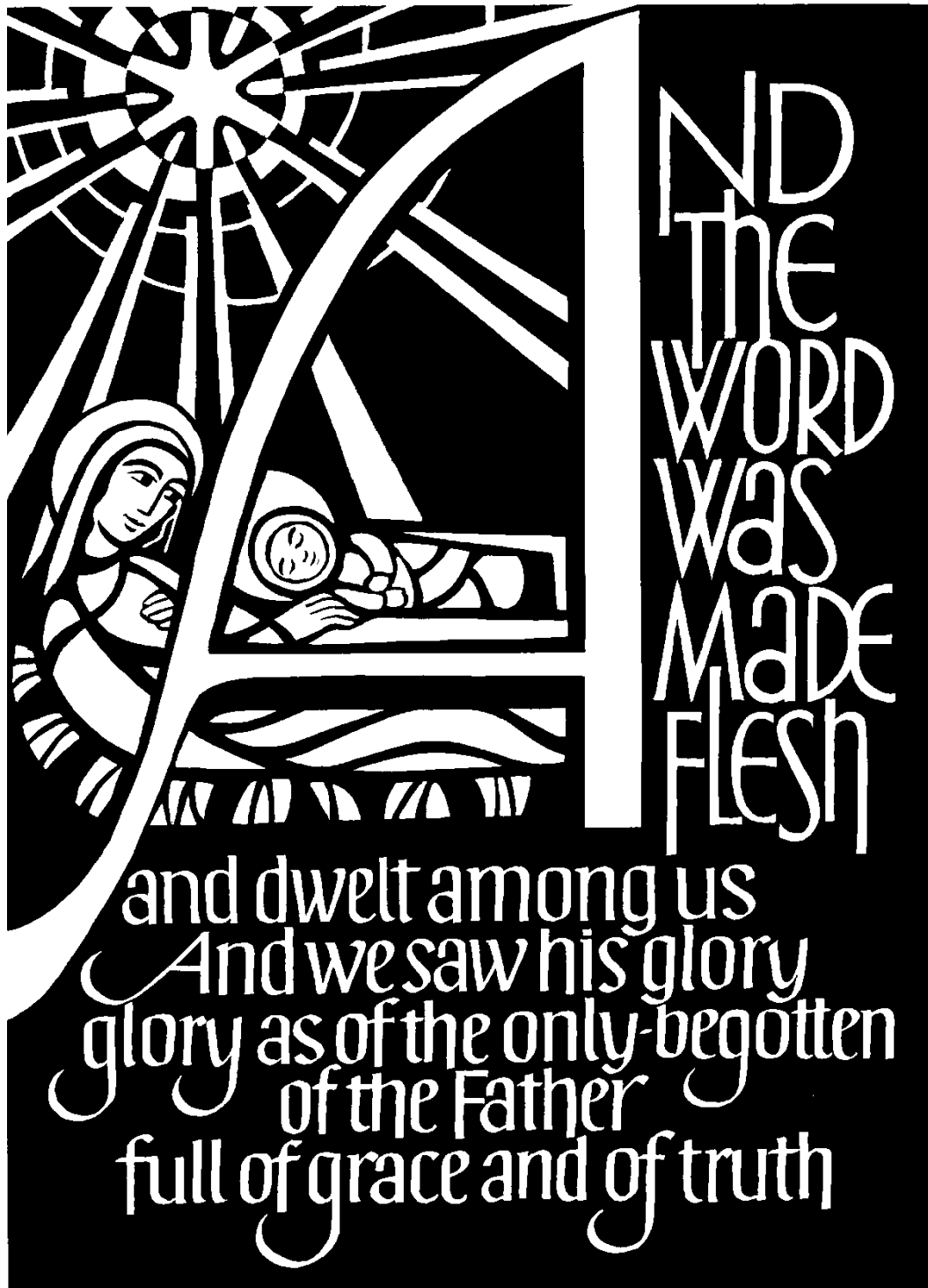


The Festival of the Nativity of our Lord



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
830 N. 1st Avenue Tucson, AZ 85719
December 25, 2016

Christmas Day

Today the Christian Church sings its praise to God for the mystery of the Word who became flesh, the incarnate God, Jesus Christ. Our Savior Jesus is both true God and true man, the Son of God and the Son of Mary. We celebrate this great mystery, recognizing that Jesus' birth into this world was the first step on the road to the cross, by which he paid for our sins and earned our salvation and redemption.

PRESERVICE MUSIC

Oh Come All Ye Faithful & Joy to the World

Played by the Brass Ensemble

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Tune "Adeste Fidelis," from Wade's "Cantus Diversi"

Arr. by Lani Smith

WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE

Emily Rudd

Begin singing "Joy to the World" (Christian Worship #62) directly after the psalm; there is no introduction.

RESPONSIVE PSALM OF PRAISE *Psalm 98*

Minister: Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things;

Cong.: his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

M: The LORD has made his salvation known and revealed his righteousness to the nations.

C: He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to the house of Israel;

M: all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

C: Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music;

M: make music to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the sound of singing,

C: with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn—shout for joy before the LORD, the King.

M: Let the sea resound, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.

C: Let the rivers clap their hands, let the mountains sing together for joy;

M: let them sing before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth.

C: He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity.

All *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.*

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

Women *No more let sins and sorrows grow nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.*

Please stand

All *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.*

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

M: It is with great joy that we gather this morning to celebrate the birth of our Savior from sin. Even amidst our joy, we do remember that our sin is the reason he came. With humble hearts then, let us bow before our God in repentance and seek his forgiveness:

ALL: **Father in Heaven, forgive my lack of focus on your love and the sending of your Son during this Christmas season. I know that I am weak, even at Christmas time—a most important time for my faith. Forgive these particular sins and all that I have done wrong—through Jesus, my Savior. Amen.**

M: Today I can say to you with great joy that your Savior has come! In Him you have full forgiveness of your sins. You are the people upon whom God's favor rests!

C: **Glory to God in the highest! Amen!**

HYMN

O Jesus So Sweet, O Jesus So Mild

Christian Worship #366

1. O Je - sus so sweet, O Je - sus so mild! For sin - ners you be -
2. O Je - sus so sweet, O Je - sus so mild! With God we now are
came a child. You came from heav - en to ful - fill Your Fa - ther's
rec - on - ciled. You have for all the ran - som paid, Your Fa - ther's
just and ho - ly will. O Je - sus so sweet, O Je - sus so mild!
right - eous an - ger stayed. O Je - sus so sweet, O Je - sus so mild!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Almighty God, grant that the birth of your only Son in the flesh may set us free from our old bondage under the yoke of sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Please be seated

HYMN

Let All Together Praise Our God

Christian Worship #41

Isaiah 52:7-10

The Prophets' Wonderful Announcement of Salvation

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!" Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices; together they shout for joy. When the LORD returns to Zion, they will see it with their own eyes. Burst into songs of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD will lay bare his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God.

PRAYER

HYMN

Go, Tell It on the Mountain
Christian Worship #57

Hebrews 1:1-9

The Wonderful Radiance of God's Glory!

In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"? And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." In speaking of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, his servants flames of fire." But about the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, will last forever and ever, and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy."

PRAYER

WORSHIP CHOIR

Angels We Have Heard On High

John 1:1-14

Two Wondrous Births!

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

PRAYER

HYMN

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"
Christian Worship #61

Please stand

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Excerpts from the Athanasian Creed

It is necessary for eternal salvation truly to believe that our Lord Jesus Christ also took on human flesh.

Now this is the true Christian faith.

We believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son, is both God and man.

He is God, eternally begotten from the nature of the Father, and he is man, born in time from the nature of his mother, fully God, fully man, with rational soul and human flesh, equal to the Father as to his deity, less than the Father as to his humanity; and though he is both God and man, Christ is not two persons, but one, one, not by changing the deity into flesh, but by taking the humanity into God; one, indeed, not by mixture of the natures, but by unity in one person; for just as the rational soul and flesh are one human being, so God and man are one Christ. He suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose the third day from the dead. He ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty, and from there will come to judge the living and the dead.

This is the true Christian faith. Whoever does not faithfully and firmly believe this cannot be saved.

Please be seated

OFFERING

Please fill out the Friendship Register at the end of the pew near the aisle and pass along for others sitting near you. Thank You!



If you prefer, use your smart phone to give online by scanning this QR code.

OFFERTORY

The First Noel

Arr. by Lorie Line

Please stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS DAY

M: On this holy day, dear Father, we rejoice to hear the good news of great joy that a Savior has been born for us. For fulfilling your prophecies and in the fullness of time sending your Son to be our Savior, we give you our heartfelt thanks and praise.

C: **Unto us a child is born! Unto us a Son is given!**

M: What a great mystery of our faith this is: that God has become fully human for our salvation! Even though he is the all-powerful Lord of all, he is wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.

C: **Help us always believe that this precious child was born as our substitute to be our Savior.**

M: In the midst of our joy, we grieve for the many people in our world who do not know that Jesus has come to bring them forgiveness and healing. As the shepherds spread abroad the good news of the birth of the Savior born for all the world, may we also make use of the unique opportunities this holiday presents to tell others of what we have seen and heard concerning the child.

C: **Grant that the true peace between God and fallen mankind may comfort all people.**

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

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

Silent prayer.

M: As the angels sang out their praise, move us also to sing out our praise to you, today and every day, as the joy of Christmas remains in our hearts.

C: **Glory to God in the highest! Amen.**

LORD’S PRAYER

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 glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

M: May our newborn Savior, Jesus Christ [†], the Light of the World, bless and keep you on this Christmas Day and always.

C: **Amen.**

Please be seated

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN

Let Us All with Gladsome Voice
Christian Worship #64

POSTLUDE

Postlude for Christmas
By Felix Mendelssohn, Arr. by George Blake

**THOSE ASSISTING IN WORSHIP ON THIS
CHRISTMAS DAY**

- Worship Leader**.....Pastor Ron Koehler
- Accompanist**..... Teri Guenther
- Acolyte**Emily Rudd
- Brass Ensemble Director**..... Missy Wiechmann
- Handbell Choir Director**.....Melissa Newbrey
- Worship Choir Director**..... Teri Guenther
- Trumpet**.....Pastor Nathan Kassulke
- Violin** Maya Parra
- Ushers**.....Jon Dongoske, Jonathan Ganster, Dylan Guenther, Danny Koehler, Jon Miller
- Sound & Recording Tech**Jeremy Snavely

Have a Blessed Christmas!

Thank you for joining us for worship this Christmas Day. We hope and pray that the joy of this day will be yours throughout the season, in the New Year, and throughout your life. If you are a guest with us today and do not have a church home, we would consider it a special privilege to share God's Word with you on a regular basis. Please take a guest packet from the table near the exit to learn more about Grace and the ministry God has allowed us to undertake.

Altar Flowers

The poinsettias beautifying our worship this morning have been given by Nancy Miles in praise to God for the loving Christmas gift of His son Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

Ornaments Ready for Pick-Up

If your child made a glass ornament at Christmas For Kids, it is available for pick-up in the Fellowship Hall.

New Year's Eve All-Site Worship

Every New Year's Eve we gather one last time as a church family to reflect on the Lord's faithfulness and many blessings to us over the last year. An important part of that service is remembering those Grace members who were called home to heaven during the year. We hope that you will join us on Saturday, December 31st for this special communion service at 7:00 PM at Grace-Tucson.

REGULAR SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

At Grace-Benson 451 W. Duane St

7:30 AM Worship Service

At Grace-Sahuarita 17675 S. La Cañada Dr

7:45 AM Worship Service
10:00 AM Worship Service

At Grace-Tucson 830 N. First Avenue

7:45 AM Worship Service
10:00 AM Worship Service

At Grace-Vail Worshiping at Esmond Station School 9400 S. Atterbury Wash Way

10:00 AM Worship Service



Grace Lutheran Church is a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS), a group of nearly 400,000 men, women, and children in nearly 1,300 congregations across the United States and Canada united by a common faith in Christ's saving love. We are committed to a common calling—encouraging each other in our faith and sharing God's gift of a Savior with the rest of the world.

For more information about our synod and what we believe visit: www.wels.net