Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!
2. **[Men]** Shepherds, why this jubilee?
 Why your joyous strains prolong?
 What the gladsome tidings be
 Which inspire your heav'nly song?
All: Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!
3. **[Children]** Come to Bethlehem and see
 Him whose birth the angels sing:
 Come adore on bended knee
 Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
All: Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!
4. **[All]** **Glory to the Father be,**
Glory, Virgin-born, to Thee,
Glory to the Holy Ghost,
Praised by men and heav'nly host:
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

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:.....*Away in a Manger*

- 1. Away in a manger, No crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus Laid down his sweet head;
The stars in the sky Looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus, Asleep on the hay.**
- 2. The cattle are lowing, The Baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, No crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, Look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle Till morning is nigh.**
- 3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever, And love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children In Thy tender care,
And take us to heaven To live with Thee there.**

EIGHTH READING:..... *Hebrews 1:1-9*
Jesus, while made a little lower than the angels, is greater!

CHILDREN:..... *WS 708: Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful*

- Oh, come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant,
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem
Come and behold Him, Born the King of angels.
Oh, come, let us adore Him,
Oh, come, let us adore Him,
Oh, come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.
- Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above.
Glory to God, In the highest. (*Refrain*)
- [All] Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n.
Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing.
Oh, come, let us adore Him,
Oh, come, let us adore Him,
Oh, come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.**

NINTH READING:..... *Revelation 7:9-17*
We will one day join all the angels to praise our Savior!

**8. Come, then, banish all your sadness,
One and all, Great and small; Come with songs of gladness.
Love Him who with love is glowing;
Hail the Star, Near and far Light and joy bestowing.**

FIRST READING:..... *Genesis 3:8-15, 22-24*
The Fall compels God to promise the Savior.

HYMN:..... *TLH 62: Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel*

- [Women]** Oh, come, Oh, come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

**ALL: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

- [Men]** Oh, come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save
And give them victory o'er the grave.

**ALL: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

- [All]** 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.**

SECOND READING:..... *Genesis 22:15-18*
The Angel of the LORD promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall the nations of the earth be blessed.

HYMN:..... *TLH 95: Savior of the Nations, Come*

- [Men]** Savior of the nations, come,
Virgin's Son, make here Thy home!
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.
- [Women]** Not by human flesh and blood,
By the Spirit of our God,
Was the Word of God made flesh –
Woman's Offspring, pure and fresh.
- [All]** **Brightly doth Thy manger shine,
Glorious is its light divine.
Let not sin o'ercloud this light;
Ever be our faith thus bright.**



THIRD READING:.....*Zechariah 3:3-9*

The Angel of the LORD tells of how the filth of our sin is taken away through the promised Branch of Righteousness, the Savior.

HYMN:.....*TLH 645: Behold, A Branch is Growing*

- 1. Behold a branch is growing
As of loveliest form and grace,
As prophets sung, foreknowing;
It springs from Jesse's race
And bears one little Flower
In midst of coldest winter,
At deepest midnight hour.**
- 2. Isaiah hath foretold It
In words of promise sure,
And Mary' s arms enfold It,
A virgin meek and pure.
Through God's eternal will
This Child to her is given
At midnight calm and still.**
- 3. The shepherds heard the story,
Proclaimed by angels bright,
How Christ, the Lord of Glory,
Was born on earth this night.
To Bethlehem they sped
And in the manger found him,
As angel heralds said.**



FOURTH READING:.....*Luke 1:26-38*

The angel appears to Mary

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

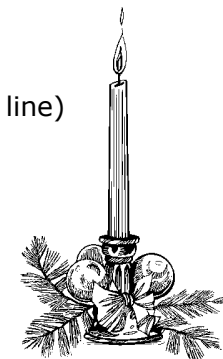
- 1. [Women]** What child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet With anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?
[Men] This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!
- 2. [All]** **Why 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!**

FIFTH READING:.....*Isaiah 9:2, 6-7*

Christ, the Light of the world, will come

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. ... (repeat line)**
- 5. His name shall be the Prince of Peace,
The Everlasting Lord,
The Wonderful, the Counselor,
The God by all adored. ... (repeat line)**
- 6. His righteous government and power
Shall over all extend;
On judgment and on justice based,
His reign shall have no end. ... (repeat line)**



SIXTH READING:.....*Malachi 3:1*

"Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple, Even the Messenger of the covenant, In whom you delight. Behold, He is coming," Says the LORD of hosts. (NKJV™)

*The Angel of the LORD Appears as
the Messenger of the Covenant*

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES:

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.

SEVENTH READING:.....*Luke 2:1-11*

Christ, as the Light of the world, is born.

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.**