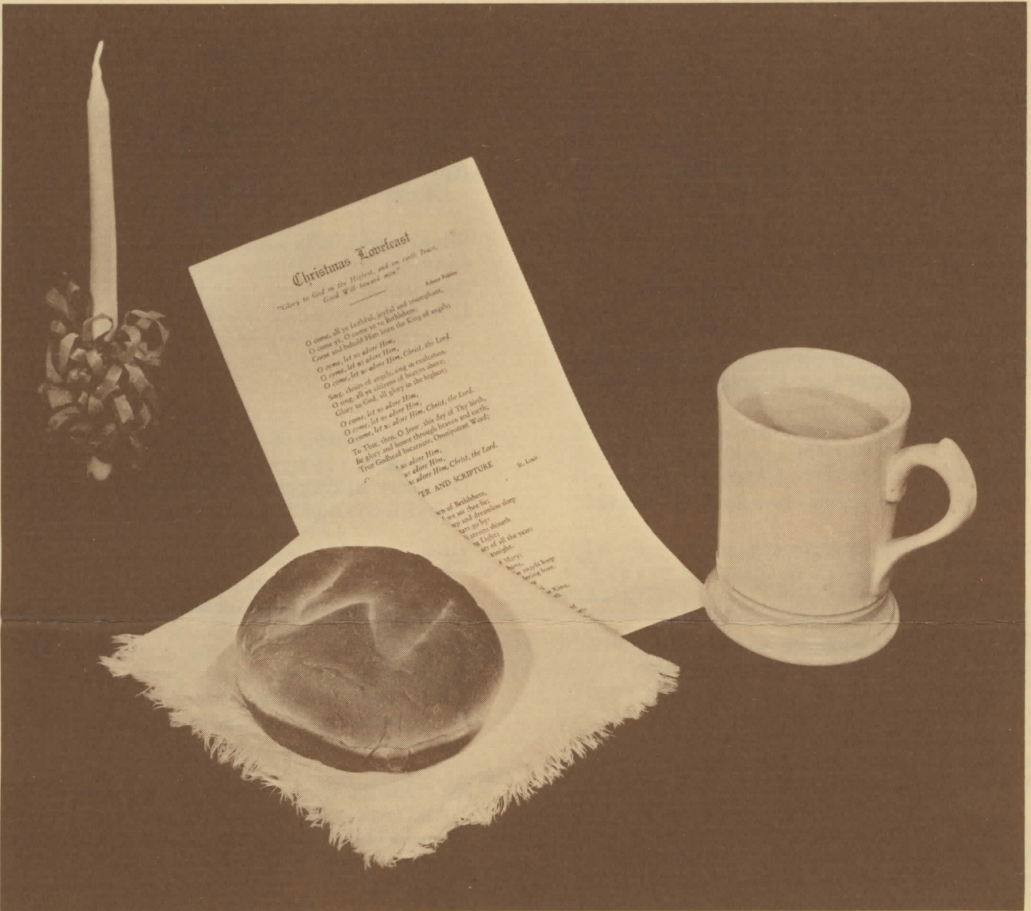


CHRISTMAS EVE LOVEFEAST



*"Glory to God in the Highest
and on earth peace, good will toward men."*

RALEIGH MORAVIAN CHURCH

Ridge Road and Darien Drive

Raleigh, N.C.

Christmas Eve Lovefeast

Adeste Fideles

Silent Night

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;

*O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord.*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;

*O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord.*

To Thee, then, O Jesus, this day of Thy birth,
Be glory and honor through heaven and earth;
True Godhead Incarnate, Omnipotent Word;

*O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord.*

PRAYER AND SCRIPTURE

Is 9:6 Luke 2:1-14
St. Louis

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.

For Christ is born of Mary;
And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth;
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still,
The dear Christ enters in.

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;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel.

Silent night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child,
Holy Infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,
Darkness flies, all is light;
Shepherds hear the angels sing,
Alleluia! hail the King!
Christ the Saviour is born.

Silent night, holy night,
Guiding Star, lend thy light;
See the eastern wise men bring
Gifts and homage to our King;
Christ the Saviour is born.

ANTIOCH

Joy to the world, the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Saviour reigns;
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sin and sorrow grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love.

MORAVIAN TABLE BLESSING:
Come Lord Jesus our Guest to be;
And Bless these Gifts Bestowed by thee.

ANTHEM

Regent Square

Angels, from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:

*Come and worship, Come and worship,
Worship Christ, the new-born King.*

Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing,
Yonder shines the infant light:

*Come and worship, Come and worship,
Worship Christ, the new-born King.*

Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations,
Ye have seen His natal star:

*Come and worship, Come and worship,
Worship Christ, the new-born King.*

Softly the night is sleeping
On Bethlehem's peaceful hill;
Silent the shepherds watching,
The gentle flocks are still.
But hark! the wondrous music
Falls from the op'ning sky;
Valley and cliff re-echo
"Glory to God on high!"

*Glory to God—it rings again;
Peace on the earth! good-will to men!*

Come with the gladsome shepherds,
Quick hastening from the fold;
Come with the wise men, pouring
Incense and myrrh and gold.
Come to Him, poor and lowly,
Around the cradle throng;
Come with your hearts of sunshine,
And sing the angels' song.

*Glory to God—tell out again;
Peace on the earth! good-will to men!*

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic host proclaim
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."
Hark the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King."

Herald Angels

Christ, by highest heav'n adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
Come, Desire of Nations, come,
Fix in us Thy humble home.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail th'Incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell;
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King."

Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris'n with healing on His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die,

Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
Hark the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King."

ANTHEM

*(The next hymn is sung antiphonally
by the congregation and choir, the
congregation singing the words in
darker type.)*

Hagen 310B

Warner

Morning Star, O cheering sight!
Ere Thou cam'st how dark earth's night!
Morning Star, O cheering sight!
Ere Thou cam'st how dark earth's night!
In me shine, **In me shine;**
In me shine, **Jesus mine;**
Fill my heart with light divine.

Morning Star, Thy glory bright
Far excels the sun's clear light;
Morning Star, Thy glory bright
Far excels the sun's clear light;
Jesus be, **Constantly,**
Constantly, **Jesus be**
More than thousand suns to me.

Thy glad beams, Thou Morning Star,
Cheer the nations near and far,
Thy glad beams, Thou Morning Star,
Cheer the nations near and far,
Thee we own, **Lord alone,**
Lord alone, **Thee we own,**
Man's great Saviour, God's dear Son.

Morning Star, my soul's true Light,
Tarry not, dispel my night;
Morning Star, my soul's true Light,
Tarry not, dispel my night;
Jesus mine, **In me shine,**
In me shine, **Jesus mine,**
Fill my heart with light divine.

Leinbach

Christ, the Lord, the Lord most glorious,
Now is born; O shout aloud!
Man by him is made victorious;
Praise your Saviour, hail your God.

Praise the Lord, for on us shineth
Christ, the Son of righteousness;
He to us in love inclineth,
Cheers our souls with pardoning grace.

Praise the Lord, whose saving splendor
Shines into the darkest night;
O what praises shall we render
For this never ceasing light.

Praise the Lord, God our salvation,
Praise Him Who retrieved our loss;
Sing, with awe, and love's sensation,
Hallelujah, God with us.

BENEDICTION

The Moravian Lovefeasts

The early Christians met and broke bread together to signify their union, fellowship and love. In 1727, the Moravian Church revived this practice, and it has established the custom of celebrating the great church festivals by partaking together of a simple meal known as a "lovefeast". The first lovefeasts of the Moravian Church in North America were held in Savannah, Georgia, during the year 1735 to 1740. The first lovefeast in Wachovia was held on the evening of the arrival of the first Moravian colonists in North Carolina, November 17, 1753, at Bethabara.

The Christmas Eve Lovefeast, with its lighted candles, is one of the most beautiful services of the Moravian Church. The custom originated on the European continent at Marienborn in the year 1747, and spread throughout the Moravian world. The first Christmas Eve lovefeast held at Bethabara was in 1753, and at Salem in 1771. In North Carolina, the candles were used for the first time in the children's lovefeast of Bethabara and Bethania in 1762. Every person is given a candle to remind him that Christ said, "I am the light of the world", and "Ye are the light of the world — let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

