

Christmas Eve Worship

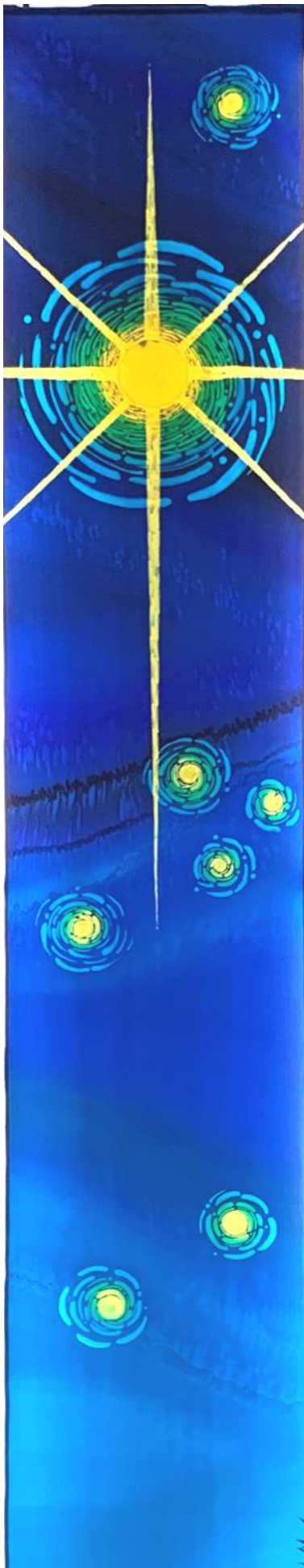
Dec 24, 2025 - 3 p.m.



First Lutheran

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Prelude: Three Christmas Improvisations Arr. Michael Burkhardt

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”

“God Rest Ye, Merry”

Four Carol Settings.....Arr. J. Wayne Kerr

“Sing We Now of Christmas”

“Rock-a-bye, My Dear Little Babe”

“Once in Royal David’s City”

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

The Bethlehem Collection..... Arr. David Cherwien

“Love Has Come”

“O Bethlehem”

“Joy to the World”

Journey to the Manger.....Arr. James Biery

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

Welcome **Pr. Steve from the front**

- Let me begin with a Christmas welcome to all who come this evening.
- Welcome to family and friends who have traveled a distance and to you who come as guests or worship here for a first time.
- Holy Communion is offered today.
All are welcome to come forward for communion who seek the grace of God offered in bread and wine and promise.
- A gratitude card is included in your bulletin. You may write something you are grateful for and include with your offering during the time of gratitude.
- A word of thanks to musicians who lead us in worship,
To Brett Wolgast, Tanya Rozenkranz Malloy,
and the children who offer their song of praise.

THANK YOU.

- Thank you to all gave for the poinsettias and those worked behind the scenes to prepare the bulletins and worship space for tonight.
- A word of instruction:
We will have a lighting of candles when we sing Silent Night Today.
 - After communion, You can pick up your candle or finger light as you return to your seat. Candles are here at the side aisles and in the back.
 - Please tip only the unlit candle for lighting and hold the candle upright.
 - You may keep your candle or leave it at the door following worship.
- We prepare our hearts to worship our good and gracious God.

Angels, from the Realms of Glory



- 1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
- 2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch-ing o'er your flocks by night,
- 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem-pla - tions, bright-er vi - sions beam a - far;
- 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais-ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain



Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ, the new-born king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4
Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

Christ Be Our Light V. 5

**All: Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.**

**Let us be servants to one another,
signs of your kingdom come.**

**Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.**

Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

Stand **Opening Hymn:** *ELW #275 “Angels from the Realms of Glory”*

The Greeting *Katie @ the Altar*

Pastor: 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.

Christmas Candle Lighting: *Family Lights during song*
ELW #715 (st 5) “Christ, Be Our Light”

P: Tonight, we light the Christ Candle.

All: The waiting is over. The Light has come.

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

All: On those who lived in a land of deep darkness—light has shined.

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

**All: He is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

P: Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

All: The light no darkness can overcome.

P: Let us walk in the light of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God!

Prayer of the Day *Katie @ Altar*

P: Let us pray. 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 Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

Sit

Junior Choir Anthem: “Welcome Carol” by Chris Hutchings *Front*

Thomas AND Jazzy walk forward; Jazzy stand by tree.

The Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7 *NRSV Youth @ Ambo*

L: A reading from the book of Isaiah, the ninth chapter.

²The 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.

CONTINUES →

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: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Stand – The Gospel is announced Jazzy from Ambo

L: ***Raise your arm and/or say:***

Please Stand for the reading of the Gospel. ***Pause while they move.***

The Christmas Gospel According to St. Luke, the second chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord. (spoken)

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:1-14 *NRSV*

L: ¹In 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 our Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

“The Sights & Sounds of Christmas” with Pr. Steve Knudson
Kids, Please come up front!

Hymn: ELW #271 “I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve”

All: I am so glad each Christmas Eve, the night of Jesus' birth!
Then like the sun the star shone forth, and angels sang on earth.

- 2 The little child in Bethlehem, he was a king indeed!**
For he came down from heav'n above to help a world in need.
- 3 He dwells again in heaven's realm, the Son of God today;**
and still he loves his little ones and hears them when they pray.
- 4 I am so glad each Christmas Eve! His praises then I sing;**
he opens now for ev'ry child the palace of the king.
- 5 And so I love each Christmas Eve, and I love Jesus too;**
and that he loves me ev'ry day I know so well is true.

“Sounds from the Journey”

Hymn: ELW #279 “O Little Town of Bethlehem” verse 1

All: 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.

“Sounds from the Stable”

Hymn: ELW #277 “Away in the Manger” verse 1

All: Away in a manger, no crib for his 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.

“Sounds in the Field”

“Sounds from the Heavens”

Hymn: *ELW* #289 “Angels We have Heard on High” verse 1

All: Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo!

“Sounds from the Witnesses: Christ is Our Light”

Craig & Katie hand out items,

Congregation stays seated so kids can see parents easier.

Hymn: *ELW* #290 “Go Tell it on the Mountain” verse 1-3

All: While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. *Refrain*

Refrain: Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

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 blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

Stand

Prayers: Craig @ Altar, Katie @ Ambo

Prayers of the Church
P: Hear us, O God
All: your mercy is great.

Sit

Offering of Gratitude *Craig @ Altar*

P: The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. During this time of gratitude, you may place your gratitude card in the offering along with any offerings you have brought. You may also make an offering electronically. Instructions are in your bulletin.

Offertory Music: “O Holy Night” arr. Hayes; Marita Wolgast, piano

SET ORGAN MONITOR WITH A CAMERA ON THE REARDOORS.

Stand

Offertory Hymn: *ELW* #294 “In the Bleak Midwinter” (st.3)

All: What can I give him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;

if I were a wise man I would do my part;

yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

Offering Prayer *Katie @ Ambo*

L: God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior.

All: Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving *Craig @ Altar*

P: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

Words of Institution *Craig @ Altar*

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the 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 my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:



- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
- 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
- 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?
Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead-ing.
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Raise, raise the 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!



- 1 Let our glad - ness have no end, Hal - le - lu - jah!
- 2 Proph-e - sied in days of old, Hal - le - lu - jah!
- 3 See the love - liest bloom-ing rose, Hal - le - lu - jah!
- 4 In - to flesh is made the Word, Hal - le - lu - jah!



for to earth did Christ de - scend. Hal - le - lu - jah!
God has sent the one fore - told. Hal - le - lu - jah!
from the branch of Jes - se grows. Hal - le - lu - jah!
our true ref - uge and our Lord. Hal - le - lu - jah!

Refrain



On this day God gave us Christ, the Son, to



save us; Christ, the Son, to save us.

Lord's Prayer *Craig @ Altar*

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.

Sit

Distribution of Communion *Craig @ Altar* (3 stations)

P: All is ready and all are welcome. The ushers will direct you.

Gluten free wafers and grape juice are available, just ask the server.

When you return by the side aisle, place your glass in the basket and then pick up a candle for the candle lighting. Finger lights are available for children.

No Online Communion Blessing

Communion Hymns: *ELW* #296 "What Child is This"

ELW #291 "Let Our Gladness Have No End"

Stand

The Communion Blessing *Craig @ Altar*

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

All: Amen.

Christ is Our Light *Katie @ WREATH*

P: Christ is our Light.

The light of Christ shines in the darkness,
and the darkness does not overtake it. From the Christ Candle,
we draw light, that we may shine the light of Christ.

Let us pray: God of wonder, in the birth of Jesus we behold the light of the world come near. Send us out in joy to share the good news of your love.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, though the Spirit dwelling among us now and forever.

All: Amen. *Katie → Craig & Steve; → four Ushers*

Fade down the house lights. — Set to 30 seconds

Passing of the Light

Light your candle by turning the unlit candle sideways over the lit candle held upright. For finger lights, touch the lit finger light, then turn on your light.

Silent Night, Holy Night!

Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht!



Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,
 1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.
 all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,



Hold - er Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher
 Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
 heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your



Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

*At the direction of the Pastor we will extinguish our candles together.
 Please keep them upright a few moments for the wax to harden.
 You may take the candles home, or leave them as you exit.*

Congregational Hymn: *ELW* #281 “Silent Night, Holy Night”

Benediction *Katie @ Center*

P: Go out this night in joy and hope, with the song of the angels
on your lips to tell:

ALL: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

P: And the love of God, the light of Christ, and the joy of the Holy Spirit
abide with you this Holy Night and forever.

ALL: Amen.

Extinguish Candles Here

PAUSE — Light come Up

Closing Hymn: *ELW* #267 “Joy to the World” →

Dismissal *Steve FROM THE BACK*

P: Christ the Savior is born!

Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

All: Thanks be to God.

Postlude: Fanfare/Postlude on “O Come, All Ye Faithful” ... Arr. Aaron Shows

Merry Christmas!

Joy to the World



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions 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.

Dismissal *FROM THE BACK*

P: Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

All: Thanks be to God.