

The Epiphany of Our Lord



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
January 8, 2012



DIVINE SERVICE I
*Christian Worship Supplement***WELCOME****HYMN****Angels from the Realms of Glory**
*Christian Worship #80**The choir will sing the brief introduction below before the first stanza.***“Glory, hallelujah”** the angels sang, Everywhere in heaven the voices rang.
Glory, hallelujah! The sky was bright when angels sang that holy night.
Glory, hallelujah! Let us come and worship Christ, the newborn King!**STAND****MINISTER:** In the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.**CONGREGATION:** Amen.**CONFESSION OF SINS****M:** Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.**C:** **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray; Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.****LORD, HAVE MERCY***Kyrie**Please join in singing the response below following a brief introduction:*

C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy



on us. Lord have mer - cy on us. A - men.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.**C:** Amen.**PRAYER AND PRAISE****M:** In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

GLORY TO GOD

Gloria in Excelsis

Please join in singing the response below following a brief introduction:

C: Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his peo-ple on earth. Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry! Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace to his peo - ple on earth. *(music)* Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer, re - ceive our prayer. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth. Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: Let us pray. Lord God, by the leading of a star you once made known to the nations your one and only Son. Guide us, also, who know him now by faith, to come at last to the perfect joy of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

BE SEATED

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Ruth 4:13-17

So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. Then he went to her, and the LORD enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son. The women said to Naomi: "Praise be to the LORD, who this day has not left you without a kinsman-redeemer. May he become famous throughout Israel! He will renew your life and sustain you in your old age. For your

daughter-in-law, who loves you and who is better to you than seven sons, has given him birth." Then Naomi took the child, laid him in her lap and cared for him. The women living there said, "Naomi has a son." And they named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 72

Refrain



Psalm Tone



1. Endow the King with your justice, / O God,*
the royal Son with your / righteousness.
2. He will defend the afflicted among the / people*
and save the children of the / needy.
3. He will endure as long / as the sun,*
as long as the moon, through all gener- / ations.
4. He will be like rain falling on a / mown field,*
like showers water- / ing the earth.
5. All kings will bow / down to him,*
and all nations will / serve him.
6. All nations will be / blessed through him,*
and they will / call him blessed.
7. Praise be to the Lord God, who alone does
mar- / velous deeds.*
May the whole earth be filled with his / glory.
8. **Glory be to the Father and / to the Son*
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. / Amen.**

Refrain

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 3:2-12

Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus. I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power.

Although I am less than the least of all God's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Matthew 2:2b

M: Alleluia. We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him. Alleluia.

STAND

GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1-12

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.'" Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from

them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



APOSTLES' CREED

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

BE SEATED

HYMN OF THE DAY

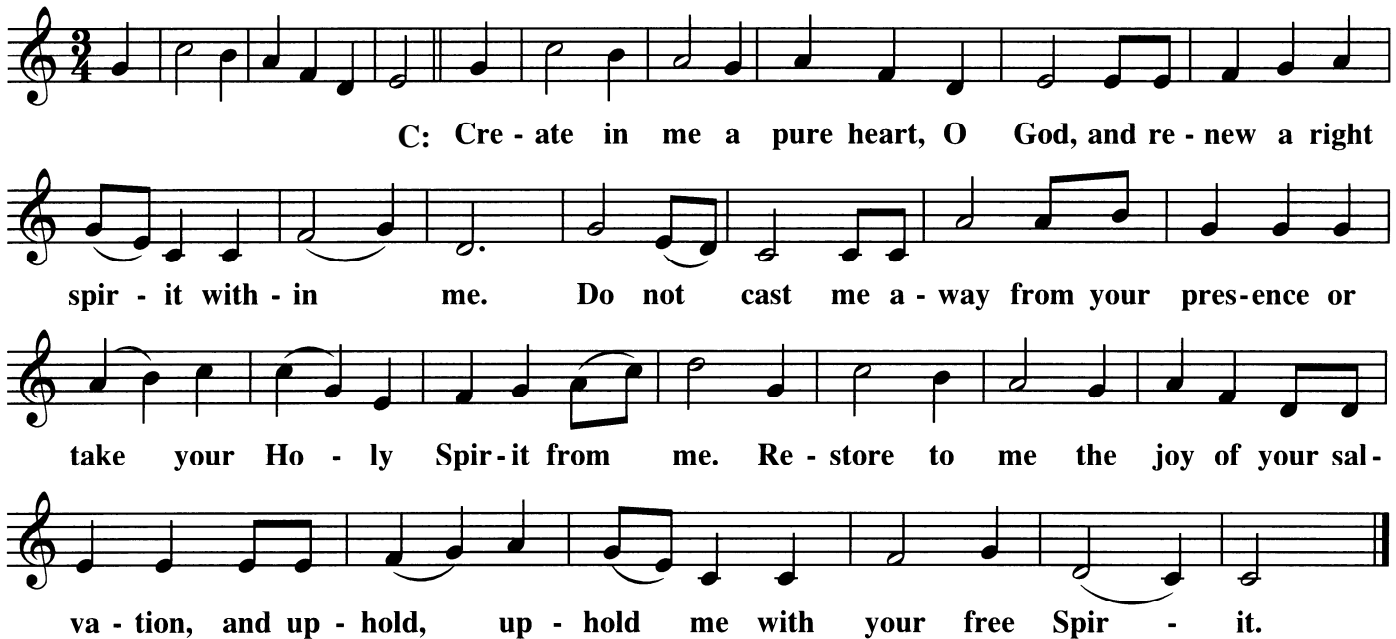
The Star Proclaims the King Is Here
Christian Worship #91

SERMON

Ruth 4:13-17
The Gift of a Son

STAND

After the sermon, please join in singing the response below following a brief introduction:



C: Cre - ate in me a pure heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Do not cast me a - way from your pres - ence or
take your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of your sal -
va - tion, and up - hold, up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

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BE SEATED

OFFERING *Members of Grace respond to their Savior's love with offerings that are given joyfully, generously, regularly, and in a way that is proportionate to how the Lord has blessed them. Their cheerful gifts support the mission and ministry of our congregation. If you are a guest today, please know that we do not expect you to contribute to our congregation's work. However, if you would like to give an offering to the Lord in response to his love to you, we are happy to receive it and put it to work in God's kingdom.*

Please fill out the Friendship Register located in the red folder at the end of the pew and pass it along. Thank You!

7:45 AM - Please stand and continue with the Prayer of the Church on page 7.

INSTALLATION OF CHURCH COUNCIL (10:00 AM)

Those being installed stand before the altar.

M: Dear friends in Christ, in Holy Baptism our Lord Jesus Christ liberated you from sin and death and made you members of his Body, the Church. Through Word and Sacrament you have been nurtured in faith. You have now been selected for positions of service to our Lord on behalf of this congregation. The Lord has entrusted you with an office which you are to carry out as his servants and according to his Word. St. Paul writes concerning service in the Church: *“We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man’s gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.”*

The Lord seeks faithfulness from all who serve, as Scripture says, *“It is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.”* The Lord does not seek from us what he has not given to us. But when he does give a gift, his will is that we use it faithfully to his glory and for the benefit of his people.

You are also, as servants of Jesus Christ and workers in this congregation, to set for your own families and the whole Church the example of a Christian life. Make the Word of God your foundation and guide. Search it daily for comfort and instruction.

PROMISE

M: So that the congregation may be assured of your willingness to serve, I ask you, in the presence of God and this congregation:

Will you diligently and faithfully carry out the office entrusted to you, according to the ability which God gives you? If so, answer: I will, and I ask God to help me.

R: I will, and I ask God to help me.

INSTALLATION

M: I now install you as Church Council members of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

The ministers shake the hand of those installed, addressing each by name.

M: May God grant you his Holy Spirit and give you wisdom and strength to carry out your duties, to his glory and for the good of his people.

EXHORTATION TO THE CONGREGATION

M: Members of Grace, I urge you to regard these fellow believers as servants of Jesus Christ and God’s gifts to his Church. Pray for them, support them in their service, and help them so that through the gospel ministry of this congregation more people will be reached for Christ and his Kingdom.

PRAYER

M: Let us pray.

Merciful and gracious God, our lives are open before you, and you hear our promises. We ask you to send your Holy Spirit into the hearts of your servants, that they may carry out their duties with diligence, boldness, and wisdom.

Give them a spirit of devotion and prayer, that in every time of need they may present their requests to you. Help them be examples of what is good, that by their lives they may build up your congregation and give the enemies of the Church no cause for complaint. Make them a blessing to your believers; help them to work with their pastor and with one another; and grant that by their service the unity of this congregation may be strengthened, your name be hallowed, your kingdom enlarged, and your will be done; through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord.

C: Amen.

The minister thanks those leaving office with these words:

M: In the name of the congregation we sincerely thank *Greg Grorud, Eric Hanson, Jeff Kosanke, and Rick Schmidt* who in the past year have served the Lord and his Church in positions of leadership on the Church Council. May the Lord, our God, graciously reward them for all they have done to his glory and for the benefit of his Church.

BLESSING

M: Go, then, and give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. The almighty and merciful God—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—bless and preserve you. Go in peace.

STAND

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH — EPIPHANY

M: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God and Mary's son, in the fullness of time you came into our world to save us from sin and death:

C: **You ushered in the day of grace so long foretold.**

M: Beloved Son of the Father, revered by the Magi, baptized by John, you came preaching and teaching, healing and comforting, forgiving and encouraging:

C: **You brought the light of life to those walking in darkness, and the joy of salvation to those doomed to death.**

M: Prince of Peace, shine like a beacon for us and the people of our world. Let the good news of your salvation be heard in the remotest corners of the earth. Open our own lips to speak your name to those around us who still live without faith or hope:

C: **Arouse us and our missionaries to flood the world with the light of your gospel.**

M: Lord of the Church, let your peace rule our hearts that we may use our gifts to serve you and each other in willing gratitude and joy. Watch over our loved ones near and far, that they may remember your love and rejoice in your salvation. Strengthen the faith of the sick and the disheartened. Give hope to those in despair and comfort those who mourn.

C: **Be gracious to all and lead us to reflect your love in everything we say and do.**

Special prayers of thanksgiving or intercession may be spoken here.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: Finally, bring us and all your believers to the heavenly home where we will stand in the full light of your glory and with all your saints and angels sing the everlasting song of triumph.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

BE SEATED

HYMN

How Lovely Shines the Morning Star
Christian Worship #79

STAND

M: Almighty God, grant to your Church the Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes from above. Let nothing hinder your Word from being freely proclaimed to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, so that we may serve you in steadfast faith and confess your name as long as we live, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and (†) give you peace.

C: Amen.

BE SEATED

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN

As with Gladness Men of Old
Christian Worship #83

POSTLUDE

7:45 AM O Worship the King
Arr. by Victor Labenske

10:00 AM Make A Joyful Noise Unto the Lord
By Justin Heinrich Knecht



Welcome to Grace!

Our mission at Grace is to teach the inspired and inerrant Word of God, to proclaim that Jesus Christ is the crucified and risen Savior of the world and to nurture believers for lives of Christian service.

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To Aid You in Worship...

- LARGE PRINT BULLETINS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX. ASK A GREETER OR USHER FOR A COPY.
- *For those with young children:* A private Mother's Room is located across the courtyard in the Ladies' Restroom. Parents of young children may also use the Child Care Room in the basement at any time to quiet and care for them (the service can be heard in both locations).
- Sermon copies & service CDs are available in the narthex.

Ordering Altar Flowers



If you would like to help beautify the Sunday worship services by signing up to order flowers, the flower binder is in the front entryway under the glass sign board. Information about ordering is located on the front cover.

Read Ahead for Next Sunday:

1 Samuel 3:1-10
2 Thessalonians 2:13-17
John 1:43-51

Next Sun. Sermon Text & Theme:

John 1:43-51
Come and See!

You Are Invited

You are invited to a coffee fellowship following 10:00 AM worship today hosted by representatives from Thrivent. Please join us in the courtyard.

Thrivent Members

Our representatives from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will be with us at Grace today to explain the Thrivent Choice program, which allows you to choose where monies given to you by Thrivent ought to go. A large amount of money has gone undesignated by Grace members, so please plan to attend this brief presentation in the Fellowship Hall after the 10:00 AM service.

Recognition/Farewell For Pastor and Dianne Koelpin

This afternoon, Redeemer will host a recognition/farewell reception for Pastor Koelpin and his wife, Dianne, from 4:00 - 7:00 PM in the Ministry Center. There will be opportunity for fellowship, light snacks and a short program. The 30 minute program is scheduled to begin at 5:30 PM.

Christian Fellowship Group White Elephant Bingo Party

Christian Fellowship Group will meet this Saturday, January 14, at noon in the Fellowship hall for a Potluck White Elephant Bingo Party. Everyone is welcome. Bring a dish to pass and a cleverly wrapped or disguised "White Elephant." We are always looking for new members. Come, give us a try! *The Christian Fellowship Group provides people 55 and older with an opportunity to enjoy the company of others on a very informal basis.*

This Week's Schedule (1/8/12 - 1/15/12)

Today

- Worship Services7:45 & 10:00a
- Children's Sunday School8:45a
- Youth Confirmation Class8:45a
- Adult Bible Classes:
 - *The Life of Christ: The Temptation of Jesus* (F. Hall)9:00a
 - *Grow in Grace Class* (Conference Room in Office)9:00a
- Lifeliners (High School Group): *Bible Study*9:00a
- Church Council Installation** 10:00a
- Coffee Fellowship and Presentation by Thrivent 11:15a
- Redeemer Farewell for Pastor Koelpin**..... 4:00p

Monday

- English as a Second Language Classes 6:30p

Tuesday

- English as a Second Language Classes 6:30p

Wednesday

- Midweek Bible Class: *Church History* 10:00a
- Handbells Practice in the Church Basement 5:30p
- Midweek Bible Class: *Church History* 6:45p
- Bible Study in Vail 7:00p

Thursday

- Women's Bible Class: *Prayer* 9:00a
- Worship Choir6:30p
- Men's Bible Study7:30p

Saturday

- Council Training**8:30a-1:00p
- Christian Fellowship Potluck/Party in F. Hall** 12:00p
- Vail Canvassing Blitz in Rita Ranch** 1:00p

Sunday

- Worship Services/Communion 7:45 & 10:00a
- Children's Sunday School 8:45a
- Youth Confirmation Class 8:45a
- Adult Bible Classes:
 - *The Life of Christ: The Temptation of Jesus* (F. Hall) 9:00a
 - *Grow in Grace Class* (Conference Room in Office) 9:00a
- Lifeliners (High School Group): *Bible Study* 9:00a
- Grace-Vail Service at Cottonwood Elementary** 9:00a
- Coffee Fellowship Following 10 AM Worship

Wednesday Bible Class

Pastor Clemons' midweek Bible classes will resume this Wednesday, January 11 at 10:00 AM and 6:45 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

Men's Bible Study this Week

Please join us in the Grace Fellowship Hall this Thursday, January 12 at 7:30 PM for a Men's Bible Study that will focus on the roles and responsibilities of a Christian man in today's world.

Grace-Vail Second Service – January 15 at 9:00 AM

Next Sunday, January 15, Grace-Vail will hold their second worship service at Cottonwood Elementary School (9950 E. Rees Loop). As we continue our journey of being one church at two sites, Grace members are invited and encouraged to participate in worship services at both locations. Consider joining us at Grace-Vail for one (or more) of our monthly services as we gear up to our LAUNCH on April 1. Many members of Grace have already helped get the word out about Grace-Vail in a variety of ways. Take a look at the display case in the courtyard to see what they've been doing.



In preparation for our second service at Grace-Vail, we will be canvassing again this Saturday (January 14). This is a great way to share information about our second site and also a way to share the love of Christ. We will be meeting at Cottonwood Elementary School (9950 E. Rees Loop) at **1:00 PM this Saturday, January 14.**

Thank You to Thrivent

Grace would like to thank the Thrivent representatives for hosting coffee fellowship this morning and for speaking to us about the Thrivent Choice Dollars program. A big thank you also for the coffee cups, confirmation crosses, and baptismal shells that Thrivent has donated to Grace. We also would like to thank the Saguaro chapter of Thrivent who also supports our ESL program.

Engaging Christians In Outreach Ministry

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend the Kingdom Workers' annual Spiritual Renewal Event scheduled for Saturday, January 28, 2012, at Paradise Valley Lutheran Church, in Phoenix. Continental breakfast will be served starting at 7:45 AM with the meeting to start at approximately 9:00 AM. Kingdom Workers board members have heard each presentation, and each one is excellent! Each presentation is directly related to our command to "go and make disciples." The lead presenter, Pastor Hintz, is the Director of our Commission on Evangelism. The other two couples speaking, the Kimerleys and the Felgenhauers have been actively involved in home and world mission projects. Registration forms can be found in the Fellowship Hall.

Mission Festival

Sunday, January 22 is Mission Festival at Grace. Rev. Gary Lupe, an Apache Pastor from Whiteriver, AZ, will be our guest preacher and will present a special Bible Class on his work. We will continue our Mission Festival celebration after the 10:00 AM service with a potluck. Members are asked to bring a main dish and a side or dessert.

Creation Sunday

WELS musician Chris Driesbach will join us on Sunday, January 29 for a special service on Creation. In the Adult Bible Class that morning, Chris will tell us about his experiences as a member of our WELS church in New Orleans which was destroyed by hurricane Katrina. He will also share the story of how he became a Christian. Please plan to join us.

The Lifeliners will also be serving their **annual Chupala Lunch** that day after the 10:00 AM worship service. Chupala is a delicious southwestern chicken and bean dish served with tortillas and other fixings. Donations in support of the Lifeliners and their activities are appreciated.



ALA Basketball Coming to Tucson

On Friday, January 27 the Arizona Lutheran Academy boy's and girl's basketball teams will be playing here in Tucson at Desert Christian High School (7525 E. Speedway). The JV team plays at 4:30 PM and Varsity plays at 7:00 PM. Tyler Koehler plays on both teams. Plan to come and cheer on our Coyotes!



Cans for the Women of Grace

The Women of Grace are collecting aluminum cans and will use the recycling proceeds for upcoming projects. If you have cans please bring them to Grace and put them in the receptacle located just inside the parking lot gates.

Prayer Chain

If you would like to make a prayer request for yourself or someone you know, you may contact Johneth Myrmo (624-3626) or Cora in the church office (623-6633). You may join the prayer chain and participate in prayers for others by contacting Johneth Myrmo.

“Chrismons”

Christ-Monograms

Chrismons are symbols that proclaim Jesus’ name and his works of salvation for us. Here are explanations for the Chrismons you see on our Christmas trees.



THE ANCHOR CROSS represents our certain hope of salvation anchored in Christ.



THE BUDDED CROSS with its trefoil ends emphasizes the Trinity.



THE CELTIC CROSS has a circle in the middle symbolizing eternity. Because it has ancient ties to Christians in Ireland, Iona and Scotland, it is also called the Irish or Iona Cross.



THE CROSS WITH ORB symbolizes the world united under Christ, as the Lord cares for heaven and earth.



THE GREEK CROSS has four arms of equal length. Early Greek artists used this cross.



IHS is the acrostic of the first three letters of Jesus’ name in Greek (**Ιησους**). Various meanings have been attached to each letter. The horizontal line that forms the cross is the sign for an abbreviation.



THE IOTA CROSS is the first letter of “Jesus” in Greek (**Ι**=IOTA) combined with the first letter of “Christ” in Greek (**Χ**=CHI).



THE JERUSALEM CROSS (also known as the CRUSADER’S CROSS) represents the city of peace. The 5 crosses represent the 5 wounds of our Lord. The 4 smaller crosses are also said to represent the spread of the gospel to the 4 corners of the earth.



THE MALTESE CROSS is comprised of 4 arms shaped like spear-heads. Each points to the center, with the broad end having 2 points. The 8 points in all represent the beatitudes (Matt. 5:3-10). This is the emblem of John the Baptist. The cross was the emblem of the Knights of St. John, who were driven from Rhodes to the island of Malta by the Turks. Malta is the island where St. Paul was shipwrecked.



THE ROMAN CROSS consists of the Latin Cross and the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, the alpha (**Α**) and omega (**Ω**) symbolizing Jesus as the Eternal One: the ‘First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.’ Though he died on the cross, he reigns in glory forever.



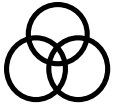
THE STAR (NATAL) CROSS reminds us of the star that marked our Savior’s birth.



THE TAU CROSS, shaped like the Greek letter **Τ** (tau), depicts the type of cross Moses is believed to have raised in the desert with the serpent on it. It is also the traditional sign that Israelites made with lamb’s blood on their doorposts in Egypt on the night of Passover. Therefore this is the cross of penitence and prophecy.



CHALICE AND WAFER represent the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.



THREE INTERLACING CIRCLES represent the three distinct persons of the Holy Trinity, yet just one God.



THE DESCENDING DOVE symbolizes the Holy Spirit, remembering the baptism of Jesus when he descended in the form of a dove.



THE TABLET OF STONE is a symbol of the Ten Commandments given by God to Moses on Mt. Sinai.



THE BUTTERFLY brings to mind our Lord's resurrection from the dead and reminds us that all believers in Christ will also rise to eternal life. The first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, the alpha (Α) and omega (Ω) are sometimes added to signify the eternal life enjoyed by those who die in the Lord.



THE CROSS CROWN is a symbol of the Kingship of our Lord, reminding us that he is the King of kings and the Lord of lords. It also reminds us of the crown of life given to believers for their lives of faith.



THE CHI-RHO is a monogram consisting of the first two Greek letters of 'Christ', Χ and Ρ.



THE FISH is the most ancient symbol of Christ. Christians drew the image of the fish to identify each other in times of persecution. The Greek word for fish is ΙΧΘΥΣ (ichthus). The acrostic represents this meaning: **I=Jesus X=Christ Θ=God's Υ=Son Σ=Savior.**



THE 5-POINTED STAR/EPIPHANY STAR represents the star of Bethlehem and is shaped roughly like a human being representing Christ's incarnation.



THE 6-POINTED STAR/CREATOR'S STAR/STAR OF DAVID symbolizes creation. Each point refers to a day of God's creating work.



THE TREFOIL AND TRIANGLE is a symbol of the Holy Trinity showing both the unity of the Godhead as well as the diversity of the Persons.

May these Christian symbols enrich your worship and fill your Christmas celebration with even more meaning and joy!

