

Gaudete Midweek

Evening Prayer with Children's Christmas Program
19 December Anno ✚ Domini 2012



Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Order of Evening Prayer with Children's Christmas Program

Introduction to “God’s Love at Christmas”

The theme for this year’s program comes from the well-loved children’s Christmas hymn “God Loves Me Dearly.” Originally written in 1852 by a pastor who was working with homeless and disadvantaged children, this hymn delights in the personal nature of our heavenly Father’s love—He loves *even me*. Because of our inherited sin and our own sinful choices, we were “in slavery, sin, death, and darkness,” but “God’s love was working to make me free.”

St. John wrote, “In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him” (1 John 4:9). Jesus was born to “save His people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21). Jesus “paid all I owed” through His birth, suffering, death, and resurrection and so “set me free.” Because of Jesus, God’s Son, coming to save us, everyone can joyfully say, and sing, “God loves me dearly, loves even me.”

****Please be sure to note the singing instructions included above all hymns and songs****

Service of Preparation

(Upon entering the nave, silence should be observed to allow all the opportunity to prayerfully prepare for the presence of the Lord and the reception of His gifts)

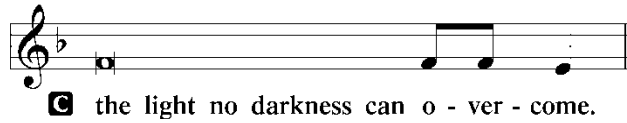
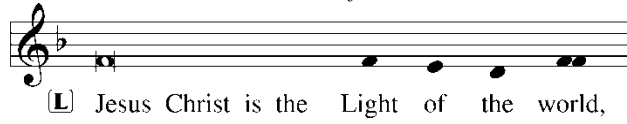
Prelude and Ringing of the Bells

(The congregation stands at the Ringing of the Bells and faces the Christ Candle in the rear of the nave for the Service of Light. You may make the sign of the cross in remembrance of your Baptism as the Christ Candle passes your pew)

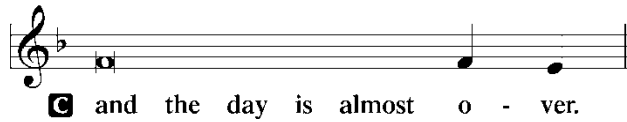
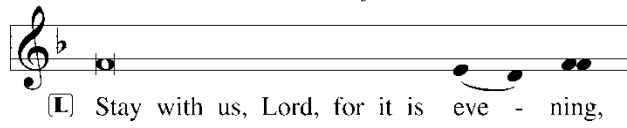
Service of Light

Opening Versicles

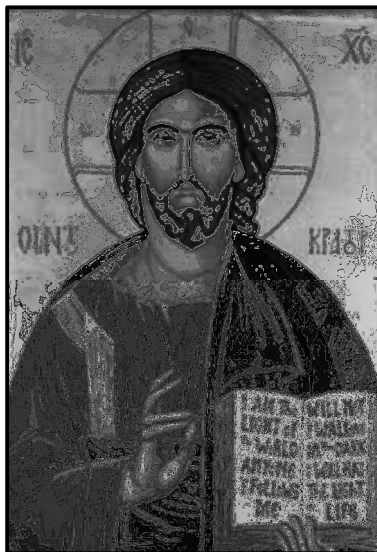
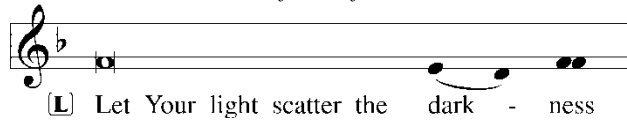
From the rear of the nave:



From the middle of the nave:



From the front of the nave:



Phos Hilaron



The musical score for 'Phos Hilaron' is written on ten staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first line of lyrics is 'Joy - ous light of glo - ry:'. The second line is 'of the im - mor - tal Fa - ther; heav - en - ly, ho - ly,'. The third line is 'bless - ed Je - sus Christ. We have come to the'. The fourth line is 'set - ting of the sun, and we look to the eve - ning light.'. The fifth line is 'We sing to God, the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it:'. The sixth line is 'You are wor - thy of be - ing praised with pure voic - es for -'. The seventh line is 'ev - er. O Son of God, O Giv - er of life:'. The eighth line is 'the u - ni - verse pro - claims Your glo - ry.'.

L Joy - ous light of glo - ry:

C of the im - mor - tal Fa - ther; heav - en - ly, ho - ly,
bless - ed Je - sus Christ. We have come to the
set - ting of the sun, and we look to the eve - ning light.
We sing to God, the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it:
You are wor - thy of be - ing praised with pure voic - es for -
ev - er. O Son of God, O Giv - er of life:
the u - ni - verse pro - claims Your glo - ry.

Thanksgiving for Light

L Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ; may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for You are merciful, and You love Your whole creation and we, Your creatures, glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Collect

P Let us pray: Almighty God, who by the mouth of Your holy prophets did proclaim the coming of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the Hope of Israel and Savior of the Nations, help us we pray to see Him rightly as our own Lord and Savior, and by true faith rejoice in Your salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

God's Love at Christmas – Part 1: God Loved Me by Making a Promise

Readings by Children

Hymn: “God Loves Me Dearly” (LSB 392:1-2)

(Sung by Children)

1 God loves me dear - ly, Grants me sal -
2 I was in slav - 'ry, Sin, death, and

va - tion, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.
dark - ness; God's love was work - ing To make me free.

Refrain

There - fore I'll say a - gain: God loves me
dear - ly, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.

Recitation by Young Children

Hymn: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (LSB 357:1,4,5)

(Stanza 1 sung by Duet – Paige Harwager and Zane Luplow; Stanzas 4-5 sung by All)

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive
4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from Sa - tan's
5 O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen wide our

Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y pow'r to save,
heav'n - ly home; Make safe the way that leads on high,

Refrain

Un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re - joice! Re - joice!
And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!
And close the path to mis - er - y. Re - joice! Re - joice!

Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!
Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!
Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Recitation by Children

Luther's Explanation of the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil.

God's Love at Christmas – Part 2: God Loved Me by Sending Jesus

Readings by Children

Song: "Galatians 4:4-5"

(Sung by Soloist Sierra Luplow)

*But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son,
Born of woman, born under the law,
To redeem those who were under the law,
So that we might receive adoption as sons.*

Readings by Children

Hymn: "Away in a Manger" (LSB 364)

(Sung by Children)

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask Thee to stay

The lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet head.
But lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing He makes.
Close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.

The stars in the sky _____ looked down where He lay,
I love Thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,
Bless all the dear chil - dren in Thy ten - der care,

The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
And stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
And take us to heav - en to live with Thee there.

Readings by Children

Song: "Luke 2:11"

(Sung by Soloist Zane Luplow)

*For unto you is born . . . a Savior,
Who is Christ the Lord,
Who is Christ the Lord.*

Readings by Children

Hymn: "Angels We Have Heard on High" (LSB 368)

(Stanza 1 sung by Children; Stanzas 2-3 sung by All)



1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
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.
What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.



Glo - - - - - ri - a



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



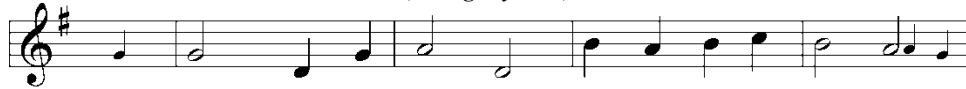
- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Readings by Children



Hymn: "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (LSB 379:1-3)

(Sung by All)



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,



come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le - hem;
Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!



Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God — In — the — high - est:

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!

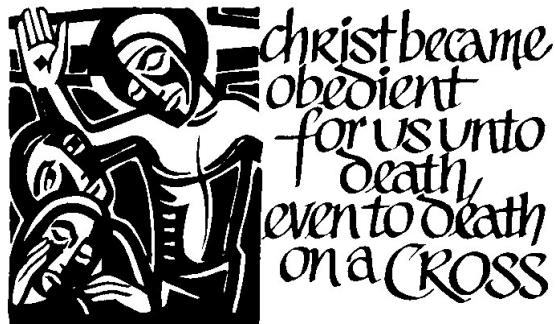
God's Love at Christmas – Part 3: God Loved Me by Dying and Rising for Me

Readings by Children

Recitation by Children

Luther's Explanation of the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed

With what did Jesus redeem? "Not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death."



Hymn: “God Loves Me Dearly” (LSB 392:3-4)

(Sung by Children)

3 He sent forth Je - sus, My dear Re -
4 Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Him - self did

deem - er, He sent forth Je - sus And set me free.
of - fer; Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Paid all I owed.

Refrain

There - fore I'll say a - gain: God loves me

dear - ly, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.

God's Love at Christmas – Part 4: God Loves Me by Giving Me Life Forever

Readings by Children

Hymn: “God Loves Me Dearly” (LSB 392:5)

(Sung by Children)

5 Now I will praise You, O Love E -
4 ter - nal; Now I will praise You All my life long.

Refrain

There - fore I'll say a - gain: God loves me

dear - ly, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.

Recitation by Children

Luther's Explanation of the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed

Why did Jesus redeem you? “That I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.”

Hymn: "Once in Royal David's City" (LSB 376)

(Sung by All)

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y Stood a
 2 He came down to earth from heav - en, Who is
 3 For He is our child - hood's pat - tern, Day by
 4 And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His

low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a moth - er laid her
 God and Lord of all, And His shel - ter was a
 day like us He grew; He was lit - tle, weak, and
 own re - deem - ing love; For that child so dear and

ba - by In a man - ger for His bed: Mar - y
 sta - ble, And His cra - dle was a stall; With the
 help - less, Tears and smiles like us He knew; And He
 gen - tle Is our Lord in heav'n a - bove; And He

was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
 poor and mean and low - ly Lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
 feels for all our sad - ness, And He shares in all our glad - ness.
 leads His chil - dren on To the place where He is gone.

5 Not in that poor, lowly stable
 With the oxen standing by
 Shall we see Him, but in heaven,
 Set at God's right hand on high.
 Then like stars His children, crowned,
 All in white, His praise will sound!



Canticle

Magnificat: "My Soul Rejoices" (LSB 933) (Sung by All)

1 My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es— Sing the
2 His arm now bar - ing, His strength de - clar - ing— Sing the

great - ness of the Lord! For God my Sav - ior Has shown me
great - ness of the Lord! The proud He scat - ters, Their rule He

fa - vor— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! With praise and
shat - ters— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! Op - pres - sion

bles - sing, Join in con - fess - ing God, who is sole - ly Might - y and
halt - ed; The meek ex - alt - ed. Full are the hun - gry; Emp - ty, the

ho - ly— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! His mer - cy
wealth - y— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! Here is the

sure - ly Shall rest se - cure - ly On all who fear Him,
to - ken All that was spo - ken To A - br'ham's off - spring

Love and re - vere Him— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!
God is ful - fill - ing— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!



Prayer

Stand

Litany



L In peace let us pray to the Lord:

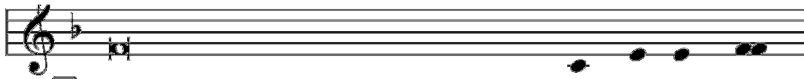


C Lord, have mer - cy.



- L** For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- L** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- L** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- L** For Matthew our synodical president, for David our district president, for Thomas our pastor, and for all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- L** For Barack our president, for all public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- L** For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- L** For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- L** For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- L** For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- L** For all those who have requested our prayers, whom the Lord knows by name, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.

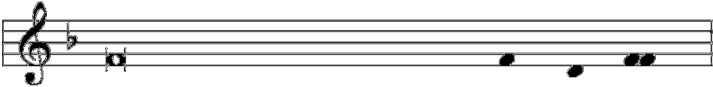
The prayers then continue:



L For the faithful who have gone
before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:

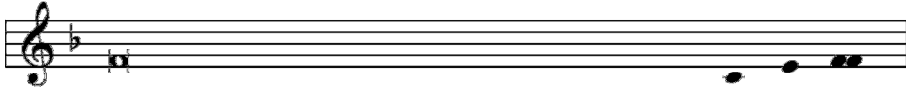


Common: **C** Al - le - lu - ia.



L Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.

Silence for individual prayer.



L Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us
commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord:



C To You, O Lord.

Collect For Peace

L O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; 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.

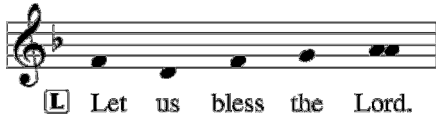
Lord's Prayer (*Chanted in monotone*)

P Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

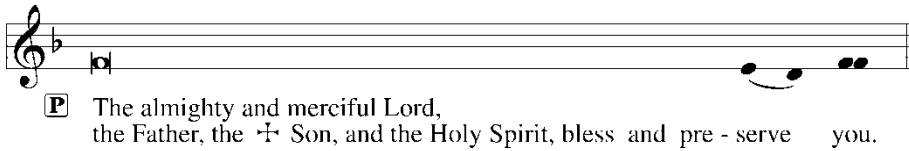
C Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

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

Benedicamus



Benediction



Recessional Hymn: "Go Tell It On the Mountain" (Sung by All)

Refrain

Go tell it on the moun - tain, O-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;

Go tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born!

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er si - lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem - bled When lo, a - bove the earth
3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger The hum-ble Christ was born;

Refrain

Be - hold, through-out the heav-ens There shone a ho - ly light.
Rang out the an-gel cho - rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
And God sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

Postlude

✠ Soli Deo Gloria ✠

Serving Our Lord

Sunday School Children Participants

Farrah Blair
Savannah Blair
Aaron Cross
Noah Cross
Benjamin Elliott
Mabel Elliott
Paige Harwager
Morgan Johnson
Myka Luplow
Sierra Luplow
Zane Luplow
Aaron Messer
Natalie Penzien
Hannah Tennant
Rebekah Tennant

Minister

Rev. Thomas C. Messer, Pastor

Organist

Mary Jakolat

Special Thanks to our wonderful Sunday School Teachers, Andrea Elliott, Sharyn Greening, Coaline Luplow, and Carol Zeile, and to our Music Director and Organist, Mary Jakolat, for spending many hours with our children in preparation for this evening!

God's Love at Christmas

A Christmas Service for School-Age Children

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