

Grace Lutheran Church & School

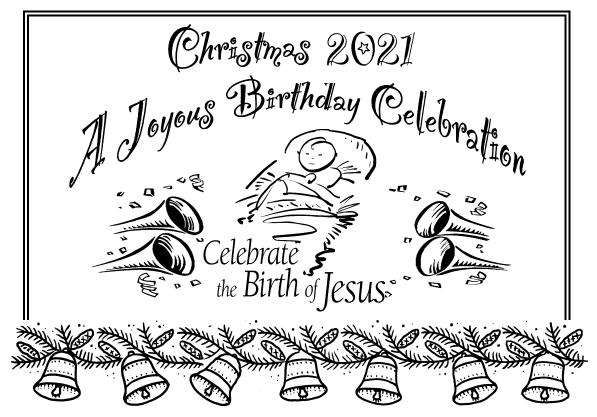
Welcome to our Christmas Eve Service!

Thanks to all the Sunday School 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 Christian Day School teachers who worked diligently in directing the children. But even a more special thanks to our Lord Jesus, at whose birthday we rejoice this cherished evening!

The abiding appeal of Christmas is a striking reminder that Jesus birth has withstood the test of time. That is why we focus this evening on the idea that Christmas 2021 is time for "A Joyous Birthday Celebration." Tonight's service is divided into the following six parts:

- 1) Our Original Birthday Dilemma
- 2) God's Proposed Solution to this Birthday
- 3) Jesus' Birthday is the Birthday of All Birthdays
- 4) Jesus' Birthday is Intended for a Deathday
- 5) Our New Birthday in Baptism
- 6) Our Future Birthdays in the Lord

"And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." Matthew 1:21



Congregation: Stanzas 1 & 4; S.S. Children: Stanza 2; Choir: Stanza 3

- 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*)
- God from true God, and Light from Light eternal, Born of a virgin, to earth He comes, Only begotten Son of God the Father. (*Refrain*)
- 4. 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. (*Refrain*)

Refrain: Oh, come, let us adore Him, Oh, come, let us adore Him, Oh, come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: May His name be glorified and praised this precious evening. Amen.

Children: The Lord bless you with the Good News of Jesus' birth!

Congregation: The Lord bless you, too.

Pastor: But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, ...

Congregation: Not by works of righteousness which we have done, ...

Children: But according to His mercy He saved us, ...

Pastor: Through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, ...

Congregation: Whom He poured out on us abundantly ...

Children: Through Jesus Christ our Savior, ...

Pastor: That having been justified by His grace ...

Congregation: We should become heirs ...

Children: According to the hope of eternal life!





 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: *(Refrain)*

4. Saints before the altar bending, Watching long in hope and fear, Suddenly the Lord, descending, In His Temple shall appear: *(Refrain)*

Refrain: Come and worship, Come and worship; Worship Christ, the newborn King.

P Introduction: A Joyous Birthday Celebration P

Children: Tonight is Jesus' birthday. Now over 2000 years after His birth, its meaning is just as vital and refreshing as always. Jesus was born to save sinners! Tonight we return to the manger, our Savior's birthday bed, and sing our praises. For *Christmas 2021* is time to have: *A Joyous Birthday Celebration*.

Children:

- Good Christian men, rejoice
 With heart and soul and voice;
 Give ye heed to what we say: News! News!
 Jesus Christ is born today:
 Ox and ass before Him bow,
 And He is in the manger now.
 Christ is born today! Christ is born today!
- Good Christian men, rejoice; With heart and soul and voice; Now ye need not fear the grave; Peace! Peace! Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all, To gain His everlasting hall! Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

.....Good Christian Men, Rejoice

Good Christian men, rejoice
 With heart and soul and voice;
 Now ye hear of endless bliss: Joy! Joy!
 Jesus Christ was born for this!
 He has ope'd the heav'nly door,
 And man is blessèd evermore.
 Christ is born for this! Christ is born for this!



P 1. Our Original Birthday Dilemma P

- **Narrator:** When we see the birth of a baby, we see a living being which is full of life. But Scripture tells us that when such a child is born, it is spiritually dead. Two sinful human beings will bring forth a sinful baby. This is our birthday dilemma.
- **Fiona:** To [Eve] [God] said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; ..." Genesis 3:16
- Sherman: That which is born of flesh is flesh. John 3:6
- Remi: Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me. Psalm 51:5

Chloe: "There is none righteous, no, not one; ... There is none who does good, no, not one." Romans 3:10,12

- "From heav'n above to earth I come To bear good news to ev'ry home; Glad tidings of great joy I bring, Whereof I now will say and sing:
- "This is the Christ, our God and Lord, Who in all need shall aid afford; He will Himself your Savior be From all your sins to set you free."
- **Zara:** Because we are born in sin, we are doomed to death and separation from God. So Scripture says: By one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned. Romans 5:12
- Fiona: The day of death [is better] than the day of one's birth; ... Ecclesiates 7:1
- Sam: You ... were dead in trespasses and sins, ... Ephesians 2:1
- **Cecelia:** All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way. Isaiah 53:6
- Pre-School: The soul who sins shall die. Ezekiel 18:20

- 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.
- Thou, the Father's only Son, Hast o'er sin the victory won. Boundless shall Thy kingdom be; When shall we its glories see?

 "To you this night is born a child Of Mary, chosen virgin mild; This little child, of lowly birth, Shall be the joy of all the earth.



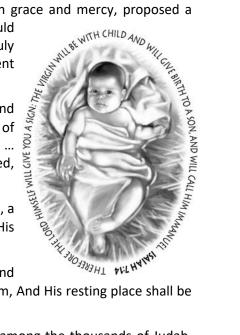
 Not by human flesh and blood, By the Spirit of our God, Was the Word of God made flesh — Woman's Offspring, pure and fresh.

B 2. God's Proposed Solution To This Birthday B

Narrator: Our birthday dilemma placed us in a desperate situation — sinners deserving of eternal death. But our heavenly Father, who is rich in grace and mercy, proposed a

solution. Throughout history He promised that He would send the Savior to save us from the punishment we truly deserved. Listen, now, to these Old Testament prophesies.

- **Lilly:** The Lord said to Abraham: "Blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; ... In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, ..." Genesis 22:17-18
- **Tavia:** Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign: Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel [which means, "God with us"]. Isaiah 7:14



- **Riley:** In that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, who shall stand as a banner to the people; for the Gentiles shall seek Him, And His resting place shall be glorious. Isaiah 11:10
- Lydia: But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel. Micah 5:2
- **Lucas:** "Comfort, yes, comfort My people!" Says your God. "Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her, That her warfare is ended, That her iniquity is pardoned; For she has received from the Lord's hand Double for all her sins." Isaiah 40:1-2

- Come, Thou long expected Jesus Born to set Thy people free, From our fears and sins release us, Let us find our rest in Thee. Israel's Strength and Consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art, Dear Desire of ev'ry nation, Joy of ev'ry longing heart!
- Born Thy people to deliver; Born a child and yet a King; Born to reign in us forever, Now Thy gracious kingdom bring. By Thine own eternal Spirit, Rule Thou in our hearts alone; By Thine all-sufficient merit, Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Reagan: Unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of *His* government and peace *There will be* no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this. Isaiah 9:6-7

- 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, In shades of death have been.
- 5. His name shall be the Prince of Peace, The Everlasting Lord, The Wonderful, the Counselor, The God by all adored, The God by all adored.
- 4. To us a Child of hope is born, To us a Son is given, And on His shoulder ever rests All power in earth and heaven, All power in earth and heaven.



P 3. Jesus' Birthday Is The Birthday Of All Birthdays P

- **Narrator:** Despite our birthday dilemma, there was a birthday that stands out above them all — the birth of Jesus Christ. This was the birth of the Son of God Himself, the perfect Savior. Unlike others who were conceived by sinful men, He was conceived by the Holy Spirit. Truly this was the birthday of all birthdays! Jesus Himself was God's birthday present for the salvation of all people. Listen now to this birthday story:
- **Remi:** And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14
- **Uriah:** Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Matthew 1:18
- **Cam:** 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." Matthew 1:20

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:..

- 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.
- 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.



Luke 2:8-14

Children:



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."

- 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.
- 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.
- 2. Then why should men on earth be so sad, Since our Redeemer made us glad, Then why should men on earth be so sad, Since our Redeemer made us glad, When from our sin He set us free, All for to gain our liberty?
- 4. From out of darkness we have light, Which made the angels sing this night, From 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:

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.



Luke 2:15-20

S.S. Children: WS 706: Go Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain: Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and ev'rywhere; Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

- While shepherds kept their watching O'er silent flocks by night, Behold, throughout the heavens There shone a holy light. (*Refrain*)
- The shepherds feared and trembled When Io, above the earth Rang out the angel chorus That hailed our Savior's birth. (*Refrain*)
- Down in a lowly manger The humble Christ was born; And God sent us salvation That blessed Christmas morn. (*Refrain*)

P 4. Jesus' Birthday Is Intended For A Deathday P

- **Narrator:** Although we rejoice in our Savior's birthday this evening, the real joy behind this event is knowing and understanding the meaning of His death. His birthday was necessary to fulfill the Father's plan for Him to die for our redemption, to rescue us from our spiritual enemies of sin, death, and the power of the devil.
- **Riley:** The angel of the Lord told Joseph about the work of Jesus when he said: "And [Mary] will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." Matthew 1:21
- **Lucas:** But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent 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

- 1. God loves me dearly,
Grants me salvation,
God loves me dearly,
Loves even me. (*Refrain*)3. He sent forth Jesus,
That true Redeemer,
He sent forth Jesus
And set me free. (*R*)
- Jesus, my Savior, Himself did offer; Jesus, my Savior, Paid all I owed. (R)

Refrain: Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly, God loves me dearly, loves even me.

- **Sherah:** To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven: A time to be born, And a time to die; ... Ecclesiastes 3:1-2
- **Zara:** But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. Isaiah 53:5



- **Lilly:** Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, [Christ] Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, ... Hebrews 2:14
- **Uriah:** For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. Romans 5:6-10

Chloe: "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" John 1:29

Cecelia: ... the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. 1 John 1:7

Lydia: In [Christ] we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, ... Ephesians 1:7

- 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 Ev'rywhere
 Now with joy is ringing.
- He becomes the Lamb that taketh Sin away And for aye
 Full atonement maketh.
 For our life His own He tenders
 And our race, By His grace
 Meet for glory renders.
- Forth today the Conqueror goeth, Who the foe, Sin and woe, Death and hell o'erthroweth. God is man, man to deliver; His dear Son Now is one With our blood forever.



P 5. Our New Birthday In Baptism R

- **Narrator:** Although we sinners were faced with our birthday dilemma, God has provided a means for a new birth. This birth takes place through the Word of God in Baptism, the method whereby the Holy Spirit creates saving faith in Jesus Christ.
- **Cam:** But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. John 1:12-13



- **Uriah:** Jesus once said: "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." John 3:5-6
- **Tavia:** Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him. 1 John 5:1

- 3. How silently, how silently, The wondrous Gift is giv'n! So God imparts To human hearts The blessings of His heav'n. Be born in us today. No ear may hear His coming, 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!
- Shiloh: "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned." Mark 16:16
- **Reagan:** "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Acts 2:38
- **Uriah:** ... Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, ... Ephesians 5:25-26

4. O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray; Cast out our sin And enter in.

We hear the Christmas angels



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.

He comes in water to the child And cleanses it, from birth defiled. This washing seals His pard'ning grace And shows the Father's kindly face.

B. Our Future Birthdays In The Lord B

- **Narrator:** Since we have a new birth in the Lord, we are His dear children. Nothing shall separate us from His love for us! He will carry us through this life to our eternal life in heaven. May we, then, serve Him as children worthy of His holy and precious name!
- **Cam:** For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38-39
- **Reagan:** But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you. 1 Peter 5:10

- **Grades 6-8:** The LORD says: "Listen to Me, O house of Jacob, And all the remnant of the house of Israel, Who have been upheld by Me from birth, Who have been carried from the womb: Even to your old age, I am He, And even to gray hairs I will carry you! I have made, and I will bear; Even I will carry, and will deliver you." Isaiah 46:3-4
- **Grades 4-5:** Jesus promises us: "In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also." John 14:2-3
- **Grades 2-3:** For You are my hope, O Lord GOD; You are my trust from my youth. By You I have been upheld from birth; You are He who took me out of my mother's womb. My praise shall be continually of You. Psalm 71:5-6
- **Grades Pre-K-1:** The Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen! 2 Timothy 4:18
- **Children:** With the birth of our Savior we have reason to have a joyous birthday celebration! 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. May we all have a blessed Christmas!

- 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.
- 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.

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

 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

- I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, Who sent His Son as my Savior on Christmas Day.
- I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary, Announced by the Angels, Worshipped by the shepherds, Adored by the Wise Men, Who lived to suffer, die, and rise again, To free me from sin, death, and the power of the devil.
- I believe in the Holy Ghost, Who has brought me to faith in the Christ of Christmas, And by whose continuous work in my heart, I am ever led to lay before the feet of Christ the treasures of my love and live under Him as my King, Both now and forevermore. Amen.

Closing Prayer & Lord's Prayer:

Pastor: 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. And now receive the blessing of our Lord: The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you, the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

Congregation: [Sung] Amen, Amen, Amen

Congregation: Stanzas 2 & 3; S.S. Children: Stanza 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!"



I am so glad when Christmas comes, The night of Jesus' birth, When Bethl'em's star shone as the sun And angels sang with mirth.

I too would sing my Savior's praise, My joy, my crown, my Lord; For He has made me His own child By Water and the Word. "I Am So Glad when Christmas Comes" (Wexelsen)

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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