



St. Luke Lutheran Church • 5:30PM • December 24, 2021 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Prelude Choir Hymn: "Emmanuel"

Welcome & Announcements

Opening Hymn: "Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful"

Verse 1: Oh, come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant! Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him born the king of angels: [refrain]

Refrain: Oh, come, let us adore Him, oh, come let us adore Him. Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Verse 2: 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]

Verse 3: Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God in the highest: [refrain]

Christmas Dialog & Greeting:

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

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

L: Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

C: We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

L: For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

C: In Him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

L: May the grace and truth of Christ be with you.

C: And also with you.



Opening Prayer:

Let us pray. (A brief silence.) **Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth 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. Amen.**

Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7 read by Levi Matthees

²The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. ³You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder. ⁴For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. ⁵Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. ⁶For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

Hymn: "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

Verse 1: 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"

Verse 2 : Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord, late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb: veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail incarnate Deity, pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. [Refrain]

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

Reading: Titus 2:11-14 *read by Kendra Rehder*

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. ¹²It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

Hymn: "Angels We Have Heard on High"

Verse 1: Angels we have heard on high, singing sweetly through the night,
and the mountains in reply echoing their brave delight.

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo.

Verse 2: Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why these songs of happy cheer?
What great brightness did you see? What glad tidings did you hear? [Refrain]

Verse 3: Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing.
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King. [Refrain]

Verse 4: See him in a manger laid whom the angels praise above.
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love. [Refrain]

Reading: Luke 2:1-7 *read by ?*

¹In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ²(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And everyone went to their own town to register. ⁴So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

Hymn: "What Child Is This"

Verse 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!

Verse 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!

Verse 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 a song on high The virgin sings her lullaby
Joy, joy for Christ is born The Babe, the son of Mary

Reading: Luke 2:8-20

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." ¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." ¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Hymn: "Little Baby Jesus"

Verse 1: Little baby Jesus, lying in a manger, Do you know what peace you bring to all the world this night? Do you know what peace you bring to all the world this night?

Verse 2: Little baby Jesus, given by our Father, Do you know what love you bring to all the world this night? Do you know what love you bring to all the world this night?

Verse 3: Little baby Jesus, born to us a Saviour, Do you know what joy you bring to all the world this night? Do you know what joy you bring to all the world this night?

Verse 4: Little baby Jesus, precious baby Jesus, You bring peace and love and joy to all the world this night! You bring peace and love and joy to all the world this night!

Offering Prayer:

Let us pray. **Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Solo: "Breath of Heaven" sung by Michelle Matthees

Gospel of the Incarnation: John 1:1-14

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. ⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. ⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God — ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. ¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

The Pastor lights a large candle from an altar candle, which symbolizes Christ, the light of the world of whom John's gospel speaks. The ushers light their candles from the Pastor's candle, then light the candle of each worshiper nearest the aisle. The lighted candle is never tilted, but is always held upright when giving light to another.

The Prayers: (call and response) read by Eve Stone

P: Glory to God in the highest,

C: and peace to God's people on earth.

P: Blessed are you, Prince of Peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.

C: Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.

P: Blessed are you, wonderful Counselor. You enlightened the heart with steadfast love.

C: Enliven your church that it might bear good tidings of great joy to all people.

P: Blessed are you, Emmanuel, You promise to be with us even to the end of the age.

C: Open our eyes to see your presence in all who are hungry, lonely, or homeless.

P: Blessed are you, Son of Mary, You share our humanity. Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day. We especially pray for Keith Brown, Dolly Mensink, Dean Kirkland, Finley Budensiek, Sara Nolte, Mark Jacobson, Deb Huneke, Jill Louise Plank, Gabriel Ryan, Roger Kurtti, Ross Schrimpf, Judy Carpenter, Blake Carlson, Joan Quiggle, Donald & Nancy Nord, Ben Haenel, Larry Reese and the family of Josh Budensiek.

C: Have mercy on us and bring your light to darkened places.

P: Blessed are you, Son of God, You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.

C: Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bear your light to all the world.

Hymn: "Silent Night, Holy Night" Cantors, Aleaha and Pastor Eric Hanson **Choir: "Peace, Peace"**

Verse 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.

Verse 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.

Verse 3: Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light, Radiant beams from your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

Lord 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.

Blessing: *The Pastor blesses the congregation.*

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.**

The candles are extinguished.

Departure Hymn: "Joy to the World"

Vs. 1: Joy to the world the Lord has come! Let earth receive its 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.

Vs. 2: 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.

Vs. 3: 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, far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

Vs. 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.

Sending: P: Go in peace, shine your light! **C: Thanks be to God!**

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