



HOLY COMMUNION NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

Christmas Eve
December 24, 2023 + 4:00 pm
Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL CAROL "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (*stand as able*)

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

The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing! **Refrain**

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God All glory in the highest: **Refrain**

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880

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CHRISTMAS DIALOG

L: In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

L: The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory.

C: Oh, come, let us worship him.

L: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

C: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

L: Those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them the light has shined.

C: We have seen Christ's glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

L: For a child has been born for us, a son given to us.

C: What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

L: Today Christ is born; today salvation has appeared.

C: Glory to God in the highest! Alleluia!

PRAYER

L: Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth and especially this community that we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen *(sit)*

SPECIAL MUSIC

"O Holy Night"

FIRST READING

A child is born for us.

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

The grace of God has appeared.

Titus 2:11-14

Paul writes to Titus:

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

HYMN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

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, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel! **Refrain**

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 we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth. **Refrain**

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

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THE GOSPEL

God is with us.

L: The Holy Gospel according to Luke 2:1-14

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. ⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON CAROL

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

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 wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!

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;
oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893

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CHILDRENS MESSAGE~

"The Candy Cane"

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Mary Did You Know"

CHRISTMAS SERMON~

"What if?"

OUR OFFERING (stand as you are able)

(Our offering will be brought forward and please sing together "What Child is This")

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
When 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!

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, 1837-1898

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THE CHRISTMAS PRAYER

CHRISTMAS HYMN

"The First Noel"

The First Noel the angel did say Was to certain poor shepherds
in fields as they lay; In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel.

Text: English traditional

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THE PEACE

L: Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given.

And his name is Prince of Peace.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

GREAT THANKSGIVING RESPONSORY

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

L: On the night in which He was betrayed, our Lord took the bread: and gave thanks, He broke it, and gave it to His disciples saying, "*Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.*"

Again, after supper He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: "*This cup is the new covenant in blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of Me.*"

LORD' PRAYER (ALL)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION AND BLESSING (be seated until coming forward to receive the bread and wine)

All are invited to receive these gifts of God if you believe in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. Children are welcome to receive communion or a blessing. Communion at this service will be continuous by coming forward via the center aisle and return by the side aisle.

THE CHRIST CANDLE LIGHTING

*The Christ candle will be lighted. The pastor will light the ushers candles and then the ushers will bring lighted candles to each pew of worshipers. Worshipers are asked to light their candles from those of their neighbors.
Please keep candles upright.*

READING

The word became flesh.

John 1:1-5

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.

All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.

What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

Following the lighting of the candles, the congregation remains seated and sings the carol.

CAROL BY CONGREGATION "Silent Night, Holy Night"

All is calm, all is bright Round yon
virgin, mother and child Holy infant, tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, Holy night Shepherds quake, at the sight Glories
stream from heaven above Heavenly, hosts sing Alleluia.
Christ the Savior is born.

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: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885

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PRAYER

L: Let us pray together.

C: Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the Brightness of his glory; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SENDING BLESSING

L: May you be filled with the wonder of Mary,
the obedience of Joseph,
the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the determination of the magi,
and the peace of the Christ child.

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Please extinguish your candle as the carol begins.

RECESSIONAL CAROL

"Joy to the World"

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.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

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

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