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# Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Choir: Shepherds Awake

**Congregation**: Stanzas 2-3; Children: Stanza 1

- 1. Angels from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o'er all the earth; Ye who sang creation's story, Now proclaim Messiah's birth: Come and worship, Come and worship; Worship Christ, the new-born King.
- 2. Shepherds in the fields abiding, Watching o'er your flocks by night, God with man is now residing, Yonder shines the Infant Light: Come and worship, Come and worship, Worship Christ, the new-born King.
- 3. Sages, leave your contemplations; **Brighter visions beam afar;** Seek the great Desire of nations, Ye have seen His natal star: Come and worship, Come and worship; Worship Christ, the new-born King.

### Responsive Reading: Psalm 148:1-5, 11-14

**Pastor:** Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; Praise Him in the heights!

**Children:** Praise Him, all His angels; Praise Him, all His hosts!

- **Congregation:** Praise Him, sun and moon; Praise Him, all you stars of light!
- **Pastor:** Praise Him, you heavens of heavens, And you waters above the heavens!
- **Congregation:** Let them praise the name of the LORD, For He commanded and they were created.

**Pastor:** Kings of the earth and all peoples; Princes and all judges of the earth;

**Children:** Both young men and maidens; Old men and children.

**Congregation:** Let them praise the name of the LORD, For His name alone is exalted; His glory *is* above the earth and heaven.

**Pastor:** And He has exalted the horn of His people, The praise of all His saints;

**Congregation:** Of the children of Israel, A people near to Him. Praise the LORD!

### **Opening Prayer and Announcements:**

## **INTRODUCTION:** HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

**Pastor:** Angels seem to appeal to a lot of people these days. Certainly God has created angels to comfort, strengthen, and protect His people. But throughout the Bible the most important function of angels was to bring some sort of news,

just as they did on Easter morning by declaring of Jesus, "He is risen. He is not here." Angel simply means "messenger." God sends His angels as messengers of the glad tidings, especially the glorious news of our Savior's birth. He came to be our Savior from sin! This is what Christmas is all about. This is why on Christmas night we hear the joyous refrain:



### HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

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**Congregation**: Please join in singing the final stanza.

- 1. Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains. And the mountains in reply Echoing their joyous strains: (Refrain)
- 3. Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing: Come adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King. (R)

**Refrain:** Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

- 2. Shepherds, why this jublilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heav'nly song? (R)
- 4. Glory to the Father be, Glory, Virgin-born, to Thee, Glory to the Holy Ghost, Praised by men and heav'nly host: (R)

## PART ONE: The LORD's Angels Serve

- **N-Christina:** Angels are popular because they are part of the supernatural. Certainly angels exist as the Bible tells us. But they are not more important than the LORD Himself. He is the one who created them and sends them for the purpose of furthering His work. They serve God as they serve, or minister to, His people.
- **N-Matt:** Angels serve God by doing everything He commands them:
- **Charles:** Bless the LORD, you His angels, Who excel in strength, who do His word, Heeding the voice of His word. (Psalm 103:20)
- **Julianna:** Bless the LORD, all *you* His hosts, *You* ministers of His, who do His pleasure. (Psalm 103:21)
- **Jack:** The LORD makes His angels spirits, His ministers a flame of fire. (Psalm 104:4)
- **N-Matt:** Angels help believers, even little children, in their daily life:
- David: "Take heed that you do not despise one of these
  - little ones, for I say to you that in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven." (Matthew 18:10)
- **Stephanie:** For He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you in all your ways. (Psalm 91:11)
- **Michael:** In *their* hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone. (Psalm 91:12)
- **Olivia:** The angel of the LORD encamps all around those who fear Him, And delivers them. (Psalm 34:7)
- **John:** Let those be put to shame and brought to dishonor Who seek after my life; Let those be turned back and brought to confusion Who plot my hurt. Let them be like chaff before the wind, And let the angel of the LORD chase *them.* (Psalm 35:4-5)



**N-Matt:** Angels rejoice at the Gospel and when sinners repent and believe:

- **Brooke:** "Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." (Luke 15:10)
- **Ned:** "Also I say to you, whoever confesses Me before men, him the Son of Man also will confess before the angels of God. But he who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God." (Luke 12:8-9)
- **Emily:** ... but to us the prophets were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven; things which angels desire to look into. (1 Peter 1:12)
- **Rachel R.:** But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, ... to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than *that of* Abel. (Hebrews 12:22-24)
- **N-Matt:** God is to be praised for sending His angels:
- **Adam:** Now I, John, ... fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things. Then he said to me, "See *that you do* not *do that.* For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God." (Revelation 22:8–9)
- **Pre-School:** God sends His holy angels To watch and care for me. May I give God the glory Now and eternally.
- Congregation: .... TLH 256: Around the Throne of God a Band (Tune TLH 85)
  - 1. Around the throne of God a band Of glorious angels ever stand; Bright things they see sweet harps they hold, And on their heads are crowns of gold.
  - 3. Lord, give Thy angels every day Command to guide us on our way And bid them every evening keep Their watch around us while we sleep.
  - 4. So shall no wicked thing draw near To do us harm or cause us fear; And we shall dwell, when life is past, With angels round Thy throne at last.



## PART TWO: The Coming of the Angel of the LORD

- **N-Dylan:** Throughout the Old Testament, a special angel is mentioned. This angel is the Angel of the LORD. Even in the Book of Malachi, which means "my angel," this Angel is mentioned as the One who is coming. The Angel of the LORD is therefore none other than the Savior Himself!
- **N-Abbie:** Notice how this Angel of the LORD is identified as God Himself when He came to Moses at the burning bush:
- **Karie:** And the Angel of the LORD appeared to Moses in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. ... So when the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" ... Moreover He said, "I am the God of your father; the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God. (Exodus 3:2-6)
- **N-Abbie:** Even when Abraham was about to sacrifice his son Isaac we see that the Angel of the LORD speaks as the LORD Himself, promising the coming Savior:
- **Matt:** Then the Angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, and said: "By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son; blessing I will bless you, ... In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice." (Genesis 22:15-18)
- **N-Abbie:** In the Book of Malachi we see that this Messenger or Angel is none other than the Savior. John the Baptist would be the one to prepare the way for Him:
- **Christina:** "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. "But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire And like launderer's soap." (Malachi 3:1-2)



**Jacob:** "He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He

will purify the sons of Levi, And purge them as gold and silver, That they may offer to the LORD An offering in righteousness." (Malachi 3:3)

- 1. As angels joyed with one accord Upon the advent of our Lord, So laud we all and bless the name Of Him who from the Father came.
- 3. This done, He soared to God's right hand Yet orphaned not His chosen band, For He, not bound in grace and pow'r, Attends His own each day and hour.

### Children: WS 702: As Angels Joyed with One Accord

- 2. He came, not clothed in majesty Nor pow'r that suits His deity. In lowly state He walked till He In dving set us captives free.
- 4. In ev'ry age let praise abound He comes; we hear His voice resound. His glorious gospel does not cease To bring us comfort, joy, and peace.
- **N-Abbie:** Listen to other promises, brought by God's angels, of this coming Savior!
- **Eric:** But while Joseph thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." (Matthew 1:20-21)



**Brandon:** "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son,

and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us." (Matthew 1:23)

Rachel R.: Then the angel said to Mary, "... behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." (Luke 1:30-33)

- 1. Come, O long-expected Jesus, Born to set Your people free; From our sins and fears release us, By Your death on Calvary.
- 3. By Your own eternal Spirit Rule in all our hearts alone; By Your all-sufficient merit Raise us to Your glorious throne.
- Come, O Long-Expected Jesus
  - 2. Born Your people to deliver, Born a child and yet a King, Born to reign in us forever, Now Your gracious kingdom bring.



## **PART THREE:** The Angel of the LORD is Born

N-Christina: As God had promised the Savior, the Old Testament believers longed to see the day of their deliverance from sin. Finally, at the appointed time, God sent forth His Son into the world to do as He had promised. He was born to die. He came to suffer and die for the punishment of the sins of every human being.

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.

**Congregation**: Please join in singing the final stanza.

- 1. Silent Night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright, Round von Virgin Mother and Child. Holy infant, so tender and mild, Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.
- 2. Silent Night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight; Glories stream from heaven afar, Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia. Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!
- 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.



**Rachel E.:** But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent

N-Rachel R.: Listen to the glorious outcome of our Savior's coming!

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. (Galatians 4:4-5)

- **Anne:** 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)
- **Taylor:** "... the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." (Matthew 20:28)
- **Alex:** "... the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost." (Matthew 18:11)
- **All:** 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)

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3. How silently, how silently, 4. O holy Child of Bethlehem, The wondrous Gift is giv'n! Descend to us, we pray; So God imparts To human hearts Cast out our sin And enter in, The blessings of His heav'n. Be born in us today. No ear may hear His coming, We hear the Christmas angels But in this world of sin, The great glad tidings tell: Where meek souls will Receive Him still, Oh, come to us, Abide with us, The dear Christ enters in. **Our Lord Immanuel!** 

## PART FOUR: THE ANGELS ANNOUNCE THE LORD'S BIRTH

**N-Dylan:** Being messengers of Good News, the angels couldn't but announce with great joy that the Savior had come! Their message was one filled with hope, comfort, and joy! Listen to what they said to the shepherds and now to us:

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: WS 707: On Christmas Night All Christians Sing

**Congregation**: Please join in singing the final stanza.

- 1. On Christmas night all Christians sing, To hear the news the angels bring, On Christmas night all Christians sing, To hear the news the angels bring, News of great joy, news of great mirth, News of our merciful King's birth.
- 3. When sin departs before His grace, Then life and health come in its place, When sin departs before His grace, Then life and health come in its place, Angels and men with joy may sing, All for to see the newborn King.
- 4. All out of darkness we have light, Which made the angels sing this night, All out of darkness we have light, Which made the angels sing this night, 'Glory to God and peace to men, Now and for evermore. Amen.'



#### **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.

Children: WS 706: Go Tell It on the Mountain

**Congregation**: Please join in singing the final stanza.

- **Refrain:** Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and ev'rywhere; Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.
  - 1. While shepherds kept their watching O'er silent flocks by night, Behold, throughout the heavens There shone a holy light. (Refrain)
  - **3.** Down in a lowly manger The humble Christ was born: And God sent us salvation That blessed Christmas morn. (R)
- 2. The shepherds feared and trembled When lo, above the earth Rang out the angel chorus That hailed our Savior's birth. (R)

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## PART FIVE: The Angels Announce the LORD's Reign

- N-Christina: The angels' job wasn't done at Christmas. They also comforted our Savior through His trying moments. As Jesus was tempted, Satan worked on His mind by trying to instill some doubt or regret. But Jesus as true God endured, even as He was sacrificed on the cross, so that Satan would be defeated.
- **N-Karie:** The angels comforted Jesus when He was tempted in the wilderness:
- **Charles:** And Jesus was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan, and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered to Him. (Mark 1:13)
- **N-Karie:** The angels strengthened Jesus when He endured sin's punishment at the Garden of Gethsemane:
- **Abbie:** Jesus said, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done." Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. (Luke 22:42-44)
- **N-Karie:** The angels also announced other messages that God's people needed to know. On Easter morning they brought the glorious news of Jesus' resurrection, the exclamation point which declared that Jesus' saving work was done.
- **Eric:** And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it. His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men.
- **Rachel E.:** But the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. "He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay." (Matthew 28:2-6)

- - 1. Christ the Lord is risen today, Sons of men and angels say. Raise your joys and triumphs high; Sing, ye heavens, and, earth, reply.
- 2. Love's redeeming work is done, Fought the fight, the battle won. Lo, our Sun's eclipse is o'er;
- Lo, He sets in blood no more.

- **N-Adam:** Forty days following Easter, Jesus ascended into heaven. Again, God's angels came to announce some more news: Jesus would come again!
- **Jacob:** Now when Jesus had spoken these things, while the disciples watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, ...
- **Brandon:** "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This *same* Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven." (Acts 1:9-11)
- **N-Dylan:** As the first coming at Christmas was a blessed event, so it will be for us when Jesus comes in full glory. The angels will accompany Jesus as they gather together all people that have ever lived on earth. To the believers in our Savior Jesus Christ it will be a time to enter into the eternal glories of heaven to be with our God. To the unbelievers it will be a dreadful day for they will enter into eternal punishment with the sinful angels and the devil.
- **Ned:** "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. (Matthew 25:31)
- **John:** "And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. (Matthew 24:31)



**Emily:** "And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those

on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:" (Matthew 25:33–34)

- **Anne:** "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:" (Matthew 25:41)
- **Brooke:** "And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." (Matthew 25:46)
- **Taylor:** "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only." (Matthew 24:36)

### 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. *(Refrain)* Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation; Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above. Glory to God, In the highest. *(Refrain)*
- *Refrain:* Oh, come, let us adore Him, Oh, come, let us adore Him, Oh, come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

## **CONCLUSION:** HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

- **Grades K-2:** But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, ... that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.
- **Grades 3-4:** For it was fitting for Him ... in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. (Hebrews 2:9-10)
- **Grades 5-6:** Jesus Christ has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him. (1 Peter 3:22)
- **Grades 7-8:** Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice:
- **All:** "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!" (Revelation 5:11-12) How great is the gift of our Savior! To Him belongs the glory this Christmas night and always! Hark! The herald angels sing.

#### 

- 1. Crown Him with many crowns, The Lamb upon His throne; Hark how the heav'nly anthem drowns All music but its own. Awake, my soul, and sing Of Him who died for thee, And hail Him as thy matchless King Through all eternity.
  - 2. Crown Him the Virgin's Son, The God incarnate born, Whose arm those crimson trophies won Which now His brow adorn; Fruit of the mystic rose, As of that rose the stem; The root whence mercy ever flows, The Babe of Bethlehem.

# Grace Lutheran

This evening's service is based on the well-known Christmas hymn, "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing." Angels are God's servants who bring messages to God's people throughout the Bible. "Hark" is now a little used word. It means to listen attentively. We have the joy and privilege to listen attentively to just a few of the angels' messages this evening as the children tell us about the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. May the joy of His birth resonate in your heart as it did for the angels who declared, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

> Thanks to all the teachers, musicians, and parents who made this evening possible by helping the children learn their pieces and hymns. A special thanks goes out to the children who put in their time and effort to make this evening a special occasion, along with our teachers who worked diligently in directing the children. But even more importantly, a special thanks to the Child of all children who's born for us!

#### Offering: Interlude

### **Closing Prayer and Lord's Prayer:**

#### **Benediction:**

**Recessional Hymn:** CW 61: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing Congregation: Stanzas 2 & 3; Children: Stanza 1

- 1. Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King; Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!" Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies; With th' angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"
- 3. Hail, the heav'nly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness! Light and life to all He brings, **Ris'n with healing in His wings.** Mild He leaves His throne on high, Born that man no more may die; Born to raise the sons of earth; Born to give them second birth. Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!" Amen.
- 2. Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ the everlasting Lord, Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail th' incarnate Deity! Pleased as Man with man to dwell; Jesus, our Immanuel! Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"







### Grace Lutheran Church

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