

# THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD CHRISTMAS EVE



**ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
DECEMBER 24, 2025**

**4:00 PM**



**THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD  
Christmas Eve  
St. Mark's Lutheran Church**

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**PEACE LIGHT**

*The small oil lamp burning near the worship leaders holds the Peace Light of Bethlehem, a flame lit each year from the Church of the Nativity. From a perpetual lamp burning near the place remembered as Jesus' birthplace, a single flame is carefully carried outward, passed from keeper to keeper, candle to candle, across borders, oceans, and communities. Along its journey it is shared as a sign of peace, hope, and the light of Christ given for the life of the world. Tonight, every candle and light in this space has been kindled from that one flame. As you depart, you are invited to carry that flame with you, sharing the light of Christ beyond this place.*

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**PRELUDE**

*familiar carols*

**GATHERING**

**WELCOME**

*The assembly stands.*

**GATHERING HYMN**

1 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!

**O Come, All Ye Faithful**

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*

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

4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!  
Word of the Father,  
now in flesh appearing: *refrain*

## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Son of God and the Holy Spirit  
be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE

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

## *Angels We Have Heard on High*

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

*Refrain*  
Gloria in excelsis Deo;  
gloria in excelsis Deo.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord is with you!  
**And also with you!**

Let us pray.

O God, with Mary and Joseph,  
angels and shepherds, and the animals in the stable,  
we gather around your Son, born for us.  
Bless us with your holy presence,  
and inspire us to help those who have no place to dwell.  
Be with us that we might share Christ's love with all the world,  
for he is our light and salvation.  
Glory in heaven and peace on earth, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

*The assembly sits.*

## WORD

### READING I: Luke 2:1-7

#### CAROL

#### *Away in a Manger*

1 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.

2 The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky  
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

### READING II: Luke 2:8-20

#### CAROL

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

#### *Go Tell It on the Mountain*

2 The shepherds feared and  
trembled  
when, lo, above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed our Savior's birth.  
*Refrain*

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

3 Down in a lonely manger  
the humble Christ was born;  
and God sent us salvation  
that blessed Christmas morn.  
*Refrain*

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### CAROL

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.

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!

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.

### *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*

## RESPONSIVE PRAYER

*The assembly stands.*

Gracious God, you come from heaven into the midst of our world.  
**Fill our hearts with the joy of the angels at your birth.**

You come from heaven to be with those facing the hardest things in life.

**Watch over those in need, the sick, the hungry, the grieving.**

You come from heaven to walk the way of the cross.

**Guide us to follow your path of forgiveness, mercy, and peace.**

You come from heaven to become flesh and live among us.

**May we see your glory, full of grace and truth.**

**Amen.**

## PEACE

*The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.*

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you." The assembly is seated.*

## MEAL

## OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church within and beyond St. Mark's, including the care of those in need. You may place your offering in the offering plates as they are passed by the ushers. You may also send your offering by mail or go to our website, [www.stmarks-spokane.org](http://www.stmarks-spokane.org), and click on the "offering/giving" tab to make an offering digitally. Or text the word "give" to 509.612.7647 to receive a link to complete this process. Thank you for your generosity.

*The table is set. The assembly stands.*

## OFFERTORY

1 In the bleak midwinter,  
frosty wind made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron,  
water like a stone;  
snow had fallen, snow on snow,  
snow on snow,  
in the bleak midwinter,  
long ago.

## *In the Bleak Midwinter*

3 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.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

You came as a baby to a manger. You slept on straw and greeted shepherds. You come again in bread and wine. Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things, and then, through these gifts, help us to bless others in the strength of your holy name.

**Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

### DIALOGUE

**The Lord be with you.**

**And also with you.**

**Lift up your hearts.**

**We lift them to the Lord.**

**Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.**

**It is right to give your thanks and praise.**

## PREFACE

It is indeed our joy to offer thanks and praise to you, O God.  
In great love you sent us Jesus, your Son.  
In the wonder of his birth, you have opened our eyes  
to see Jesus born among animals and the lowly,  
so that we also see the shining vision  
of your love for us and the whole world.  
And so, with all the angels of heaven, and all who dwell on earth,  
we praise your name and join our hearts in song:

## SANCTUS

*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

Holy, holy, Lord most holy,  
God of pow'r and God of might:  
heav'n and earth reveal your glory.  
Hail, hosanna, Lord of light!  
Blessed be the coming Savior.  
Hail, hosanna, Lord of light!

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

O Lord our God, maker of heaven and the stars of night,  
with Mary and Joseph, angels and shepherds,  
and the animals in the stable,  
we gather around your Son, born for us.  
He came to live among us,  
to be your holy presence in the world.

In the night in which he was handed over,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this to remember 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 to remember me.

Death could not stop Christ from loving us.  
In his resurrection, life and love win.  
**His light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness has not overcome it.**

Be with us, that we might share Christ's love with all the world,  
for he is our light and salvation.  
Glory in heaven and peace on earth, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Jesus, remember us, and teach us to pray:

**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

*The assembly sits.*

God is now in flesh appearing.  
Come to the feast of joy!

## COMMUNION CANTICLE

### ***O Little Town of Bethlehem***

1 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.

4 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!

## COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

*Christ, our Host, welcomes all to the table—where we feast on his promise of forgiveness and life in the bread and wine. Those wishing to receive communion come up the center aisle to the altar rail. If you desire a gluten-free option, please take a wafer from the paten on the small table at the head of the center aisle. A pastor will offer you bread, then proceed to the next communion minister who will offer you a tray from which you may choose either a glass of red wine or white grape juice from the tray. Place your empty glass in the tray held by the next communion minister, before returning to your seat.*

*If you are unable to come forward, communion can be brought to you in your pew. Simply let an usher know.*

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say:

The body of Christ, given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.  
and each person may respond: **Amen.**

## HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

### ***Love Has Come***



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the  
2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -  
3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;  
sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;  
last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to  
what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the  
Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.  
name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.  
gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950

Music: UN FLAMBEAU, F. Seguin, *Recueil de noëls composés en langue provençale*, 1856

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## On Christmas Night

1 On Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing to hear the news the  
2 Then why should we on earth be sad, since our re-deem-er  
3 When sin de-parts be-fore his face, 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 we on earth be sad, since  
in its place. When sin de-parts be-fore his face, 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 re-joice with us and  
made the an-gels sing this night: "Glo-ry to God in high-est

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.  
heav'n; peace on earth, and good-will. A-men."

Text: Luke Wadding, d. 1686, alt.  
Music: SUSSEX CAROL, English traditional

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

*The assembly stands.*

Let us pray.

O God, you are among us.

May we treasure the gift of this holy meal  
and ponder in our hearts the mystery of this night.  
Help us discover the wonders of your love  
in the everyday moments of our lives,  
through Christ born in us.

**Amen.**

## FOR THE CANDLE LIGHTING AND HYMN

*The minister, taking a large candle, lights it from an altar candle, which symbolizes Christ, the Light of the world, and share the light with the ushers and congregation.*

***Tip your unlit candle toward the lit candle next to you.  
Lit candles are held upright only.***

## SERVICE OF LIGHT

### DIALOGUE AND PRAYER

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.**

For a child has been born for us, a Son given to us.

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

### READING: JOHN 1:1-5, 9-14 (as candles are being lit)

As the candles are lit, we hear a recording of the prologue of John's Gospel proclaimed in voices young and old. Spoken by a child and by an elder of this community who is homebound, this reading bears witness that the Word made flesh is proclaimed across generations and carried among us, whether gathered here or worshiping from afar.

## CAROL

## *Silent Night, Holy 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!

(we raise our candles high)

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.

## BLESSING

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary,  
the obedience of Joseph,  
the joy of the angels,  
the eagerness of the shepherds,  
and the everlasting peace of Jesus  
who is Savior, Christ, and Lord.  
Almighty God, Father,  $\ddagger$  Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you and keep you now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Candles are extinguished.*

## SENDING HYMN

## *Joy to the World*

*(all sing)*

**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.

*(lower voices sing)*

**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.

*(higher voices sing)*

**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.

*(all sing)*

**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.

## DISMISSAL

Glory to God in the highest!  
**And peace to God's people on earth!**  
Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

*Good Christian Men, Rejoice*

arr. Pethel

**The following people donated  
Christmas poinsettias for the sanctuary**

- ❖ Dave and Deanna Anderson in memory of Norman, Rosemary, & Jon Anderson & Harley, Virginia & Robert Yake
- ❖ Rich Bailey in memory of Helen Bailey
- ❖ Debby and Al Bell in Honor of their family
- ❖ Norm Boehnke family in memory of Paul Boehnke
- ❖ Judy Cassell in memory of her brother, John; her father, John; and mom, Dorothy.
- ❖ Matt Daly & Camille Sturdivant Daly in memory of their parents Leona & Joseph Daly and Fleet & Shirley Sturdivant
- ❖ Janet Farness and Rick Young in memory of Rev. Ray & Kay Farness and in honor of Howie Goertz.
- ❖ Wendy and Jim Fitzgerald in memory of the Fitzgerald brothers: Jim Sr., Dan, and Johnny.
- ❖ Sue Gilman in memory of David & Marcus Jung
- ❖ Liz Grosen and Tom Stebbins in memory of their parents Arlene, Colin, Kathy and Knud
- ❖ Pat Gunderson in memory of Lynn & Mike McGee
- ❖ Deb & Jeff Halstead in memory of John Halstead, Lois Rex, & Wally Rex
- ❖ Tim and Debbie Hansen in memory of Doyle & Mary Catherine Hansen and Jack & Norma Jeanne Preble
- ❖ Mary Hyde in memory of Neil Hyde
- ❖ Gail Lancaster in memory of Iris Schmidt
- ❖ Paul and Sue Luppert in memory of Shelley Barnard
- ❖ Ron Mehlert in memory of Karen Guthrie-Mehlert
- ❖ Diana Pickering in memory of her parents Herman and Minnie Brommer
- ❖ Susan Pine in memory of Clay Worst & Julie Smith
- ❖ Cynthia Price in memory of her parents and sister
- ❖ Loris Stupel and Mark Nelson in honor of friends & family
- ❖ Marilyn Thordarson in memory of Bill Thordarson
- ❖ Cathy Thornton in memory of her dad, Tom, all her loved ones now with the Lord.
- ❖ St. Mark's Staff in honor of Pastor Lori Cornell
- ❖ St. Mark's Staff in memory of Sacha Kopp



• Welcome to St. Mark's Lutheran Church •  
316 E 24th Ave., Spokane, WA 99203  
509-747-6677  
stmarks-spokane.org

Worship attendance cards are located in the pews.  
After listing all attendees (members and visitors) the card may be placed in  
the offering plate.

**ST. MARK'S STAFF**

Pastors

Parish Administrator  
Communication Coordinator  
Office Coordinator  
Volunteer Coordinator  
Pastoral Assistant/Visitation  
Youth Program Leaders

Live Stream/Sound Coordinator  
Alleluia Choir/Godly Play Coordinator  
Director of Music/Organ  
Director of Music/Choral  
Sexton

Edwin Weber  
Gretchen Olson  
Jane Somers  
Loris Stupel  
Susan Hagen  
Gina Bloom  
Tom Fallquist  
Calvin Moore  
Rachel Peterson  
Randy Darst  
Kendra Chapman  
Carol Miyamoto  
Ann Benson  
Gib Dominguez

**Congregation Council**

Council President: Ira Gardner, Jr.

Council Members: Ben Baker, Kate Bassett, Patti Berg, Sue Connelly, Janet Farness, Mary Hoenecke, Theron Miller, Michelle Phelan, Susan Pine, Michael Stolp, Jane Summers.

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