

CHRISTUS VICTOR LUTHERAN CHURCH



DECEMBER 24, 2020

CHRISTMAS EVE

>5:30 PM WORSHIP SERVICE

(ALL: congregation in bolded type)

PRELUDE: "Christmas Time Is Here!"

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Musicians: John Klein, Kyle Dobberman, Daniel Gubrud, Sarah Youngner

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Welcome to worship on this Christmas Eve! We are so glad you are joining us for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. If you are visiting with us, we invite you to say "hello" in the comment section and let us know who you are. Have your Home Altars ready with your Advent Wreaths, the bread and the wine, and candles for singing "Silent Night" at the close of our service.



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

All: And also with you.

As we join together for the opening hymn, I invite you to light all of the candles on your Advent Wreaths to signify the coming of Immanuel, Christ Jesus, our Savior.

HYMN: "THE FIRST NOEL"

#300 (verses 1,2,4) Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Public Domain

Text: English traditional / Music: English traditional; arr. John Stainer, 1840-1901

- 1 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.

- 2 They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. *Refrain*
- 4 This star drew near to the northwest,
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
and there it did both stop and stay
right over the place where Jesus lay. *Refrain*

CHRISTMAS EVE LITANY

Beloved in Christ, we are gathered together on this Eve of Christmas to prepare our hearts for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ; to meditate upon the mystery of that Incarnation by which our nature is redeemed, and to receive with joy the message of our salvation.

Amidst the darkness of this world, let us confess our sin and welcome the light of God's forgiveness that shines upon us through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

[Let us pause for a moment of silent reflection.](#)

Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus.

ALL: Forgive our lack of faith and trust in your will.

Your Son was born in the poverty of a stable.

ALL: Forgive our neglect of the poor.

The shepherds left their flocks and went to Bethlehem.

ALL: Forgive our selfishness and complacency.

The magi followed the star to find the Savior of the nations.

ALL: Forgive our reluctance to seek you with all our hearts.

Hear the glad tidings of God!

The Word was made flesh and lived among us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Through Him and in Him we are forgiven and restored to wholeness; in him we are free to serve God and our neighbors without fear, but with the joy of Christmas in our hearts.

ALL: Amen.

HYMN: "JOY TO THE WORLD"

#267 Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Public Domain

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Music: English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

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| <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> | <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> |
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PRAYER OF THE DAY

May the light of Christ be with you all.

ALL: And also with you.

Let us pray...

ALL: All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace and hope. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Children's Message: Stacey Klein, Wednesday Children's Ministry Director

SPECIAL MUSIC: "The Day that Christmas Came" Cassi and David McMayer

CCLI Song # 7163845

Melody Noel | Rick Seibold | Ricky Jackson

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CHRISTMAS SCRIPTURE READINGS: LUKE 2: 1-20

First Reading: Trudy Matthys

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.

HYMN: "IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR"

#282 Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Public Domain

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810-1876

Music: Richard S. Willis, 1819-1900

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| <p>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, good will to all,
from heav'n's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.</p> <p>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.</p> | <p>3 And you, beneath life's crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow:
look now, for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing;
oh, rest beside the weary road
and hear the angels sing!</p> <p>4 For lo! The days are hast'ning on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the song
which now the angels sing.</p> |
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Second Reading: Wyatt Tranby

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!"

HYMN: "ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH"

#289 Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Public Domain
Text: French carol; tr. H.F. Hemy, The Crown of Jesus Music, 1864
Music: French carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1887-1958

1 Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo.

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heav'nly song? *Refrain*

3 Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn king. *Refrain*

Third Reading: Stephanie Lundquist

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The word of the Lord **ALL: Thanks be to God**

CHRISTMAS SERMON: Pastor Kent Claussen Gubrud

HYMN: "GOOD CHRISTIAN FRIENDS, REJOICE"

#288 Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Public Domain
Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866
Music: German carol, 14th cent.; arr. Robert L. Pearsall, 1795-1856

1 Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!

2 Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door,
and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!

3 Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave;
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION: The Youngner family, Alec Running, Darlene Newman

Prayer Response: Hear us, O God **ALL: Your mercy is great**

SHARING CHRISTMAS PEACE

The peace of the Christ Child be with you all!

ALL: And also with you.

I invite you to share the peace of Christ with those around you and then text the peace to your family & friends, to let them know the joy of Christmas is with them.

OFFERING: *Thank you for your continued faithful giving and support.*

SPECIAL MUSIC: "O Holy Night" Julie Manning (soloist) and Sarah Youngner (bells)

Adolphe Charles Adam | John Sullivan Dwight | Placide Cappeau

Words and Music, Public Domain

HOLY COMMUNION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray...

**ALL: 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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

If you are worshipping with other people, I invite you to each in turn say the following words to one another as you share the bread and the wine. If you are worshipping by yourself, hear these words of promise...

"This is the Body of Christ, given for you."

"This is the Blood of Christ, shed for you."

We will take a moment to share this Holy Sacrament.

COMMUNION SONG: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" Julie McDonald

#279 Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Public Domain

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893

Music: Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908

COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER

May the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, bless you and keep you in His Grace.

ALL: Amen.

Let us pray together...

ALL: Lord, now let your servants go in peace; your word has been fulfilled. Our eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of every people; a light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. Amen.

CANDLES & SENDING: *We invite you to light your candles as we listen to the word of light from the Gospel of John...*

LESSON OF LIGHT – JOHN 1:1-14

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. 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. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. Amen.

HYMN: "SILENT NIGHT"

#281, Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Public Domain
Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885
Music: Franz Gruber, 1787-1863

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| <p>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.</p> <p>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!</p> | <p>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.</p> |
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CHRISTMAS BENEDICTION

SENDING

Go forth to share the joy of Christ Jesus, with faith, love, and open arms.

ALL: Thanks be to God! Merry Christmas! Amen.

POSTLUDE: "Silent Night" Julie McDonald

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Music: Franz Gruber, 1787-1863

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