



Christmas Eve Gathering Liturgy

WELCOME

P The angel said to the shepherds, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ, the Lord” (Luke 2:10-11).

As we gather we hear again the good news the angels proclaimed: God has come for all people through the birth of the one named Jesus. Through Bethlehem’s manger God comes into the chaos, messiness, and vulnerability of the world. In all things and at all times, we rejoice that God comes to save us and reigns in love. We come to adore Jesus who is Savior, Christ, and Lord.

GATHERING CAROL: O Come, All Ye Faithful vv. 1 & 4 (ELW #283)

1: *O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to
Bethlehem;
come and behold him,*



Christmas Eve
SERVICE

born the king of angels:

Refrain: *O come, let us adore
him,*

*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!*

4: *Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given!*

*Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing:* Refrain

GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE: Angels We Have Heard on High (ELW #289)

1: *Angels we have heard on
high,
sweetly singing o’er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.
Glōria in excelsis Deo;
glōria in excelsis Deo.*

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

C **Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus’ presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Christmas Eve Readings and Carols

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—

on them light has shined. ...
For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his
shoulders;
and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty
God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of
Peace.
His authority shall grow
continually,

and there shall be endless
peace
for the throne of David and his
kingdom.

He will establish and uphold
it
with justice and with
righteousness
from this time onward and
forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts
will do this.

FIRST CAROL What Child Is
This (ELW 296)

1: *What child is this, who, laid
to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with
anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are
keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
whom shepherds guard and
angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!*

3: *So bring him incense, gold,
and myrrh;
come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation
brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary!*

SECOND READING: Luke 2:1-5

In those days a decree
went out from Emperor
Augustus that all the
world should be registered. This
was the first registration and was
taken while Quirinius was
governor of Syria. All went to
their own towns to be registered.
Joseph also went from the town
of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea,
to the city of David called
Bethlehem, because he was
descended from the house and
family of David. He went to be
registered with Mary, to whom

he was engaged and who
was expecting a child.

SECOND CAROL O Little
Town of Bethlehem
(ELW #279)

1: *O little town of
Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and
dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets
shineth
the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of
all the years
are met in thee tonight.*

4: *O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Immanuel!*

THIRD READING: Isaiah 11:1, 6-10

A shoot shall come out
from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow
out of his roots. ...
The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with
the kid,
the calf and the lion and the
fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down
together;
and the lion shall eat straw like
the ox.
The nursing child shall play over
the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put
its hand on the adder's den.
They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the
knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.
On that day the root of Jesse
shall stand as a signal to the



peoples; the nations shall inquire
of him, and his dwelling shall be
glorious.

THIRD CAROL It Came upon the
Midnight Clear (ELW #282)

1: *It came upon the midnight
clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the
earth
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to
all,
from heaven's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.*

4: *For lo! The days are
hastening on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling
years
shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the
earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the
song
which now the angels sing.*

FOURTH READING: Luke 2:6-7

While Joseph and Mary
were in Bethlehem, the
time came for her to
deliver her child. And she gave
birth to her firstborn son and
wrapped him in bands of cloth,
and laid him in a manger,

because there was no place for them in the inn.

FOURTH CAROL Away in a Manger (ELW #278)

1: *Away in a manger, no crib
for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down
his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked
down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the
hay.*

3: *Be near me, Lord Jesus; I
ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me,
I pray.
Bless all the dear children in
your tender care
and fit us for heaven, to live with
you there.*

FIFTH READING: Luke 2:8-14

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.”

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,



“Glory to God in the highest
heaven,
and on earth peace among those
whom he favors!”

FIFTH CAROL Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (ELW #270)

1: *Hark! The herald angels
sing,
“Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.”
Joyful, all you nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”*

Refrain: *Hark! The herald angels
sing,
“Glory to the newborn king!”*

3: *Hail the heaven-born Prince
of peace!
Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth,
born to give us second birth.*

Refrain

SIXTH READING: Luke 2:15-20

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

SIXTH CAROL Good Christian Friends, Rejoice (ELW #288)

1: *Good Christian friends,
rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say:
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!*

3: *Good Christian friends,
rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave;
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!*

Communion Liturgy

OFFERING SONG. VV. 1-2 Go Tell It on the Mountain (ELW 290)

Refrain: *Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!*

1: *While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. Refrain*

2: *The shepherds feared and trembled
when, lo, above the earth*

*rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth.*

Refrain

OFFERING PRAYER

P Gracious God, your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth. As we offer ourselves and these your gifts, prepare us to receive the grace and truth you offer at this table and renew in us the song of your salvation, in Jesus Christ our Savior.

C Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS (p. 153)

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of power and
might:*

*Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.*

*Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.*

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P Holy God, Creator of all and Source of life, at the birth of time your word brought light into the world. In the fullness of time, you sent your Word, born of Mary, to shine in our darkness and to make us your daughters and sons.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his birth and life among us, his death and resurrection, we await his coming again when all things will be restored in him.

By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup, that, held and nourished by you, we may live as your children, shining with the light of your Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

C Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Love has come: God's love for all people. Come and eat, for Christ invites you.

COMMUNION SONG (ELW p. 154)

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.*

SONG DURING COMMUNION The First Noël (ELW #300)

1: *The first Noël the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.*

Refrain: *Noël, Noël, Noël, Noël!
Born is the King of Israel.*



2: *They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.* Refrain

3: *And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went.* Refrain

4: *This star drew near to the northwest,
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
and there it did both stop and stay
right over the place where Jesus lay.* Refrain

5: *Then entered in those wise men three,
full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.* Refrain

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Emmanuel, God with us, you grace us with life and breath and give us bread for the journey. Send us out in service to this world that you love, telling the amazing news of your coming to be Savior and Lord of all.

C Amen.

CANDLE LIGHTING CAROL: Silent Night, Holy Night!: Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht! (ELW #281)

1: *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.*

2: *Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from your holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.*

SENDING

BLESSING

P Grace from God's own heart, peace from the **+** Child in the manger, and strength from the Spirit of life be blessings for you today and forever.

C Amen.

SENDING SONG: Joy to the World (ELW #267)

1: *Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare him room
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,*

and heaven, and heaven 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, etc.*

DISMISSAL

P Christ is born! Go tell it on the mountain and everywhere.

C Thanks be to God!

Liturgy from sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2022 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission: annual permit #SAS017083

Bulletin, Poinsettia Sponsors

Thank you to Brian and Bert Felland for sponsoring the worship bulletins in the month of December.

Thank you also to our poinsettia sponsors: Nancy Brichacek, in memory of Jim Brichacek Dawn & Scott Houston, in memory of Dorothy Keuffer and Carol Houston Rex Reeve & Phil McAndrew, in memory of Robert Reeve and Paul & Ginny McAndrew

Office Hours Christmas Week

Pastor Barker will be in the office Monday and Tuesday next week. He will be out of the office Wednesday through Saturday.

Paul Berge expects to be in the office Tuesday through Friday, weather permitting.

Lutefisk Dinner at Norway Lutheran

Norway Lutheran Church, 6321 Heg Park Road in Wind Lake, will take reservations in January for its annual Norwegian Lutefisk and Meatball Dinner. Dinners are served at 11:30, 12:30 and 1:30 on Saturday, February 11.

In addition to the namesake fish and meatballs, the meal includes homemade lefse, boiled potatoes, carrots, candied apples, and a variety of Norwegian cookies and desserts.

Reservations are required. Tickets are \$22.00 for adults, \$20.00 for seniors, \$12.00 for children under 10, and free to toddlers young enough to sit in a high chair. To order tickets, visit norwaylutheranchurch.org/lutefisk-2023 after January 2, or call Pam Burke at 262-895-3407.

Christmas Message from Bishop Paul Erickson

December 19, 2022

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.

And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. Luke 2:6-8

Even though it's been many, many years since I was a child, I still remember the growing excitement I felt in the days leading up to Christmas. As the presents began to appear beneath the tree in the living room, I would quietly scout out the packages with my name on them, counting them to see if I had more than my brothers, and trying to guess what was inside. Then our grandparents would arrive from Minnesota, and more presents would be added, and the anticipation grew.

Finally, Christmas Eve arrived, but we still had to wait until worship was over, then dinner, then a few Christmas carols, and just when I thought we would never be able to open our gifts, permission was granted, and the frenzy ensued. Wrapping paper would fly, we would ooh and aah and say the obligatory "thank you" and we would dive back into the pile to find another present with our name on it.

And then, in just a few short minutes, it would all be over, the room would grow quiet, and I would look again to see if there was just one more present to open, perhaps hiding behind the couch or beneath the piles of wrapping paper strewn around the room. And I recall a thought entering my mind, one that I never dared give voice to, asking "Is that all?" No matter how many presents I had just opened, and no matter how fully my Christmas wish list had been fulfilled, I would always be looking for more.

I wonder if the shepherds or the magi had a similar thought. Remember, angels had just announced the birth of a new king, who would bring peace on earth. And the magi had read prophecies that were centuries old, and they assumed the new king would be born in a palace. I can picture them

arriving at the manger scene, tucked behind the inn, their sandals sinking in the mud and the muck, and thinking to themselves, "Sorry, we must be in the wrong place; we were looking for someone else, something more, royal."

Perhaps these thoughts enter our minds in these days, as well, as our congregations gather for worship. Maybe we think back to previous Christmas celebrations, when we had to put chairs in the aisles, there were dozens or hundreds of kids in the Sunday School program, the choir loft was full, and everything was just right. No matter how wonderful or meaningful our worship services might

be, we may be tempted to compare them to years past and think to ourselves, "Is this all?" As we look at the many challenges and crises confronting us, we may wonder if the tiny candles we hold up as we sing "Silent Night" can withstand the cold, hard winds that want to extinguish our hope and mock our small and imperfect celebrations.

The Good News is that yes, it is enough. Our worship, our singing, our preaching, our gatherings, our love, it's all enough. It doesn't matter if it's grand and glorious or small and chaotic, God takes what we

have to offer and makes it all enough. The love of the universe, born in a tiny manger in a nondescript village, it's all we have, but it's all we need. Immanuel, God is with us, alleluia.



Grace Receipts: Dec. 18, 2022

Current	\$ 1,048.00
Benevolence	\$ 150.00
Christmas	\$ 50.00
Memorial for Connie Ferwerda ..	\$ 1,246.42
From non-members:	
General offering	\$ 13.00
Pastor's benefits package	\$ 200.00
Welcome Center	\$ 500.00
Holy Assembly church usage	\$ 500.00
Sun. NA church usage	\$ 40.00
Minus internet banking fees	\$ (55.15)
Total	\$ 3,692.27

Gathering Liturgy for Christmas Morning

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation.

C Amen.

P Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin. God of life,

C you promise good news of great joy for all people, and call us to be messengers of your peace. We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security. We nurture conflict and build barriers. We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation. Have mercy on us. Where we are self-centered, open our hearts. Where we are reluctant, give us courage. Where we are cynical, restore our trust. Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life in you. Amen.

P Hear the good news: We are children of God and heirs of

God's promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In + Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God.

C Amen.



GATHERING SONG: "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (ELW #283)

1: *O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!*

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;

come and behold him, born the king of angels:

Refrain: *Venite adoremus, venite adoremus, venite adoremus Dominum.*

2: *The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,*

born of a virgin, a mortal he comes; Son of the Father now in flesh appearing! Refrain

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE:

refrain "Angels We Have Heard on High" (ELW #289)

Gloria in excelsis deo! Gloria in excelsis deo!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. Almighty God, you gave us your only Son to take on our human nature and to illumine the world with your light. By your grace adopt us as your children and enlighten us with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Readings for Christmas Morning

Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy;

for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD has bared God's holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see

the salvation of our God.

Psalms 98

¹Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things, whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

²**O LORD, you have made known your victory, you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

³You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

⁴Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

⁵Sing to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song.

⁶With trumpets and the sound of the horn shout with joy before the king, the LORD.

⁷Let the sea roar, and all that fills it, the world and those who dwell therein.

⁸Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord, who comes to judge the earth.

⁹The LORD will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity.

Hebrews 1:1–4

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the

prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God’s glory and the exact imprint of God’s very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.



Gospel: John 1:1–14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him,

and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.

Creed, Prayers, and Meal

HYMN OF THE DAY: “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” (ELW #270)
 1: *Hark! The herald angels sing,
 “Glory to the newborn king;
 peace on earth, and mercy mild,
 God and sinners reconciled.”
 Joyful, all you nations, rise;
 join the triumph of the skies;
 with angelic hosts proclaim,
 “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”*

Refrain: *Hark! The herald angels sing,
 “Glory to the newborn king!”*

3: *Hail the heaven-born Prince of peace!
 Hail the Sun of righteousness!
 Light and life to all he brings,*

*risen with healing in his wings.
 Mild he lays his glory by,
 born that we no more may die,
 born to raise each child of earth,
 born to give us second birth.*
 Refrain

APOSTLES’ CREED

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

“Lord, Listen To Your Children Praying” (ELW #752)

Lord, listen to your children praying,

Lord, send your Spirit in this place;

Lord, listen to your children praying,

send us love, send us power, send us grace.

“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying” by Ken Medema copyright © 1973 Hope Publishing Co. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under OneLicence.net permit #A-733643

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ’s coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family. The church in every land makes a joyful noise to herald your coming, O God. We give thanks for poets, musicians, and hymn writers who give voice to our praise, and for all who lead the church’s worship. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

P This day dawns with new hope for all living things, and from ocean depths to mountain peaks the earth rejoices. Inspire in us an urgent zeal to protect the planet and renew its resources; (*local environmental concerns may be named*). God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Bring heavenly peace to this world and an end to armed conflict. Raise up leaders in every nation who will honor human rights and establish equal justice for all people. Give courage to all who speak out against oppression and advocate for the powerless. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Guard the lives of any in danger, especially those who work to protect others. Lead any who are in desperate circumstances to sanctuary, help, and safety. Grant rest to the weary and soothe those who are troubled, especially:

- Mary Andrews (Welcome Center volunteer)
- Dawn Bench (Welcome Center volunteer)
- Doug Becker (Marlene’s son)
- Pat Bernacchi
- Jackie Brichacek (Nancy’s sister-in-law)
- Jean Boothe
- Hank Buehrens
- Andrew Calvert
- Barb Caputo
- Holly Cummings
- Eric Dangerfield (Carolyn’s boyfriend)
- Pastor Rafael Escobedo
- Gregory Foster
- Judy Gregory
- Shirleen Gulick
- Cogan Holly Hall
- Aggie Hartnell (Bert’s mother)
- Christine Hill
- Dennis Houston (Dawn’s father-in-law)
- Sydney & Skyler Houston
- Karen Kempinen
- David Kristopeit (Nancy’s brother-in-law)
- Beth McCarthy (Jarlene’s sister)
- Gail Miller
- Rubel Pierce (Randy’s father)
- Carolyn Reynold’s children Eddie, Santino, and Lytosha
- Martha, Joel, and Jeanette Sanchez
- Cynthia Schwartz (Norma’s daughter)
- Marcia Swanson
- Joyce Swift
- Andrew Tate
- Ron and Linda Wadham
- Steve & Heather Waldron
- Florence and Jacqueline Walker (Carolyn’s sisters)

- Timothy Walker
 - Dottie Watts
 - Chris Webb (Bert’s sister)
 - Kristi Weiss
- God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Bless all who gather to worship on this holy day. Be present at our tables and celebrations, and watch over those who travel. Sustain charities, outreach ministries, and food pantries that give generously to people in need: (*local organizations may be named*). God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

P In Christ we have beheld your glory, full of grace and truth. We give thanks for those in every generation who reflect the light of Christ. May their witness shine forth in our time. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God.

C **Amen.**

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

MEAL

OFFERING. *We Give Thee but Thine Own* (ELW #686)
1 *We give thee but thine own, whate’er the gift may be; all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.*

OFFERING PRAYER

P God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and

gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.

C Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 153)
*Holy, holy, holy Lord,
Lord God of power and might:
Heav'n and earth are full of your
glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessèd is he who comes in the
name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.*

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P Holy God, Creator of all and Source of life, at the birth of time your word brought light

into the world. In the fullness of time, you sent your Word, born of Mary, to shine in our darkness and to make us your daughters and sons.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his birth and life among us, his death and resurrection, we await his coming again when all things will be restored in him. By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup, that, held and nourished by you, we may live as your children, shining with the light of your Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

C Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.**



INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Glory to God in the highest!
Come to the table of peace.

COMMUNION SONG (ELW p. 154)
*Lamb of God, you take away the
sin of the world; have mercy
on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the
sin of the world; have mercy
on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the
sin of the world; grant us
peace, grant us peace.*

SONG DURING COMMUNION: *The First Noël* (ELW #300)

1: *The first Noël the angel did
say
was to certain poor
shepherds in fields as they
lay;
in fields where they lay,
keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that
was so deep.*

Refrain: *Noël, Noël, Noël, Noël!
Born is the King of Israel.*

2: *They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond
them far;
and to the earth it gave
great light,
and so it continued both day
and night. Refrain*

3: *And by the light of that same
star
three wise men came from*

country far;
to seek for a king was their
intent,
and to follow the star
wherever it went. Refrain

4: This star drew near to the
northwest,
o'er Bethlehem it took its
rest;
and there it did both stop
and stay
right over the place where
Jesus lay. Refrain

5: Then entered in those wise
men three,
full reverently upon their
knee,
and offered there in his
presence
their gold, and myrrh, and
frankincense. Refrain

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P God our redeemer, you have
fed us at this table with gifts

of grace, truth, and life. As
you have gathered us in joy,
send us forth as messengers
of your peace. Make us shine
with the good news of your
glory, born to us in Jesus
Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

P God bless you and keep you,
+ Jesus grant you grace and
truth, and the Spirit send
peace upon your hearts, now
and forever.

C Amen.

SENDING SONG: *Joy to the
World* (ELW #267)

1: *Joy to the world, the Lord is
come!*

*Let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare him*

room
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven 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.*

DISMISSAL

P Christ the Savior is born! Go
in peace. Proclaim this good
news.

C Thanks be to God.

Liturgy from sundaysandseasons.com.
Copyright © 2022 Augsburg Fortress. All
rights reserved. Reprinted by permission:
annual permit #SAS017083

2023 Estimate of Giving record

for Grace Lutheran Church

In grateful response to God's love and mercy, I/we estimate my/our giving will be:

week

\$ _____ per

month

Current \$ _____ Benevolence \$ _____

year

Other: _____ \$ _____

We invite you to keep this copy for your records

✂ -----

2023 Estimate of Giving slip

for Grace Lutheran Church

In grateful response to God's love and mercy, I/we estimate my/our giving will be:

week

\$ _____ per

month

Current \$ _____ Benevolence \$ _____

year

Other: _____ \$ _____

Name/s _____ Date _____/2022

Phone _____ email address _____

Address _____

Grace Lutheran Church
2006 60th Street
Kenosha, Wisconsin 53140-3893

www.GraceKenosha.com + www.facebook.com/GraceElcaKenosha/

Worship services in sanctuary and on Facebook Sundays at 9:30 a.m., Christmas Eve at 4:30 p.m.

Pastor Jonathan Barker: jonathan.w.barker17@gmail.com ☎ 626-864-6404

Church office: graceoffice@wi.rr.com ☎ 262-654-9143

Office hours: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Tuesday through Friday



Christmas Eve
at Grace Lutheran Church
2006 60th Street, Kenosha, Wisconsin

4:30 p.m.
Service of Lessons and Carols
Saturday, December 24

Christmas Day
at Grace Lutheran Church
2006 60th Street, Kenosha, Wisconsin

9:30 a.m.
Sunday, December 25

Love came down at Christmas