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GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

DECEMBER 18, 2013

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Opening Welcome & Prayer:

Hymn:..... *TLH 90: Come, Your Hearts*

1. Come, your hearts and voices raising,
Christ the Lord with gladness praising;
Loudly sing His love amazing,
Worthy folk of Christendom.
3. See how God, for us providing,
Gave His Son and life abiding;
He our weary steps is guiding
From earth's woe to heavenly joy.
4. Christ, from heaven to us descending
And in love our race befriending,
In our need His help extending,
Saved us from the wily Foe.
8. Gracious Child, we pray Thee, hear us,
From Thy lowly manger cheer us,
Gently lead us and be near us
Till we join th' angelic choir.

Responsory:..... *Zephaniah 3:14-20*

P: Sing, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O Israel!

C: Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem!

P: The LORD has taken away your judgments, He has cast out your enemy.

C: The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; You shall see disaster no more.

P: In that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

C: "Do not fear; Zion, let not your hands be weak.

P: The LORD your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save;

C: He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing."

P: "I will gather those who sorrow over the appointed assembly,

C: Who are among you, To whom its reproach is a burden.

P: Behold, at that time I will deal with all who afflict you; I will save the lame, And gather those who were driven out;

C: I will appoint them for praise and fame In every land where they were put to shame.

P: At that time I will bring you back, Even at the time I gather you;

C: For I will give you fame and praise Among all the peoples of the earth, When I return your captives before your eyes," Says the LORD.

Prayer to Tune Our Hearts:

P: Lord, tune our hearts this evening by the power of the Holy Spirit, that we may hear Your Word and rejoice in song at the prophecies and fulfillment of our Savior's birth. Amen.

Choir:..... *Light an Advent Candle*

First Lesson:..... *Genesis 3:8-19*
The Seed of the woman shall bruise the serpent's head.

Hymn:..... *TLH 61: Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People*

1. Comfort, comfort, ye My people,
Speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
Comfort those who sit in darkness,
Mourning 'neath their sorrows' load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem
Of the peace that waits for them;
Tell her that her sins I cover
And her warfare now is over.
2. Yea, her sins our God will pardon,
Blotting out each dark misdeed;
All that well deserved His anger
He no more will see or heed.
She hath suffered many a day,
Now her griefs have passed away;
God will change her pining sadness
Into ever-springing gladness.

Second Lesson:..... *Genesis 22:15-18*
God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall the nations of the earth be blessed.

Hymn:..... *TLH 73: Lift Up Your Heads*

1. Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!
Behold, the King of Glory waits;
The King of kings is drawing near,
The Savior of the world is here.
Life and salvation He doth bring,
Wherefore rejoice and gladly sing:
We praise Thee, Father, now, Creator, wise art Thou!
2. A Helper just He comes to thee,
His chariot is humility,
His kingly crown is holiness,
His scepter, pity in distress,
The end of all our woe He brings;
Wherefore the earth is glad and sings:
We praise Thee, Savior, now, Mighty in deed art Thou!

Third Lesson:..... *Micah 5:2-5a*
The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem.

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

1. [**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.
2. [**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.
6. [**All**] Brightly doth Thy manger shine,
Glorious is its light divine.
Let not sin o'ercloud this light;
Ever be our faith thus bright.

Fourth Lesson:..... *Isaiah 7:10-16*
The sign of the coming Christ will be the virgin birth.

Hymn:..... *TLH 645: Behold, A Branch Is Growing*

1. Behold a branch is growing
Of loveliest form and grace,
As prophets sung, foreknowing;
It springs from Jesse's race And bears one little Flow'r
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.

Fifth Lesson:*Isaiah 9:2, 6-7*
Christ, the Light of the world, will come

Hymn:.....*TLH 71: Watchman, Tell Us of the Night*
Note: Women in bold, men in italics.

**1. Watchman, tell us of the night,
What its signs of promise are.**
*Trav'ler, o'er yon mountain's height,
See that glory-beaming star.*
**Watchman, doth its beauteous ray
Aught of joy or hope foretell?**
*Trav'ler, yes; it brings the day,
Promised day of Israel.*

**2. Watchman, tell us of the night;
Higher yet that star ascends.**
*Trav'ler, bless-ed-ness and light,
Peace and truth, its course portends.*
**Watchman, will its beams alone
Gild the spot that gave them birth?**
*Traveler, ages are its own;
See, it bursts o'er all the earth.*

**3. Watchman, tell us of the night,
For the morning seems to dawn.**
*Trav'ler, darkness takes its flight;
Doubt and terror are withdrawn.*
**Watchman, let thy wand'rings cease;
Hie thee to thy quiet home.**
*Trav'ler, lo, the Prince of Peace,
Lo, the Son of God, is come!*

Sixth Lesson: *Matthew 1:18-25*
The announcement of Jesus' birth to Joseph

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)

The Lighting of the Candles:

4.

Devotion: *Revelation 19:10*
"... the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."
Tuning Our Hearts For the Christmas Joy
With the Song of the Prophecies

Seventh Lesson: *Luke 2:1-11*
St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

Hymn:.....*Silent Night (Special Instructions)*
S.S. Children: *TLH 647, st. 1, 3: O Little Town of Bethlehem*
Eighth Lesson:..... *John 1:1-5*
Christ is the Light of the world.

C.D.S. Children:..... *Of the Father's Love Begotten*
Ninth Lesson: *Luke 4:16-21*
Fulfillment is found in Christ.

Hymn:..... *TLH 99: Now Are the Days Fulfilled*
1. Now are the days fulfilled, God's Son is manifested,
Now His great majesty In human flesh is vested.
Behold the mighty God, By whom all wrath is stilled,
The woman's promised Seed – Now are the days fulfilled.
3. Now are the days fulfilled, The child of God rejoices;
No bondage of the Law, No curses that it voices,
Can fill our hearts with fear; On Christ our hope we build.
Behold the Prince of Peace – Now are the days fulfilled.

Offering, Prayers, Benediction:

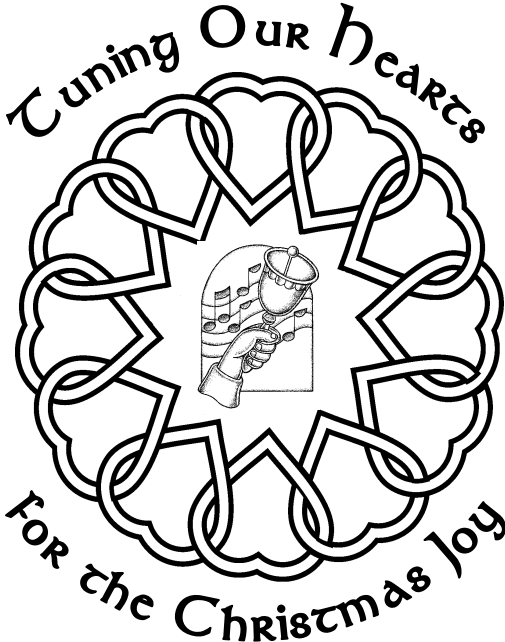
Hymn:.....*Angels We Have Heard on High*
1. Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains.
Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.
2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly song? Refrain ...
3. Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. Refrain ...

Silent Prayer:

5.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT 2013

CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION



With the Song of
the Prophecies



Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son ... Isaiah 7:14