



# WELCOME TO GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF LILY LAKE, IL

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Wednesday December 24<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 \* 7:00 PM \* INPERSON and ONLINE



## ***Christmas Eve 2025***

### **Introduction**

**TODAY'S THEME:** In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US FOR SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

Print out your bulletin or use it on your phone or tablet to follow along.

*Announcements are televised or found on our website*

Be creative how you worship and remember God during this time. It will calm your soul, give you peace and enliven your spirit.

*Our community gathers in unity with others in-person and a virtual way.*

*We hope all people find it easy to follow along.*

### **GOD GATHERS US**

*Announcements are found on our website*

### **PRELUDE**

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS EVE - Light of Light

*Responsive Litany*

L: Light of Light, shine in our hearts and renew our hope.

**C: Joy to the world, Emmanuel has come.**

L: Light of Light, shine in our hearts and grant us peace.

**C: Joy to the world, Emmanuel has come.**

L: Light of Light, shine in our hearts and bring us true joy.

**C: Joy to the world, Emmanuel has come.**

L: Light of Light, shine in our hearts and fill us with love.

**C: Joy to the world, Emmanuel has come.**

*Candle Lighting*

L: Tonight, we light all five candles – the candles of hope, peace, joy, love, and finally, the Christ Candle, celebrating the birth of our **Lord and Savior**. The candle of **hope** reminds us that in sending Christ, God sent hope to the earth. The candle of **peace** reminds us that peace will one day reign. The candle of **joy** is a reminder that we have been given eternal life and have no reason to be fearful. And the candle of **love** represents God's redeeming love for us, brought to earth in the form of a tiny child

Closing Prayer

**ALL: God of light, tonight we celebrate the birth of Jesus. We thank you for this, the most precious of Christmas gifts, and we ask that you keep the hope, peace, joy and love of this season in our hearts, now and throughout the coming year. Emmanuel – God is with us, now and forevermore. Amen**

**Halleluiah Chorus (please rise)  
(words projected for all to sing along as able)**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace.

**C: Amen.**

P: Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Reconciling God,  
we yearn for your presence to transform  
our grief, pain, and despair.  
We confess that we have not always prepared  
room in our hearts for your love;  
we have not always recognized  
your presence among us;  
we have not always embraced your message of peace.  
We cry out, weary with the burden of violence,  
oppression, and fear.  
We confess our failure to make room  
for those seeking refuge;  
our participation in violent systems  
that harm your innocent ones;  
our reluctance to embody your good news.  
Be born in us today  
and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation.  
All: Amen.

P: God's grace upon grace flows over you.  
✝ Christ's presence redeems the whole creation.  
Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!  
All: Amen.

**OPENING SONG**                      **TBD/Red Hymnal**

### **GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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

**All: And also with you.**

P: 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.  
All: Amen.

**SHARING OF PEACE**

P: God has received us, pardoned us and loved us; let us forgive each other in love and share the peace of Christ. Peace be with you.

**C: And you also.**

Share the peace with each other either by a wave or a bow.

### **HEARING GOD'S WORD**

#### **FIRST READING:**

#### **Psalm 96**

- <sup>1</sup> Sing to the LORD a new song;  
sing to the LORD, all the earth.
- <sup>2</sup> **Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD;  
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**
- <sup>3</sup> Declare God's glory among the nations  
and God's wonders among all peoples.
- <sup>4</sup> **For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised,  
more to be feared than all gods.**
- <sup>5</sup> As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;  
but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.
- <sup>6</sup> **Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;  
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**
- <sup>7</sup> Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples,  
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.
- <sup>8</sup> **Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name;  
bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.**
- <sup>9</sup> Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;  
tremble before the LORD, all the earth.
- <sup>10</sup> **Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is king!  
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the  
peoples with equity."**
- <sup>11</sup> Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;  
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
- <sup>12</sup> **Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O LORD,  
for you come to judge the earth.**
- <sup>13</sup> You will judge the world with righteousness  
and the peoples with your truth.

L: Word of God; Word of Life.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

(Please rise for the reading of the Gospel)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke

**All: Glory to you O Lord**

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

*God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.*

<sup>1</sup> In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup> 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.

<sup>8</sup> In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> 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: <sup>11</sup> to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You O Christ!**

## MESSAGE FOR ALL

Pastor David Mercurio

SONG OF DAY

TBD

ELW Red Hymnal

## APOSTLES' CREED

P: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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 power of 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

## OFFERING IS WELCOMED

P: God of Glory,

C: great are your wonders among us  
and many are the blessings you bestow.

Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world,  
that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace,  
through Christ our Savior.

All: Amen.

*(An offering will be taken after the prayer.)*

## Offertory Music

## HOLY COMMUNION

P: A child has been born for us, a Son given to us. Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them in the Spirit's love.

P: Let us give thanks to our Triune God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O God. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all who believe in Him should not perish. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his Holy Supper.

## **P: WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**ALL:** 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

**P:** These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

**All:** Thanks be to God

## **TAKE AND EAT OF THE BREAD AND CUP**

### **COMMUNION HYMNS:**

O Come All Ye Faithful  
What Child is This  
Away In A Manger

ELW 283 (Red Hymnal)  
ELW 296 (Red Hymnal)  
ELW 277 (Red Hymnal)

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**P:** Merciful God,

**C:** we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy.

**Amen.**

**Hymn**

**SILENT NIGHT**

**ELW 281 Red Hymnal**

*(Congregation will have their candles lit from the center isle)*

**P:** Isaiah 9:2-7

<sup>2</sup> 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.  
<sup>3</sup> You have multiplied exultation;  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,

as people exult when dividing plunder.  
<sup>4</sup> For the yoke of their burden  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.  
<sup>5</sup> For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.  
<sup>6</sup> 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.  
<sup>7</sup> Great will be his authority,  
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.

**CLOSING SONG:**

**JOY TO THE WORLD**

**ELW 267 (Red Hymnal)**

**GOD SENDS US**

**BLESSING**

P: The triune God,  
glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One,  
abiding Comforter, ✝ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy

**All: Amen**

**DISMISSAL**

P: Glory to God in the highest!

**All: And peace to God's people on earth!**

**P:** Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

**ALL: Thanks be to God**

**POSTLUDE**

INSERT CURRENT BOILER PLATE