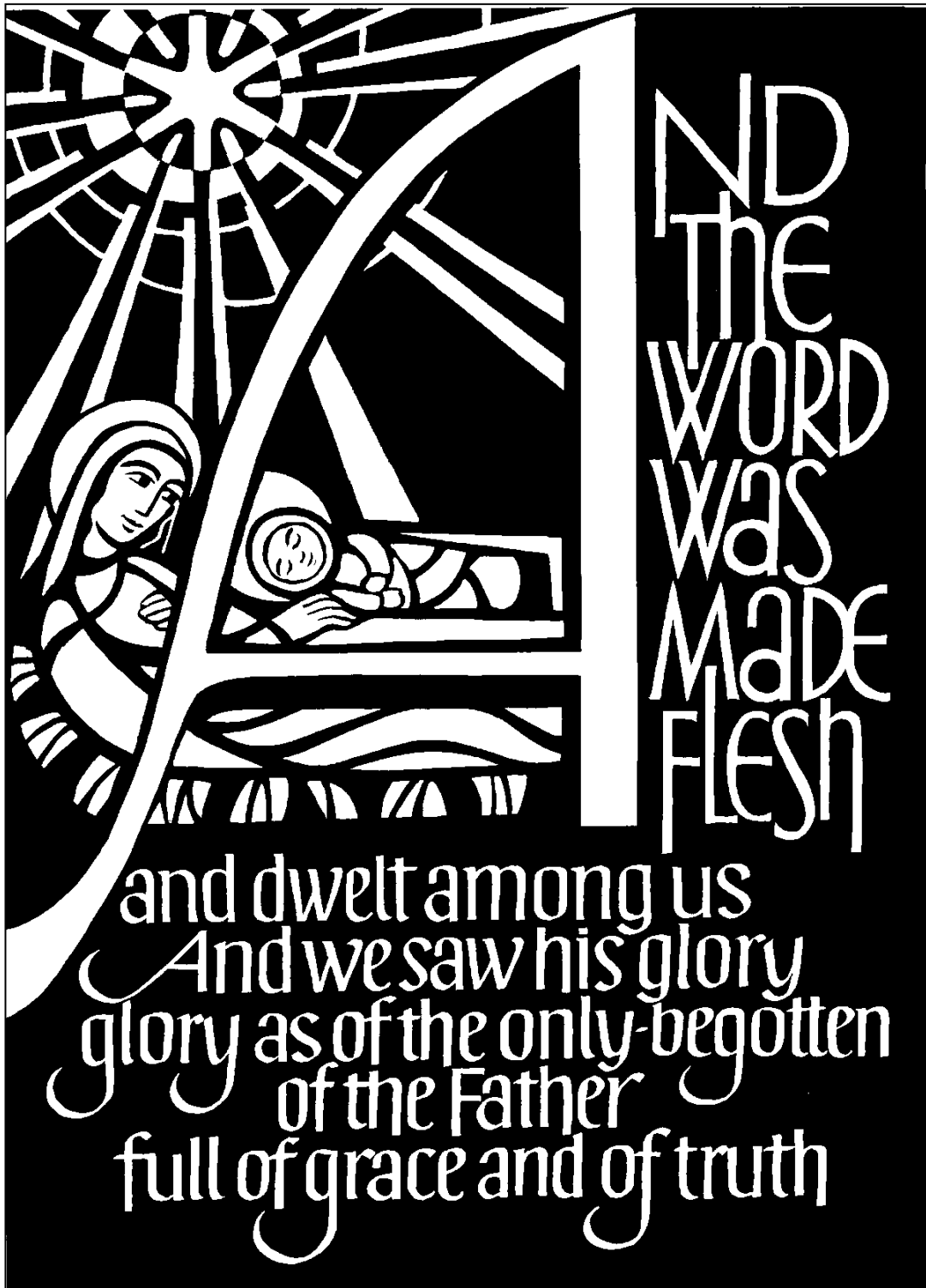


# The Festival of the Nativity of our Lord



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church  
830 N. 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue Tucson, AZ 85719  
December 25, 2013

# 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

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming, *Organ*  
O Little Town of Bethlehem, *Handbells*  
Angels and Shepherds, *Handbells*  
Go, Tell It On The Mountain, *Brass Ensemble*

## LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE

*Jon Miller*

*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.*

## 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*

*O Jesus so sweet, O Jesus so mild! For sinners you became a child.  
You came from heaven to fulfill your Father's just and holy will.  
O Jesus so sweet, O Jesus so mild!*

*O Jesus so sweet, O Jesus so mild! With God we now are reconciled.  
You have for all the ransom paid, your Father's righteous anger stayed.  
O Jesus so sweet, O Jesus so mild!*

*O Jesus so sweet, O Jesus so mild! Joy fills the world which sin defiled.  
Whate'er we have belongs to you; Oh keep us faithful, strong, and true.  
O Jesus so sweet, O Jesus 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.**

*BE SEATED*

## VOICES OF GRACE

**Angels We Have Heard On High**

### FIRST LESSON Isaiah 52:7-10

*The Lord has brought comfort and redemption*

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.

## HYMN

**Once Again My Heart Rejoices**  
*Christian Worship #37*

**SECOND LESSON      Hebrews 1:1-9***God has revealed himself to us through his Son*

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.”

**HYMN****Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising***Christian Worship #42***SERMON****John 1:1-14****Light Has Come Into The World!**

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.

**HYMN****Christ is the World’s Light***Christian Worship #343***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.**

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

*Christmas Classics Celebration  
Worship Choir*

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.**

BE SEATED

**HYMN** *Printed on page 5 of the worship folder*

**Peace Came To Earth**  
*Christian Worship Supplement #707*

707

## Peace Came to Earth



1 Peace came to earth at last that cho - sen night  
 2 And who could be the same for hav - ing held  
 3 You show the Fa - ther none has ev - er seen,  
 4 How else could I have known you, O my God!



When an - gels clove the sky with song and light And  
 The in - fant in their arms and lat - er felt The  
 In flesh and blood you bore our griefs and pain, In  
 How else could I have loved you, O my God! How



God em - bod - ied love and sheathed his might— Who could but  
 wound-ed hands and side, all doubts dis - pelled— Who could but  
 bread and wine you vis - it us a - gain— Who could but  
 else could I em - brace you, O my God! Who could but



gasp: Im - man - u - el! Who could but sing: Im - man - u - el!  
 sigh: Im - man - u - el! Who could but shout: Im - man - u - el!  
 see: Im - man - u - el! Who could but thrill: Im - man - u - el!  
 pray: Im - man - u - el! Who could but praise: Im - man - u - el!

*The picturesque language of this Jaroslav Vajda hymn vividly illustrates the weighty significance of God becoming man in Christ.*

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008 © 1984 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.  
 Tune: PEACE CAME TO EARTH (10 10 10 88) Richard Jeffrey, b. 1952 © 2000 Birmamwood Publications (ASCAP),  
 a division of MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

STAND

**PRAYER**

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **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.**

BE SEATED

**CLOSING HYMN**

**Go Tell it on the Mountain**  
*Christian Worship #57*

**POSTLUDE**

**Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**  
*Setting by Michael Burkhardt*

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

Worship Leader	Pastor Ronald Koehler	<i>Handbell Choir</i>	
		Director	Beth Kassulke
Organist	Tina Christianson		Greg Grorud, Cora Stuhr,
Organ/Piano Duet	Tina Christianson, Teri Guenther		Dylan Guenther, Donna Malchow,
			Karen Grorud, Gloria Gerds,
Ushers	Ed Ethington, Dylan Guenther, Tyler Koehler, Ferdie Kramm, Taylor Parra		Missy Wiechmann, Lauri Colton
		<i>Brass Ensemble</i>	
		Director	Missy Wiechmann
Sound Technician	Amy Breiling	Baritone	Eileen Rayman
		Trombone	John Rayman
<i>Worship Choir</i>		French Horn	Cora Stuhr
Director	Teri Guenther	Trumpets	Pastor Nathan Kassulke Pastor Ronald Koehler
<i>Voices of Grace</i>		<i>Service Instrumentalists</i>	
Director	Beth Kassulke	Timpani	Danny Koehler
		Trumpets	Pastor Nathan Kassulke Tyler Koehler

