

December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011

*The Nativity of our Lord*



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
MISSOURI ~ SYNOD  
308 Byrne Street  
Smithville, TX 78957  
512-237-2108

**Pastor Timothy Appel**



**Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church!** We give thanks that our gracious Lord Jesus Christ has gathered us together here for his Divine Service. Today again our Lord comes to serve us and lavish us with his gifts of life, forgiveness, and salvation. Rejoicing in those wonderful gifts, we sing with David in Psalm 84: “How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts! A day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.”

**In our readings today:** The Lord sends out His ministers of the Gospel to make disciples “*of all the nations,*” so that “*all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.*” For the Lord has “*bared His holy arm*” in the incarnate Christ (Is. 52:7, 10). The Child in the manger, born of the Virgin Mary, is the very Word of God, the only-begotten Son of the Father, “*whom He appointed the heir of all things, through whom He also created the world*” (Heb. 1:2). As “*all things were made through Him*” (John 1:3), so are all things redeemed and made new in Him. In His body of flesh and blood, we behold “*the radiance of the glory of God*” (Heb. 1:3), “*glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth*” (John 1:14). He dwells among us in peace, that we might have life and light and salvation in Him. For by His Word of the Gospel, we are born again as the children of God, bearing His name and sharing His eternal Life.

**Hearing,** Ask an usher for one of the wireless hearing assistance units.

**Communion,** As Lutheran Christians we believe that all those who repent of their sins, trust in Christ as their Lord and Savior, believe that the true body and blood of Jesus Christ are in the bread and wine as they receive them, and seek to be one with those with whom they commune, they are prepared to commune in a worthy manner.

**Attendance Registration** cards are located in the Hymnal racks of each pew. We ask all members and our guests to complete one and pass it to the center aisles. An usher will collect them after the offering is taken to the altar. The cards are important as they enable our secretary to track members’ attendance as well as guests interested in joining our church. Thank you for your help.

### **A Prayer Before Worship**

*O Lord, our creator, redeemer, and comforter, as we come together to worship You in spirit and in truth, we humbly pray that You would open our hearts to the preaching of Your Word so that we may repent of our sins, believe in Jesus Christ as our only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear us for His sake. Amen*

**PRELUDE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP BELL**

**LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

**WELCOME**

# Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

LSB 380 sts. 1, ref, 3



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;  
3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.



*Refrain*  
Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"



**ANGELS  
SING**

# Angels We Have Heard on High

LSB 368 sts. 1, ref, 3



1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;



And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.



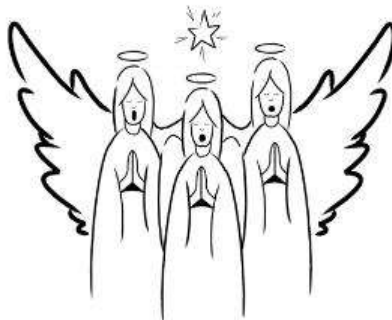
Glo - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - -



- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.



**ANGELS  
SING**

# O Come, All Ye Faithful

LSB 379 sts. 1, ref, 4



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come\_\_\_ ye to Beth - le - hem;  
Je - sus, to Thee\_\_\_ be\_\_\_ glo - ry giv'n!



Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:  
Word of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

*Refrain*



O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,



O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

*Stand*

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

**Invocation:** *(God has given us our beginning in Baptism, so the Divine Service begins in His Name.)*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** who made heaven and earth.

**Confession:** *(We cannot come into the presence of our holy God on our own. We recognize our sinfulness and plead for mercy on account of Christ.)*

- P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,  
**C** **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

- P** O almighty God, merciful Father,  
**C** **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

**Absolution:** *(God speaks His words of forgiveness to us through His servant, the pastor.)*

- P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** **Amen.**

## Service of the Word

**Introit** *(Forgiven by God, He invites us into his presence as we speak words from the Psalms.)*

*Ps. 98:1- 4; antiphon: Is. 9:6*

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,  
**and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**  
Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things!  
His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.  
**The LORD has made known his salvation;  
he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.  
All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

**Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;  
break forth into joyous song and sing praises!**

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,  
**and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

## Gloria Patri



**C** Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;  
as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

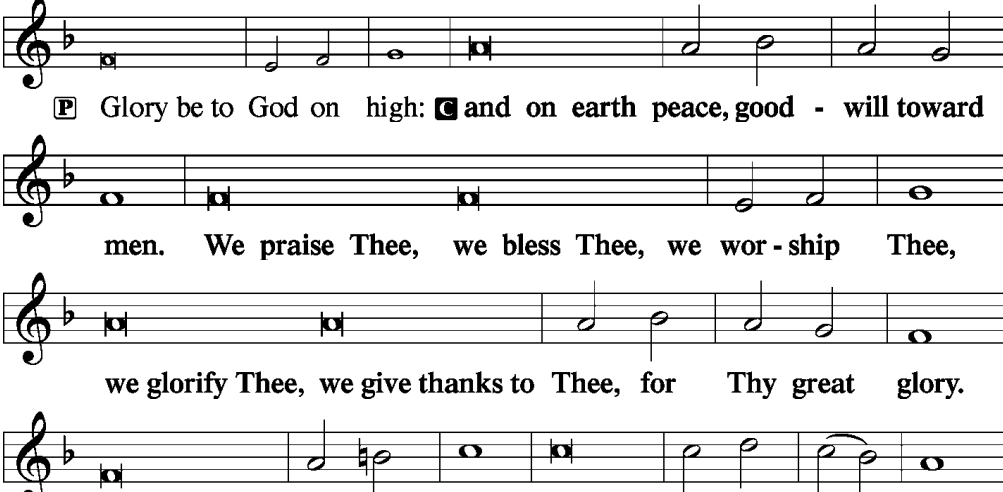
**Kyrie:** (Shortened form of the Greek "Kyrie eleison," meaning "Lord, have mercy." In the presence of Jesus, we plead for His mercy and help in our time of need.) LSB 186



**C** Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -  
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

## Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 187



**P** Glory be to God on high: **C** and on earth peace, good - will toward  
men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,  
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.  
O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.

O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.

Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-

on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on-ly art the Lord.

Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,

art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

**Salutation:** *(The pastor and congregation greet each other in the Lord's presence.)*

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And with thy spir - it.

**Collect:** *(Many of these prayers have been used in the church for over 1,500 years. They “collect” the Gospel theme for the day.)*



**P** Let us pray.

**P** Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

*Sit*

**Scripture Readings:** *(Jesus speaks to us in His Word as our crucified and risen Savior.)*

### Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 52:7-10*

<sup>7</sup>How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of him who brings good news,  
who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness,  
who publishes salvation,  
who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”

<sup>8</sup>The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice;  
together they sing for joy;  
for eye to eye they see  
the return of the LORD to Zion.

<sup>9</sup>Break forth together into singing,  
you waste places of Jerusalem,  
for the LORD has comforted his people;  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

<sup>10</sup>The LORD has bared his holy arm  
before the eyes of all the nations,  
and all the ends of the earth shall see  
the salvation of our God.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**



## Alleluia and Verse



**C** Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

## Holy Gospel

*John 1:1-18*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.



**C** Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

<sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup>(John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup>And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**C** Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

**Creed:** *(God works faith in us by His Word that we hear in Scripture. We confess that faith using one of three creeds that the church has used throughout the years and across the world.)*

## Nicene Creed

**C** I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life  $\dagger$  of the world to come. Amen.

*Sit*

**Hymn of the Day:** *(This hymn especially relates to the Gospel theme for the day. Each hymn provides a way for us to hear God's Word set to music.)*

### What Child Is This

LSB 370



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is  
2 Why lies He in such mean es-tate Where ox and ass are  
3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to



sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While  
 feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The  
 own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is  
 si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall  
 lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the



Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;  
 pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;  
 song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

**Sermon** “The Word Made Flesh: God’s Christmas Letter to Sinners” *John 1:1, 14*  
*(Based on one of the Scripture readings, the pastor proclaims God’s Word of Law and Gospel for our lives today.)*

**Votum**

- P** The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.
- C** Amen.

*Stand*

**From Heaven Above to Earth I Come**

*LSB 358 sts. 13-15*

- 13 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,  
 Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,  
 A quiet chamber set apart  
 For You to dwell within my heart.

14 My heart for very joy must leap;  
My lips no more can silence keep.  
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue  
That sweetest ancient cradlesong:

15 Glory to God in highest heav'n,  
Who unto us His Son has giv'n!  
While angels sing with pious mirth  
A glad new year to all the earth.

**P** The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

**C** Amen.

### Sharing of the Peace

*Following the prayers, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22-24; Eph. 4:1-3).*

*Sit*

### Offering

*Stand*

**Prayer of the Church:** *(The congregation joins together to pray for ourselves, for the Church, and for people throughout the world.)*

**P** we pray,

**C** hear us, **Prince of Peace.**

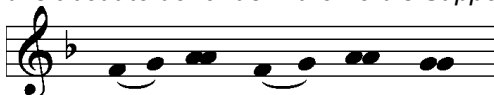
*Close of the Prayers*

**P** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

### Service of the Sacrament

**Preface:** *(The Service of the Sacrament begins with praise and thanksgiving for what God has done and is about to do for us in the Lord's Supper.)* LSB 194



**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And with thy spir - it.



**P** Lift up your hearts.



**C** We lift them up un - to the Lord.



**P** Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.



**C** It is meet and right so to do.

**P** It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

**Sanctus:** (*Latin for "holy." The division between heaven and earth is gone, and we cry out to God with the heavenly host, "Holy, Holy, Holy!" to welcome our Savior Jesus (Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9).*) LSB 195



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,



bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

**Lord's Prayer:** *(We pray the words that Jesus gave us to pray, trusting that our Father will hear and answer us.)*

- P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- C** **Our Father who art in heaven,**  
hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;  
give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

**For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

**Words of Our Lord:** *(We hear Jesus' words that in the Sacrament He gives us His very body and blood in, with, and under the bread and the wine.)* LSB 197

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\text{✠}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."
- P** In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{✠}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

**Pax Domini:** *(Latin for "The peace of the Lord." The pastor holds the body and blood of Jesus before the congregation and speaks the Lord's peace as the very Gospel.)* LSB 209



**P** The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



**C** A - men.

**Agnus Dei:** (*Latin for "Lamb of God." As John the Baptist cried (John 1:29), so we sing to Christ, our Lamb who was sacrificed for our sins.*) LSB 198



**C** O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us.



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the



world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Sit

Distribution

## O Little Town of Bethlehem

LSB 361



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!  
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove  
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is giv'n!  
4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;  
While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won-d'ring love.  
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of His heav'n.  
Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.  
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
No ear may hear His com - ing; But in this world of sin,  
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.  
And prais - es sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!  
Where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.  
O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

## Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

LSB 374



1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;  
2 An - gels sang a - bout His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;  
3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;



There He lay, the Un - de - filed, To the world a strang - er.  
Heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth Glo - ry all a - round Him.  
He is still the Un - de - filed But no more a strang - er.



Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Sav - ior?  
 Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, Heard the an - gels sing - ing;  
 Son of God of hum - ble birth, Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;



Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His fa - vor.  
 All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ring - ing.  
 Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glo - ry!

Now Sing We, Now Rejoice

LSB 386



1 Now sing we, now re - joice,	Now raise to heav'n our voice;
2 Come from on high to me;	I can - not rise to Thee.
3 Now through His Son doth shine	The Fa - ther's grace di - vine.
4 Oh, where shall joy be found?	Where but on heav'n - ly ground?



He from whom joy stream - eth	Poor in a man - ger lies;
Cheer my wea - ried spir - it,	O pure and ho - ly Child;
Death was reign - ing o'er us	Through sin and van - i - ty
Where the an - gels sing - ing	With all His saints u - nite,



Not so bright - ly beam - eth	The sun in yon - der skies.
Through Thy grace and mer - it,	Blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,
Till He o - pened for us	A bright e - ter - ni - ty.
Sweet - est prais - es bring - ing	In heav'n - ly joy and light.



Thou my Sav - ior art!	Thou my Sav - ior art!
Draw me un - to Thee!	Draw me un - to Thee!
May we praise Him there!	May we praise Him there!
Oh, that we were there!	Oh, that we were there!

*In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:*

- P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart  $\text{✠}$  in peace.
- C** Amen.

Stand

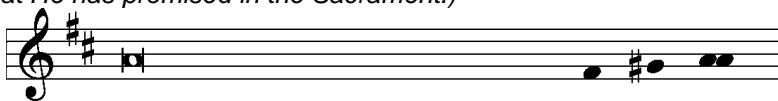
**Post-Communion Canticle:** *(Having received Christ in our mouths and into our lives in the Sacrament, we give thanks and go forth in peace.)*

**Nunc Dimittis**

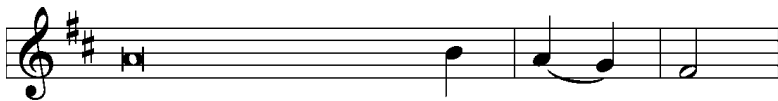
LSB 199

**C** Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -  
 cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,  
 which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,  
 a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy  
 peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and  
 to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,  
 is now, and ev - er shall be, world without end. A - men.

**Prayer of Thanksgiving:** *(We thank God for His gift of His incarnate Son Jesus and ask Him to give what He has promised in the Sacrament.)*



**A** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,



**C** and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

**Post-Communion Collect:** *(We thank God for all He has done in the Sacrament and ask that it would show forth in our lives.)*

**A** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

## Benedicamus



**P** The Lord be with you.

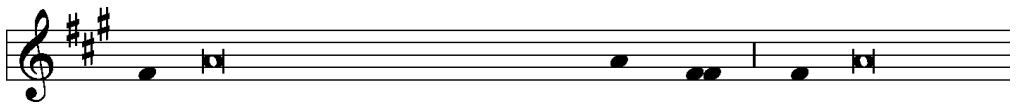


**C** And with thy spir - it.

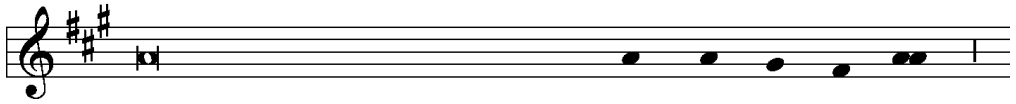
**A** Bless we the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

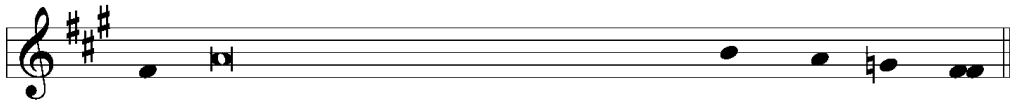
**Benediction:** *(Just as the Divine Service began, so it ends. We go forth with our Lord's blessing and His name upon us (Numbers 6:22-27).)*



**P** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and  $\nabla$  give you peace.



**C** A-men, a-men, a - men.

Sit

## Joy to the World

LSB 387



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her  
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -  
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him  
ply, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
ground; He comes to make His bless - ings  
prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture  
plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing  
flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is  
ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
 joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, Far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

**Silent Prayer After Worship**

*Almighty and merciful God, we have again worshiped in Your presence and received both forgiveness for our many sins and the assurance of Your love in Jesus Christ. We thank You for this undeserved grace and ask You to keep us in faith until we inherit eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**DISMISSAL**

**POSTLUDE**

**December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

**The Mission of Grace Lutheran Church is to joyfully and enthusiastically Model and share the gospel with the lost.**

Grace Lutheran Church  
 308 Byrne, Smithville, Tex. 78957  
 Office Phone: 512-237-2108  
 Fax Number: 512 237-2832  
 Email: [gracelutheran\\_church@yahoo.com](mailto:gracelutheran_church@yahoo.com)  
 Web Site: [www.glcs.org](http://www.glcs.org)

Learning Center Director, Angel Hurst  
 401 Wilkes Street, Smithville, TX 78957  
 Office Phone: 512-360-2800  
 Fax Number: 512-237-5990  
 Email: [gracelutheranlearn@att.net](mailto:gracelutheranlearn@att.net)

**Serving the Lord During Today's Worship Service**

<b>Dec. Elders:</b>	<b>Jim Duty</b> <b>Blackie Wallace</b>	<b>Organist(s):</b>	<b>June Parker</b> <b>Esther Wolff (Sub)</b>
<b>Jan. Elders:</b>	<b>Jim Duty</b> <b>James Landon</b>	<b>Dec. Altar Guild:</b>	<b>Billie Courtemanche</b> <b>Frances Mynar</b>
<b>Readers:</b>	<b>Dec. 25</b> <b>Frank Nevins</b>	<b>Jan. Altar Guild:</b>	<b>Nelda Rohde</b> <b>WendRohde</b>
	<b>Jan. 1</b> <b>Sheryl Pollard</b>		
	<b>Jan. 8</b> <b>James Landon</b>		
	<b>Jan. 15</b> <b>Alvie Tinberg</b>		
	<b>Jan. 22</b> <b>James Sanders</b>		
	<b>Jan. 29</b> <b>John Stelling</b>		
<b>Acolytes:</b>	<b>Dec. 25</b> <b>Ashlyn Zimmerhanel &amp; Nicholas Nitsche</b>		
	<b>Jan. 1</b> <b>Rose Caldwell &amp; Reece Kasper</b>		

### VISIT WITH PASTOR

If you need to contact Pastor Appel, his home phone is: 512-237-9664, his email address is: [timothyappel@gmail.com](mailto:timothyappel@gmail.com), or contact the Office at 512-237-2108. Pastor Appel is normally in the office between 9:00am and 12:00 noon, Mon thru Thurs. He will be available in the afternoons as well, but often uses that time to make nursing home, hospital or home visits. If unable to reach Pastor, please contact your Elder (Elders list on bulletin board outside of Office).

### SERMONS ONLINE

Grace Lutheran Church now has the ability to record the worship services through our audio system. Each week's sermon is now being placed online; go to [www.glcs.org](http://www.glcs.org) and follow the link on the front page to listen to Pastor Appel's sermons. This is a great resource if you miss a service, want to hear a sermon again, or help witness to a friend. If you would like a CD copy of the sermon or the entire service for yourself or to give to someone else, please let the church office know.

### NEWSLETTER/BULLETINS



Also online: we now have the newsletter as well as our bulletin in PDF format for your viewing. Go to [www.glcs.org](http://www.glcs.org) and click on "Newsletter/bulletins" and then click on the PDF file to access.



### CONGREGATIONAL BIBLE STUDY ON THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR

This study will identify what Lutherans believe about the Lord's Supper and demonstrate from Scripture why we believe what we do. The Board of Elders and Pastor are encouraging all members of the congregation to go through the study together so that as a congregation we can continue to grow in our understanding, appreciation, and trust of what the Lord's Supper is for us as Christians and how we can most faithfully receive it together here at Grace. This study will take place on Sunday mornings during the Bible study hour (8:45 AM – 9:45 AM) for about 8 weeks. Please come and learn more about the precious gift that the Lord gives in his true body and blood with the bread and wine in this Sacrament, even if you haven't been coming to adult Bible study recently. Pastor will also offer this study on Thursday evenings at 7:00pm.

### GLLC CHAPEL INVITATION

Pastor Appel leads chapel for the children at the Learning Center every **Wednesday morning at 10:00 AM**. Even though the time is geared toward teaching the children about what Jesus has done for them, everyone is invited. Please join us for this short chapel service as you are able. This is a wonderful opportunity to show the children at GLLC that they are an important part of our community. Young and old—we are all children of God!



Lutheran Witness subscriptions have increased to \$12.00 a year. Please make checks payable to: Grace Lutheran Church and submit to the office by December 15, 2011

### JOHN 3:16 CARDS

The Board of Evangelism would like to announce that John 3:16 cards are available through the church office. These cards were introduced to us during our Equipping to Share conference. They are a great way to share the good news of salvation through Jesus with a friend by placing their name into the Gospel message given in John 3:16. The other side of the card has Grace's contact information as well as Bible study and worship times. If you would like some of these cards as a way to share the Gospel with others in your life, please contact the church office.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

The birth of Jesus serves as the focus of the Sunday School lesson for today. The Son of God became what we are, human, to make us what He is, a child of the heavenly Father. Consider discussing, "Why is it important that Jesus became a human like you and I? Why is it important that Jesus was both God and man?"

### GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH PRAYER LIST



If you are missed in our prayer list, or if there are changes (addition, deletions or corrections) to our prayer list, please let us know. **On the first of the month we will be updating names**, so if you wish to add names, or continue to leave names on the list, please call the church office (237-2108) or write a note on the back of the attendance card.

In the Nursing Home:

**Charlene** Franke (sister of Ann Schroeder), **Dorothy** Heptner, **Teresa** Slusher, **Dora** Wehmeyer, **Bertha** McGinnis, **Thelma** Bunte

Long Term Health Concerns

**Lawrence** Goertz (Nancy Young's uncle), **Reggie** Cheak, **Alex** Metzler

Battling Cancer:

**Chris** Gould, **Shirley** Wilhelm (friend of Rose Pietsch), **Theresa** Deuley Gallbraith, **Devon Rose** Michalik (friends of Mary Ann Duty), **Keith** Whatley (friend of Jim Sanders), **Mary** Knippa (Charles Knippa's mother), **Sharon** Reyna (Brenda Sander's friend), **Bob** Larson (Alvie's son-in-law), **Barbara** Geller (friend of the Langer's), **Patt** Langer, **Joe** Navarro (friend of Allan Riddle), **Patricia** Landon (James Landon's mother), **Pete** Luna (3rd grader with brain tumor), **Lula** Jones, **Jewel** Stark (friend of GLC) and **Tommy** Prochaska.

Recent Health Concerns:

**Antone & Marie** Delesandre (Rod Langer's cousins), **Holly** Supak (daughter of Smithville's Chief of Police), **Bill** Herbrick (Nancy Fritsche's brother) **Thomas** Kinsey (in-law of Dorothy Heptner), **Ken** Long, (Barbara Pauley's

brother), **Eugene** Randle, **Leland** Prove, **Harvey** Franke (Ann Schroeder's cousin), **Joyce** Aplin (Brenda Sander's Sister), **Bobbie** Aplin (Brenda Sander's Mother), **Kenny** Wood (Sandy Kadlecek's father), **Richard** Bennatt (friend of the Langer's), **Easton** Earp (friend of Juanita Bertsch), **Charley** Rae Furr (friend of Donna Zimmerhanzel), **Evelyn** Tinberg (Alvie's sister-in-law), **Bernice** Behrend, , **Floyd** Meeks, **Alton** Voight (father of Carolyn Riddle), **Martha** Rasor, **Will** Gordon (Robin Nitsche's brother), **Joe** Reyna (husband of one of our GLLC teachers), **Christopher** Harms (friend of the Metzlers), **Sandra** St.John (co-worker of Chrissy Becker), **Bill** Moberg (friend of M.W. Kasper).

In the Military: **James** Staton (grandson of Ed & Marilyn Randle), **Dusty** Organ & **Daniel** McIntyre (friends of James Staton), **Steven** Guedry (friend of Millie Fritz), **Ryan** Teague, **Richard** Gamboa, **David** Bienek, **Robert** Klinger (nephew of Jim & Mary Ann Duty), **Beck** Williams Helmcamp (George Helmcamp's grandson).

Other Prayer Requests: **Judy** Murphy (friend of Rose Pietsch), **Nicholas** Harwell, **Mark & Margie** Peres, **The Wolff** family and the **Smithville Volunteer Fire Dept.**

In Mourning: **The Schiller family** (Robbie Curles' father-in-law)

**AT GRACE THIS WEEK**

<b><u>Sun. Dec. 25</u></b>	<b><u>Mon, Dec. 26</u></b>	<b><u>Tues, Dec. 27</u></b>	<b><u>Wed, Dec. 28</u></b>
THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD 9a Worship	<b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b>	NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE 7p Evangelism	10a GLLC Chapel NO MIDWEEK (Christmas break)
<b><u>Thurs. Dec 29</u></b>	<b><u>Fri. Dec. 30</u></b>	<b><u>Sat. Dec. 31</u></b>	<b><u>Sun. Jan. 1, 2012</u></b>
7p Lord's Supper Bible Study	Pastor Away-Family Day		CIRCUMCISION AND NAME OF JESUS 8:45a Bible Class 10a Worship/Communion

\* MID WEEK ADVENT SCHEDULE

5:30 – 6:15p Classes  
6:00 – 6:45p Soup Supper  
7:00 Advent Service

Sunday Worship (12/18) 166  
Sunday School (12/18) 45

**FINANCIALS – as of December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

	<b>Dec. 4</b>	<b>Dec. 7</b>	<b>Dec. 11</b>	<b>Dec. 14</b>	<b>Dec. 18</b>	<b>Dec. 21</b>
General	5,551.00	379.00	2,933.00		3,032.00	
Sun School	36.00		23.00		25.40	
Spcl. Missions	50.00					
Mem./Edna Randle	150.00		25.00			
Lutheran Witness	24.00		65.00		12.00	
Footprints		76.00	500.00			
GLLC donation	425.00		25.00	626.30	50.00	
Poinsettias	72.00	8.50				
New Van	1,000.00		50.00		55.00	
Custodian	10.00					
Organ			10.00			
Van Repair	100.00					
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,418.00</b>	<b>463.50</b>	<b>3,631.00</b>	<b>626.30</b>	<b>3,174.40</b>	

12/11/2011 \*\*Sunday School Door Offering for Christmas bags \$326.85



Greetings Grace members! We are starting a new year. And what better way to do so than to start greeting our own folks and visitors at the door. Yes, I know. It has been done before but died. What a shame. Research indicates that initially the top two components that seem to bring people back for a second visit is 1) the effectiveness of the pastor, 2) the friendliness of the people. Research also indicates that when members greet members it makes for a closer church; breaking the ice, putting names with faces, etc. Do you know every one by name in our church? I don't. So join with me and sign up to be a greeter. It is an easy way to serve and only takes about 20-30 minutes Sunday morning. The more we get the less you will get to do it; unless you just want to hog it! We will probably have a meeting before we get started. See me, **Jim Sanders**, or sign up in the Narthex. Now, don't make me come after you!



## *Schedule for Advent and Christmas Worship*

December 28, 2011	No Midweek (Christmas break)
January 1, 2012	New Year's Day 8:45 a Bible Class 10a Worship w/Communion
January 4, 2012	Regular Midweek Schedule resumes

### **PREPARING FOR WORSHIP**

**January 1<sup>st</sup>. 2012**

Circumcision and Name of Jesus

Divine Service Setting 3

Old Testament Reading: Numbers 6:22-27

Epistle Reading: Galatians 3:23-29

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:21