



CHRISTMAS EVE

"Let us now go to Bethlehem
and see this thing that has come
to pass; which the Lord has
made known to us."

Luke 2:15; NKJV

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
December 24, 2025
“The Song of the Angels—Peace”

AS WE GATHER Christmas is not about our going to God, but about His coming to us in the person of our Savior, Jesus. The hymn writer put it correctly: “Come from on high to me; I cannot rise to Thee.” The only hope for sinners is found in the God of perfect love who sent His Son to take on human flesh and blood that He might carry in His body our sin, die our death and rise again for our forgiveness. Hear the words of the angel, and rejoice! The words are for you: “Unto you is born this day . . . A Savior.” He came for you. He is with you. Clinging to Him in faith, He is with us always.

*Just as the shepherds were told where to find Jesus then, so also we’re told where to find Him still today. He is no longer in the humble manger; but by His own promise, He is in the humble means of bread and wine with His true body and blood in the **Lord’s Supper**. As we receive His gift, the greatest gift we can give to others is a loving witness to the truth of His Word. For this reason, we practice close communion; and guests who desire to commune are asked to speak with the pastor before the service. **Please fill out a card, and hand it to an Elder as you come forward to commune.***

THE WELCOME

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN #379 *“Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful”*

- 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: Oh, come, let us adore Him, Oh, come, let us adore Him,
Oh, 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:*

THE INVOCATION AND OPENING PRAYER

P: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: O God, because You once caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light, grant that we who have known the mystery of that Light here on earth come to the full measure of its joys in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: When the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. We confess our unrighteousness, we plead for His mercy.

(silence for reflection on God's Word and self-examination)

C: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your punishment now and forever. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being. **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.

(please be seated)

THE HYMN #366 *"It Came upon the Midnight Clear"* (verses 1, 3-4)

**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.**

**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.**

**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 PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 9:2-7 (ESV)

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. You have multiplied the nation; You have increased its joy; they rejoice before You as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, You have broken as on the day of Midian. For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over His kingdom, to

establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

P: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

THE HYMN #377 “On Christmas Night All Christians Sing”



1 On Christ-mas night all Chris - tians sing To hear the news the
2 Then why should men on earth be so sad, Since our Re - deem - er
3 When sin de - parts be - fore His grace, Then life and health come
4 All out of dark-ness we have light, Which made the an - gels



an - gels bring, On Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing To
made us glad, Then why should men on earth be so sad, Since
in its place, When sin de - parts be - fore His grace, Then
sing this night, All out of dark - ness we have light, Which



hear the news the an - gels bring, News of great joy, news of great
our Re - deem - er made us glad, When from our sin He set us
life and health come in its place; An - gels and men with joy may
made the an - gels sing this night: “Glo - ry to God and peace to



mirth, News of our mer - ci - ful King's birth.
free, All for to gain our lib - er - ty?
sing, All for to see the new - born King,
men Now and for - ev - er - more. A - men.”

THE EPISTLE Titus 3:4-7 (ESV)

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(please stand)

THE HOLY GOSPEL Luke 2:1-20 (ESV)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the second chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of

Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn Son and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths and laid Him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a Baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!" When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this Child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

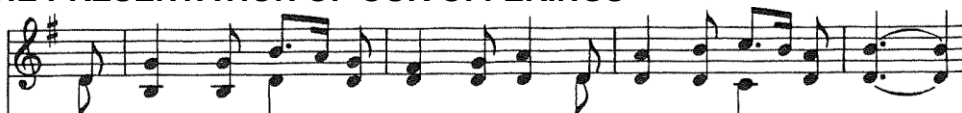
C: Praise to You, O Christ.

THE HYMN OF THE DAY #380 *"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"*

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>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!"
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"</p> | <p>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!
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"</p> |
|---|---|
- 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.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"**

THE SERMON “The Song of the Angels—Peace” Text: Luke 2:1-20

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERINGS



1 I am so glad when Christ-mas comes, The night of Je - sus' birth,
2 The lit - tle child of Beth - le - hem, The King of heav'n - ly grace,
3 He's now re - turned to heav'n a - bove, God's Son he is al - way;
4 I too would sing my Sav - ior's praise, My joy, my crown, my Lord;



When Beth-l'em's star shone as the sun And an - gels sang with mirth.
Came down from his ex - alt - ed throne To save our fall - en race.
He ne'er for - gets his lit - tle ones But hears them when they pray.
For he has made me his own child By Wa - ter and the Word.

5) I love this precious Christmas Eve
And my dear Savior mild
And I shall not forget the truth
He loves me as His child.

6) I am so glad when Christmas comes
Let anthems fill the air
He opens wide for every child
His paradise so fair.

(please stand)

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(Each petition concludes with this response: “Let us pray to the Lord,” “Lord, have mercy.”)

THE PREFACE *(responses are spoken)*

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may be drawn to the love of those things which are not seen. Hear us as we pray in the name of Jesus, who has also taught us to pray . . .

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(printed inside the back cover of your hymnal)*

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

(please be seated)

THE DISTRIBUTION AND HYMNS

#387 "Joy to the World"



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him
ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
ground; He comes to make His bless - ings
prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

#370 "What Child Is This?"



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is
2 Why lies He in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are
3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to



sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While
feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The
own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is
si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall
lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the

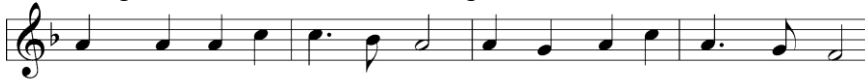


Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

#368 "Angels We Have Heard on High"



1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;



And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain



Glo - - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -



- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

#361 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"



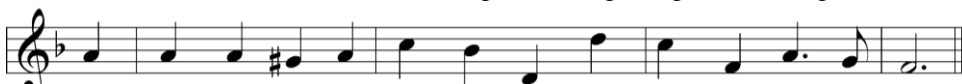
1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is giv'n!
 4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep The si - lent stars go by;
 While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won - d'ring love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of His heav'n.
 Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear His com - ing; But in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.
 And prais - es sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!
 Where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

#374 "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"



1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;
2 An - gels sang a - bout His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;
3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;



There He lay, the Un - de - filed, To the world a strang - er.
Heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth Glo - ry all a - round Him.
He is still the Un - de - filed But no more a strang - er.



Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Sav - ior?
Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, Heard the an - gels sing - ing;
Son of God of hum - ble birth, Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;



Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His fa - vor.
All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ring - ing.
Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glo - ry!

(please stand)

THE DISMISSAL

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

C: Amen.

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Let us pray. O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled to serve You constantly; through Jesus Christ Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up His countenance on you and ✠ give you peace.

C: Amen.

(please be seated)

THE LIGHTING OF CANDLES AND CLOSING CAROLS

#364 *"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 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 side until 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.

#363 *"Silent Night"*

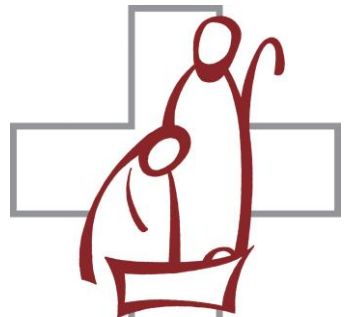
- 1) Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and Child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.
- 2) Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!
- 3) Silent night! Holy night! To the world saving Light;
Golden gleams from heaven above, Graced abundantly with God's love.
Jesus, Word now made flesh! Jesus, Word now made flesh!
- 4) Silent night, holy night! Shows to each His great might.
Love descends from heaven above; Dwells with us in brotherly love,
Hailed by nations afar, Hailed by nations afar.
- 5) 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.

*Please extinguish your candle when we are finished
singing and place them in the box as you leave.*

*You are invited to join us for Christmas Day Worship
tomorrow morning at 9:00 a.m.*

Please usher yourselves out.

Merry Christmas!





2025 CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS



- * Craig & K'Lynn Harm in memory of loved ones
- * Lodean & Sandra Voss and family in memory of Louis & Alice Aldag and Erwin & Marvella Voss
- * Roger & Karin Schneider in memory of loved ones
- * Leroy Hight and girls in memory of Marlene Hight and Myrl & Sylvia Hight
- * Nancy Bielenberg in memory of Herbert & Arlene Teut
- * Loren & Marlene Lee in honor of Ray & Esther Henningsen, Darold & Freida Lee, and Dewey Lee
- * Joyce Detlefsen in memory of Guenter Detlefsen
- * Bruce & Cindi Paulsen in memory of loved ones
- * Bruce & Cathy Namanny in memory of loved ones
- * Richard Fredericks in memory of Virgene Fredericks and Taylor Marie Teut
- * Dennis & Coleen Bruhn in memory of loved ones
- * Daryl & Barb Pedersen in memory of loved ones
- * JoAnn Riessen in memory of Erwin & Elsie Riessen
- * Rick & Jodi Lorenzen in memory of loved ones
- * Marie Peters and family in memory of Richard Peters
- * Tim & Lila Bubke in memory of family and friends
- * Lowell & Julie Teut in memory of Taylor Marie Teut and Tyler Banks (our grandchildren)
- * Lowell & Julie Teut in memory of Fred & Viola Jess and Lenhardt & Anna Teut (our parents)
- * The Bruhn, Hargens, Komer, Paulsen & Wiebers families in memory of Cole Schneider
- * The Bruhn, Hargens, Komer, Paulsen & Schneider families in memory of Jason Wiebers
- * Craig & Val Teut in memory of Virgene Fredericks and Taylor Marie Teut
- * Kent, Nan and Lukas Bornhoft in memory of parents and grandparents
- * Mike & Tracy Beeck and family in memory of Larry & Jolene Beeck, Marlene Hight and loved ones
- * Loren & Janice Jepsen and family in memory of Leslie & Eileen Grell
- * Loren & Janice Jepsen and family in memory of Ruth Jackson
- * Jerry & Grace Langholdt in memory of Russell & Marie Wood and Albin & Esther Langholdt
- * Jerry & Barb Ernst in memory of Merle & Lois Ernst and Glen & Helen Comstock
- * Harry & Kay Riessen in memory of loved ones
- * Derick & Amanda Bruhn and family in memory of loved ones
- * JoAnn Clausen and family in honor of Leona & Theo Aldag and Bernice & Andrew Clausen
- * JoAnn Clausen and family in honor of Larry Clausen and Colton Clausen
- * Eric & Renae Schneider and family in memory of Cole Schneider
- * Amanda Ashbrook and Karsen Keim in memory of Mike Ashbrook
- * Wayne & Joyce Miller in memory of Ken Miller
- * Wayne & Joyce Miller in memory of our parents
- * Joel & Sandy Bubke in memory of our loved ones
- * Ryan & Kayla Morgan and family in memory of all our loved ones
- * Andrew & Kristin Palmersheim in memory of loved ones
- * Curtis & Angela Komer and family in memory of loved ones
- * Donna Harm and family in memory of Roger Harm
- * Deb Green in memory of Don, parents, grandparents and Terry

*Thank you for placing poinsettias to the Glory of God.
You may take them home after the 9:00 Christmas Day worship service.*