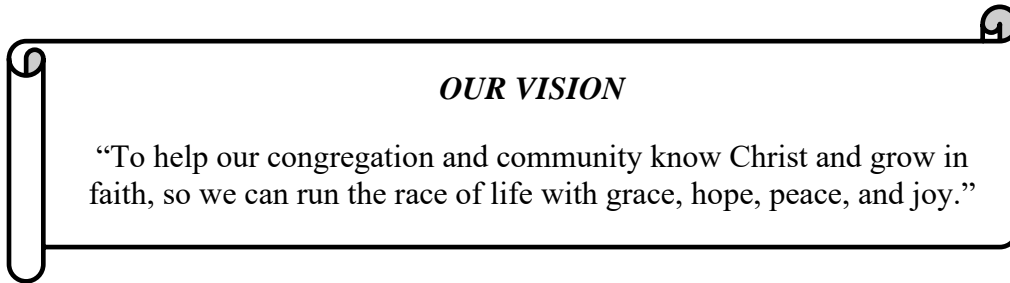


***SPIRIT OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH***  
**December 26 & 27, 2020 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas**

**Ministers: Every Member of Spirit of Grace**  
**Pastor Scott Hackler – Pastor Gary Benson**



**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP: “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”** ..... Fred Bornhoeft

**INVOCATION**

**P:** We worship in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit!

**C: Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN: “O Come, All Ye Faithful”**

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**

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

The highest, most holy, / Light of light eternal, / born of a virgin, a mortal he comes; / Son of the Father / now in flesh appearing!

**CHRISTMAS LITANY**

**P:** The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**C: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

**P:** Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

**C: We have beheld Christ’s glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

**P:** To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

**C: In the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**P:** Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all we do; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC: “Cover Him, Joseph”** ..... Dave Seaburg  
..... Gerry Seaburg, Accompanist

## LESSONS AND CAROLS

**Isaiah 9:2-7** – *God promises a king* . . . . . Marilyn Belanger

"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. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. 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. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. 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.

### **“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”**

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!

Good Christian friends, rejoice / with heart and soul and voice; / now ye hear of endless bliss: / Jesus Christ was born for this! / He has opened heaven's door, / and we are blest forevermore. / Christ was born for this! / Christ was born for this!

**Micah 5:2-5a** – *The king will come from Bethlehem* . . . . . Marilyn Belanger

"But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah (Eph' ra-tah), who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

### **“O Little Town of Bethlehem”**

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.

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!

**Luke 1:26-35, 38** – *The annunciation to Mary*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be

holy; he will be called Son of God. Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

**“Hark, the Glad Sound!”**

Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes, / the Savior promised long; / let ev'ry heart prepare a throne / and ev'ry voice a song.

**Luke 2:1-7 – *The birth of Jesus***

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 (Quī·rin'ī·us) 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. 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.

**SPECIAL MUSIC: “Sweet Little Jesus Boy”** ..... Dave Seaburg  
..... Gerry Seaburg, Accompanist

**Luke 2:8-16 – *The shepherds go to see the Savior***

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!" 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.

**“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”**

Angels, from the realms of glory, / wing your flight o'er all the earth; / once you sang creation's story; / now proclaim Messiah's birth: / come and worship, come and worship, / worship Christ, the newborn king.

Shepherds, in the fields abiding, / watching o'er your flocks by night, / God with us is now residing, / yonder shines the infant light. / Come and worship, come and worship, / worship Christ, the newborn king.

**Luke 2:21-35 – *Jesus receives his name***

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." And the child's father and mother were

amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

### **“O Savior, Precious Savior”**

O Savior, precious Savior, / whom yet unseen we love; / O name of might and favor, / all other names above:  
/ we worship thee; we bless thee; / to thee alone we sing; / we praise thee and confess thee, / our holy Lord and King.

O bringer of salvation, / who wondrously hast wrought, / thyself the revelation / of love beyond our thought: /  
we worship thee; we bless thee; / to thee alone we sing; / we praise thee and confess thee, / our gracious Lord and King.

### **Matthew 2:1-11 – *The magi follow the star***

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

### **“What Child Is This”**

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!

Why lies he in such mean estate / where ox and ass are feeding? / Good Christian, fear; for sinners here /  
the silent Word is pleading. / Nails, spear shall pierce him through, / the cross be borne for me, for you; / hail, hail  
the Word made flesh, / the babe, the son of Mary!

### **Matthew 2:13-18 – *The slaughter of the holy innocents***

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son." When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

**“Your Little Ones, Dear Lord”**

Your little ones, dear Lord, are we, / and come your lowly bed to see; / enlighten ev'ry soul and mind, / that we the way to you may find.

Oh, draw us wholly to you, Lord, / and to us all your grace accord; / true faith and love to us impart, / that we may hold you in our heart.

**John 1:1-14 – *The mystery of the incarnation***

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.

**“From Heaven Above”**

From heav'n above to earth I come / to bring good news to ev'ryone! / Glad tidings of great joy I bring / to all the world, and gladly sing:

This is the Christ, God's Son most high, / who hears your sad and bitter cry; / he will himself your Savior be / and from all sin will set you free.

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**DEVOTION: “Promises and Hope Prevail!!” . . . . . Pastor Gary Benson**

**HYMN: “Rise, Shine, You People!”**

Rise, shine, you people! Christ the Lord has entered / our human story; God in him is centered. / He comes to us, by death and sin surrounded, / with grace unbounded.

Come, celebrate; your banners high unfurling, / your songs and prayers against the darkness hurling. / To all the world go out and tell the story / of Jesus' glory.

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**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 into hell. 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.**

## PRAYERS

P: Glory to God in the highest,

**C: and peace to God's people on earth.**

P: Blessed are you, Prince of peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.

**C: Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.**

P: Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.

**C: Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.**

P: We pray especially for ...

P: Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.

**C: Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bear your light to all the world. Amen.**

## INTRODUCTION TO THE LORD'S SUPPER

### THE LORD'S SUPPER: WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

**C: Blessed are you for the birth of creation.**

P: Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

**C: Blessed are you for your promise to your people.**

P: Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

**C: Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.**

P: Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

P: 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.

**C: With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming again.**

### LORD'S PRAYER

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.**

### DISTRIBUTION

### BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C: Amen.**

## PRAYER

P: O God, you gave us Christ the Son to save us.

C: **As you sent the one foretold, send us now with good news for all people. Let the gladness of this feast have no end as we share with others the joy that fills us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN: “Go Tell It on the Mountain”

### Refrain

Go tell it on the mountain, / over the hills and ev'rywhere; / go tell it on the mountain / that Jesus Christ is born!

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

The shepherds feared and trembled / when, lo, above the earth / rang out the angel chorus / that hailed our Savior's birth. **Refrain**

Down in a lonely manger / the humble Christ was born; / and God sent us salvation / that blessed Christmas morn. **Refrain**

## DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

Carol Singers: Ken Carnes, Stephen Coffman, Pastor Gary Benson, Dave Seaburg

Audio & Lighting: Jim Miller

Producer & Editor: Jerry Huston

### *RUNNING THE RACE*

“Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 3:13-14