

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP



Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

401 Kildare Avenue West

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DECEMBER 24TH, 2022 @ 7:00 P.M.

Opening 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: tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–80, alt.; John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786. Text: Public domain

The Lighting of the Candles

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

P Jesus Christ, the Son of Mary, the Son of God is born this night.

C **God's Word has been made flesh among us.**

P The people who walked in darkness have seen a great Light.

C **Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them a Light has shone.**

P For to us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government shall be upon His shoulder.

C **His Name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

P He is Emmanuel, for in Him, God is with us.

{As the Candles are lit we join in saying:}

**We honour the Messiah with the Christ candle's flame
Our Christmas Eve candles, glad tidings proclaim.
O Come all you faithful, rejoice in this night,
As God comes among us, the Christian's True Light!**

P Let us pray:

Eternal God, this Holy Night is radiant with the brilliance of Your One True Light. May that Light illuminate our hearts and shine in our words and deeds. May the Hope, the Peace, the Joy and Love given at the Birth of Thy Dear Son, in Bethlehem this night, fill our lives and be a part of all we say and do. May we share this Divine life of Your Son Jesus Christ, even as He humbled Himself to take on human flesh for our sake.

G Amen

We Sing the Hymn: The People That in Darkness Sat

LSB 412

- 1 The people that in darkness sat
A glorious light have seen;
The light has shined on them who long
In shades of death have been,
In shades of death have been.
- 2 To hail Thee, Sun of Righteousness,
The gath'ring nations come;
They joy as when the reapers bear
Their harvest treasures home,
Their harvest treasures home.
- 3 To us a Child of hope is born,
To us a Son is giv'n,
And on His shoulder ever rests
All pow'r in earth and heav'n,
All pow'r in earth and heav'n.
- 4 His name shall be the Prince of Peace,
The Everlasting Lord,
The Wonderful, the Counselor,
The God by all adored,
The God by all adored.
- 5 His righteous government and pow'r
Shall over all extend;
On judgment and on justice based,
His reign shall have no end,
His reign shall have no end.
- △ 6 Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray,
And make us Thine alone,
Who with the Father ever art
And Holy Spirit, one,
And Holy Spirit, one.

The Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 7:10–14

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹“Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹²But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” ¹³And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore 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.

We Sing the Hymn: It Came upon the Midnight Clear

LSB 366

- 1 It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, goodwill to all,
From heav’n’s all-gracious king.”
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.
- 2 Still through the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heav’nly music floats
O’er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hov’ring wing,
And ever o’er its babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.
- 3 All you, beneath your heavy load,
By care and guilt bent low,
Who toil along a dreary way
With painful steps and slow:
Look up, for golden is the hour,
Come swiftly on the wing,
The Prince was born to bring you peace;
Of Him the angels sing.
- 4 For lo, the days have come to pass
By prophets seen of old,
When down into the circling years
Came Christ as was foretold.
His word of peace shall to the earth
God’s ancient promise bring,
And all who take this gift will hear
The song the angels sing.

The Epistle Lesson

1st John 4:7-16

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

G **Thanks be to God.**

The Choir Sings: Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

LSB 359

The Holy Gospel:

Luke 2:1-20

Now it came about in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth. This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all were proceeding to register for the census, everyone to his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, in order to register, along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with Child. And it came about that while they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her first-born Son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Children's Message: Messengers of True Peace!

Luke 2:1-20

We sing the Hymn: Away in a Manger

LSB 365

- 1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the bright 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.

And in the same region there were *some* shepherds staying out in the fields, and keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. And the angel said to them, "**Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you Good News of a great joy which shall be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Saviour, Who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a Baby wrapped in cloths, and lying in a manger.**" And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, "**Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased.**" And it came about when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds *began* saying to one another, "**Let us go straight to Bethlehem then, and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us.**" And they came in haste and found their way to Mary and Joseph, and the Baby as He lay in the manger.

We sing the 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**

And when they had seen this, they made known the statement which had been told them about this Child. And all who heard it wondered at the things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, just as had been told them.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

We Sing the Hymn: Go Tell It on the Mountain

LSB 388

ref **Go tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and ev'rywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born!**

- 1 While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light. **Refrain**
- 2 The shepherds feared and trembled
When lo, above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth. **Refrain**
- 3 Down in a lonely manger
The humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation
That blessèd Christmas morn. **Refrain**

Text (sts. 1-3): John W. Work II, 1873-1925, alt.; (ref): African American spiritual. Text: Public domain

Sermon: Oh, What a Night!

Matthew 1:18-25

The Prayer of the Church

The Choir Sings: Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

LSB 374

P **We profess our faith in the Words of the Apostles' Creed:**

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 shall 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

Offering Hymn: What Child Is This

- 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!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-98. Text: Public domain

The Lighting of the Candles

We Sing the 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.

Text: Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792–1848; tr. John F. Young, 1820–85 Text: Public domain

P In the midst of darkness, candles have shone.

C **Glory to God in the highest!**

P In the midst of darkness, we have seen the Light of Christ!

C **Glory to God in the highest!**

P In the midst of darkness, we have been promised peace and good will!

C **Glory to God in the highest!**

P In the midst of darkness, we go forth beaming with the Light of the world, which is Jesus Christ, the Lord!

C **Glory to God in the highest! Alleluia! Amen.**

P Let us rejoice with Mary in the Good News of her Son, Who is Christ the Lord.

Let us look with Joseph to our future Hope!

Let us kneel with the wisemen to Jesus Who saves us!

Let us sing with the angels a New and Glorious Song!

Go in Peace, and may you love and serve the Lord, Jesus Christ our Newborn King!

The Benediction

P The Lord bless and keep you, may His face shine upon you and give you peace, and may the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you the True Peace and Joy of CHRISTmas, through faith in Jesus Christ the Lord!

C **Amen.**

We join together in singing: 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: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748. Text: Public domain

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

We invite you all to join us tomorrow morning as we once again gather together in our Lord's House of Worship for Christmas Day Worship @ 10:00 a.m. W/The Lord's Supper.

On behalf of our family here at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd and myself and family, we pray God will richly bless and keep you in His love, not only now at CHRISTmas, but all year through! MERRY CHRISTMAS and a joyous Christ filled New Year!