



*Lutheran Church of The Good Shepherd  
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**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE, December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

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**TODAY'S PRAYERS:** Richard Rohn, Dorothy Quiring, Bruce Bird, Wally Funk, Jack & Laura Zacharias, Rick Fenske, Julian Woligroski, Del Jones, Wally & Marlene Cyncora, Kimberley Nachtigall, Kevin Patrick, Richard Biletski, Dianne McLeod, Irene Henschel, Sandra Draper, Flora Knudson, Al Hunter and Norbert Christmann.

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- 1 "From heav'n above to earth I come  
To bear good news to ev'ry home;  
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,  
Whereof I now will say and sing:
- 2 "To you this night is born a child  
Of Mary, chosen virgin mild;  
This little child of lowly birth  
Shall be the joy of all the earth.
- 3 "This is the Christ, our God Most High,  
Who hears your sad and bitter cry;  
He will Himself your Savior be  
From all your sins to set you free.
- 4 "He will on you the gifts bestow  
Prepared by God for all below,  
That in His kingdom, bright and fair,  
You may with us His glory share.
- 5 "These are the signs that you shall mark:  
The swaddling clothes and manger dark.  
There you will find the infant laid  
By whom the heav'ns and earth were made."
- 6 How glad we'll be to find it so!  
Then with the shepherds let us go  
To see what God for us has done  
In sending us His own dear Son.
- 7 Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes,  
And see what in the manger lies.  
Who is this child, so young and fair?  
It is the Christ Child lying there.

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*Stand*

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

**P** In the Name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

**Introit**

*Psalm 24:1, 3-5; antiphon: Psalm 2:7*

I will tell of the decree:

**The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you."**

The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof,

**the world and those who dwell therein.**

Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?

**And who shall stand in his holy place?**

He who has clean hands and a pure heart,

**who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.**

He will receive blessing from the LORD

**and righteousness from the God of his salvation.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son**

**and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning,**

**is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

I will tell of the decree:

**The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you."**

**Kyrie**

**P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** 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.**

**P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

**Hymn:** O Little Town of Bethlehem

**LSB 361**

- 1 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.
- 2 For Christ is born of Mary,  
And, gathered all above  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wond'ring love.  
O morning stars, together  
Proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the king  
And peace to all the earth!
- 3 How silently, how silently  
The wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of His heav'n.  
No ear may hear His coming;  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him, still  
The dear Christ enters in.
- 4 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!

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### **Salutation and Collect of the Day**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray.

**C** **Amen.**

*Sit*

**Hymn:** Away in a Manger

- 1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
- 2 The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
- 3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,  
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

Text: Public domain

**The Old Testament Reading:***Isaiah 7:10–14*

<sup>10</sup>Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, <sup>11</sup>**“Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.”** <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, **“I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.”** <sup>13</sup>And he said, **“Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold, the Virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His Name Immanuel.”**

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm:** *Psalm 110:1–4; antiphon: v. 2a*

<sup>1</sup>The LORD says to my Lord: “Sit at My right hand, until I make Your enemies Your footstool.”

<sup>2</sup>**The LORD sends forth from Zion Your mighty scepter. Rule in the midst of Your enemies!**

<sup>3</sup>Your people will offer themselves freely on the day of Your power, in holy garments; from the womb of the morning, the dew of Your youth will be Yours.

<sup>4</sup>**The LORD has sworn and will not change His mind, “You are a Priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.”**

**Hymn:** Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*LSB 380*

- 1 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 the\_angelic host proclaim,  
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!” **Refrain**

**ref Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King!”**

- 2 Christ, by highest heav’n adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold Him come,  
Offspring of a virgin’s womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,  
Hail the incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Immanuel! Refrain
- 3 Hail, the heav’n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings,  
Ris’n with healing in 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. Refrain

Text: Public domain

**The Epistle Lesson:**

**1<sup>st</sup> John 4:7–16**

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and His love is perfected in us. <sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent His Son to be the Saviour of the world. <sup>15</sup>Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in Him, and he in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn:** Joy to the World

**LSB 387**

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev’ry heart prepare Him room  
And heav’n and nature sing,  
And heav’n and nature sing,  
And heav’n, and heav’n and nature sing.

- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let men their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- 3 No more let sins and sorrows grow  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.
- 4 He rules the world with truth and grace  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders of His love.

Text: Public domain

*Stand*

## **The Holy Gospel:**

***Matthew 1:18–25***

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

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

Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with Child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "**Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.**" <sup>21</sup>**She will bear a Son, and you shall call His Name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."** <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: <sup>23</sup>**"Behold, the Virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and they shall call His Name Immanuel"** (which means, God with us). <sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup>but knew her not until she had given Birth to a Son. And he called His Name Jesus.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Sit*

**Hymn of the Day:** Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

- 1 Lo, how a rose e'er blooming  
 From tender stem hath sprung!  
 Of Jesse's lineage coming  
 As prophets long have sung,  
 It came, a flow'ret bright,  
 Amid the cold of winter,  
 When half-spent was the night.
- 2 Isaiah 'twas foretold it,  
 The rose I have in mind;  
 With Mary we behold it,  
 The virgin mother kind.  
 To show God's love aright,  
 She bore to us a Savior,  
 When half-spent was the night.
- 3 This flow'r, whose fragrance tender  
 With sweetness fills the air,  
 Dispels with glorious splendor  
 The darkness ev'rywhere.  
 True man, yet very God,  
 From sin and death He saves us  
 And lightens ev'ry load.
- 4 O Savior, child of Mary,  
 Who felt our human woe;  
 O Savior, King of glory,  
 Who dost our weakness know:  
 Bring us at length we pray  
 To the bright courts of heaven,  
 And to the endless day.

Text: Public domain

**Sermon:** A Precious Gift!**Matthew 1:18–25***Stand***The Apostles' Creed**

LSB 159

- ☩ I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
 Maker of heaven and earth.  
 And in Jesus Christ, His 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.  
 The third day He rose again from the dead.  
 He ascended into heaven  
 and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
 From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.  
 I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
 the holy Christian Church,**

**the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life † everlasting. Amen.**

## **Prayer of the Church**

*Sit*

**Offering:** Once in Royal David's City

**LSB 376**

- 1 Once in royal David's city  
Stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby  
In a manger for His bed:  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little child.
- 2 He came down to earth from heaven,  
Who is God and Lord of all,  
And His shelter was a stable,  
And His cradle was a stall;  
With the poor and mean and lowly  
Lived on earth our Savior holy.
- 3 For He is our childhood's pattern,  
Day by day like us He grew;  
He was little, weak, and helpless,  
Tears and smiles like us He knew;  
And He feels for all our sadness,  
And He shares in all our gladness.
- 4 And our eyes at last shall see Him,  
Through His own redeeming love;  
For that child so dear and gentle  
Is our Lord in heav'n above;  
And He leads His children 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!

Text: Public domain

*Stand*

## **Offertory**

**LSB 159**

- ☐ What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?  
I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.  
I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.  
I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,  
in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.**

## The Lord's Prayer

**☩ 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.**

## Hymn: What Child Is This

**LSB 370**

- 1 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!
- 2 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!
- 3 So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
Come, peasant, king, to own Him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
Raise, raise the song on high,  
The virgin sings her lullaby;  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
The babe, the son of Mary!

## Closing Collect

LSB 379

**Hymn:** O Come, All Ye Faithful

- 1 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

**ref O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord!**

- 2 Highest, most holy,  
Light of Light eternal,  
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;  
Son of the Father  
Now in flesh appearing! Refrain

- 3 Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God  
In the highest: Refrain

- 4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,  
Born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n!  
Word of the Father  
Now in flesh appearing! Refrain

Text: Public domain

## Benediction

LSB 166

**Closing Hymn: Silent Night, Holy Night**

- 1 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,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.
- 2 Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight;  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!
- 3 Silent night, holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.
- 1g Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!  
Alles schläft, einsam wacht  
Nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.  
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,  
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,  
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh.
- 2g Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!  
Hirten erst kundgemacht,  
Durch der Engel Halleluja  
Tönt es laut von fern und nah:  
Christ, der Retter, ist da,  
Christ, der Retter, ist da!
- 3g Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!  
Gottes Sohn, o wie lacht  
Lieb aus deinem göttlichen Mund,  
Da uns schlägt die rettende Stund,  
Christ, in deiner Geburt,  
Christ, in deiner Geburt.

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

On behalf of my myself and my wife Annette and our whole family we want to wish all of you a very Merry and CHRIST filled CHRISTmas as you reflect on the most "Most Precious Gift" our Lord and Saviour, Born to save us from our sins. God's Richest Blessings to all and a Joyous CHRISTmas and may the New Year bring us all Peace, Joy and faithfulness to Christ our Lord.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

**Acknowledgments**

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