



The Light of Grace and Presence: Angels

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AS WE GATHER

On this Christmas Day, we celebrate with Scripture and song that the true Light of Grace gifts us with his holy presence in the Christ Child. We welcome the Savior in this service and join with the angels in greeting God's amazing grace in a manger. Let us raise our voices in praise to our God for the birth of his Son on this very special day.

OPENING HYMN**O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL****LSB 379, vs. 1-4*****INVOCATION**

P In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

***LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

P Out of his grace and love for the world, God promised to send a Savior. Through the inspired words of the prophets, the promise was repeated to generation after generation. The prophet Isaiah spoke of the Child to come:

C **"To us a child is born, to us a son is given."**

P Isaiah also prophesied that the child, the son, would be born of a virgin:

C **"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel."**

P The name Emmanuel means "God with us." In Jesus Christ, the Holy Child of Bethlehem, the son of Mary and Son of God, God himself was born among us.

C **God is with us!**

***CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

P Let us confess our sins to God and ask his forgiveness.

C **Almighty God, as we celebrate the birth of Jesus our Lord, we recognize our need for a Savior. We have often turned away from your will and your Word. We have listened to the temptations of the world around us. Instead of walking in obedience to you, we follow our own sinful desires. We do not love others as we should. Have mercy on us and forgive us.**

P In Jesus, God himself walked on earth. He took onto himself the penalty of death that we deserved for our sins. He rose in triumph over death. By God's grace through faith in Jesus, we have forgiveness for our sins and the gift of eternal life. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

C **We give thanks and praise to Jesus, the Lord Emmanuel, who is God with us!**

HYMN**AMAZING GRACE****LSB 744, vs. 1–5****PRAYER OF THE DAY****HYMN****WHAT CHILD IS THIS****LSB 370, vs. 1****OLD TESTAMENT READING***Isaiah 52:7–10*

⁷How beautiful upon the mountains
 are the feet of him who brings good news,
 who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness,
 who publishes salvation,
 who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”

⁸The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice;
 together they sing for joy;
 for eye to eye they see
 the return of the LORD to Zion.

⁹Break forth together into singing,
 you waste places of Jerusalem,
 for the LORD has comforted his people;
 he has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰The LORD has bared his holy arm
 before the eyes of all the nations,
 and all the ends of the earth shall see
 the salvation of our God.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN**WHAT CHILD IS THIS****LSB 370, vs. 2****EPISTLE READING***Hebrews 1:1–12*

¹Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. ³He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

⁵For to which of the angels did God ever say,

“You are my Son,
 today I have begotten you”?

Or again,

“I will be to him a father,
 and he shall be to me a son”?

⁶And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

“Let all God’s angels worship him.”

⁷Of the angels he says,

“He makes his angels winds,
and his ministers a flame of fire.”

⁸But of the Son he says,

“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,
the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom.

⁹You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.”

¹⁰And,

“You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning,
and the heavens are the work of your hands;

¹¹they will perish, but you remain;
they will all wear out like a garment,

¹²like a robe you will roll them up,
like a garment they will be changed.

But you are the same,
and your years will have no end.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*GOSPEL

John 1:1–14

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

LSB 380

SERMON

THE LIGHT OF GRACE AND PRESENCE: ANGELS

***HYMN**

ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY

LSB 367, vs. 1, 2, 5

***NICENE CREED**

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life \ddagger of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING

Please complete a worship attendance card and place in the plate as it passes. Those who support this church and its ministry by giving electronically are invited to place the "I Give Online" cards located in each pew in the offering plate as a way of participating in this act of worship.



*PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

After our petitions:

- P Jesus, our Lord Emmanuel,
C **Be present with us always.**

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*LORD'S PRAYER

*THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

*PAX DOMINI

DISTRIBUTION Distribution is at the rail, with both common cup and individual cup; de-alcoholized wine in center of tray. Gluten free wafers available by signifying to pastor/elder. Please use the pew cards to register your attendance at Holy Communion.

HYMN	LET ALL TOGETHER PRAISE OUR GOD	LSB 389
HYMN	REJOICE, REJOICE THIS HAPPY MORN	LSB 391
HYMN	NOW SING WE, NOW REJOICE	LSB 386, vs. 1–3

*POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

*BENEDICTION

- P In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God . . .
C **And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**
- P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.
- C **Amen.**

HYMN TO DEPART **GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN** **LSB 388**
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Serving our Lord this morning

Officiant: Rev. James Kroonblawd
Reader: Jon Peterson
Organist: Diane Streich
Usher: Gary Sheets
Projectionist: Jean Peterson

Elder: Jon Peterson
Altar Guild: Sharon Drews and Nancy Strand
Cantor: Andrew Koch
Live Stream: Jim Nicklas



At Christmas time we join our voices with the angels, who proclaimed the good news of Jesus' birth on the first Christmas. Thanks to the following individuals for their musical leadership at TLO during Advent and Christmas: Instrumentalists, Hannah Kroonblawd, Caleb Morris, Tim Morris, and Phil Workman; vocalist, Elizabeth Frick; our faithful cantors, Andy Koch and Dave Workman; pianist, Marsha Workman; and organists, Merlin Simon and Diane Streich. To God alone be the glory!



Devotions for you

Pick up devotions in the narthex and take one for a friend! “My Devotions” are geared for children. “Portals of Prayer”, in both regular and large print, are geared for adults.



Worship with Holy Communion Sunday, December 31 | 9:00*am

Note there is only one worship service Sunday, December 31, 2023, and no Sunday school or adult Bible class.



Sunday Worship Schedule beginning January 7, 2024

Worship —8:00*am and 10:30am
Education Hour for all ages — 9:15am

*Live stream at www.trinityloneoak.org



Joining Jesus as a Family Seminar Saturday, January 20 | 9:00am-12noon

Christian parents want to raise their children to be life-long followers of Jesus, but may ask “What does it mean to ‘disciple’ my own child” and “How can I weave Jesus’ discipleship process into the rhythm of my family’s everyday life?”

Greg and Susan Finke identify what Jesus shows us in the gospels to help parents *become more intentional and practical in raising Jesus-followers.*

This seminar is for anyone helping a child live the fruitful and fulfilling life of a Jesus-follower: parents, grandparents, foster parents, pastors, family ministry professionals and volunteers.



Bring the whole family!
Camp Omega staff will lead our children's programming.
Light breakfast for all attendees is included and offered
from 8:00-9:00am.



\$5 per person (\$20 family max). Register TODAY using the QRC code, go to trinityloneoak.org, or contact the church office. Books (optional) are \$10 each.



“Joining Jesus as a family is simpler than you think and a lot more fun!”
—Greg and Susan Finke