

ST. LUKE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcome to Christmas Eve Worship

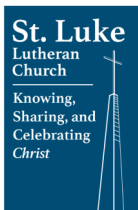


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December 24, 2023

Christmas Eve

Gathering Song

ELW 283 O Come, All Ye Faithful

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, tr. Frederick Oakeley; Music: attr. John Francis Wade

Carol of Praise

ELW 290 Go Tell It on the Mountain

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., stanzas, alt.; Music: African American spiritual

Gospel Acclamation

ELW 270 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing vs.1

Text: Charles Wesley, alt.; Music: Felix Mendelssohn

Hymn of the Day

ELW 282 It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

Text: Edmund H. Sears; Music: Richard S. Willis

Communion Song

ELW 296 What Child is This vs.1

Text: William C. Dix; Music: English ballad, 16th cent.

Candle Lighting Song

ELW 281 Silent Night

Text: Joseph Mohr; tr. John F. Young; Music: Franz Gruber

Sending Song

ELW 267 Joy to the World

Text: Isaac Watts; Music: English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Please rise in body or spirit.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the Word made flesh,
our life and our salvation.

Amen.

Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of life,
**you promise good news of great joy for all people,
and call us to be messengers of your peace.
We confess that too often we hoard our joy,
our resources, and our security.
We nurture conflict and build barriers.
We neglect the needs of our neighbors
and ignore the groaning of creation.
Have mercy on us.
Where we are self-centered, open our hearts.
Where we are reluctant, give us courage.
Where we are cynical, restore our trust.
Renew us with your grace
and give us again the hope of eternal life in you.
Amen.**

Hear the good news:

We are children of God and heirs of God's promises

through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.
In ☩ Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed.
Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth
shall know the salvation of God.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

ELW 283

GREETING

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

CAROL OF PRAISE

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

ELW 290

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

ISAIAH 9:2-7

A reading from Isaiah the 9th chapter.

² 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.
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.
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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 96:

- ¹Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.
²**Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD;
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**
³Declare God's glory among the nations

and God's wonders a-mong all peoples.

**⁴For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised,
more to be feared than all gods.**

⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.

**⁶Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**

⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

**⁸Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.**

⁹Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

**¹⁰Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is king!
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will
judge the peoples with equity."**

¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all
that is therein.

**¹²Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming,
O LORD, for you come to judge the earth.**

¹³You will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with your truth, and the peoples with his truth.

TITUS 2:11-14:

A reading from Titus the 2nd chapter.

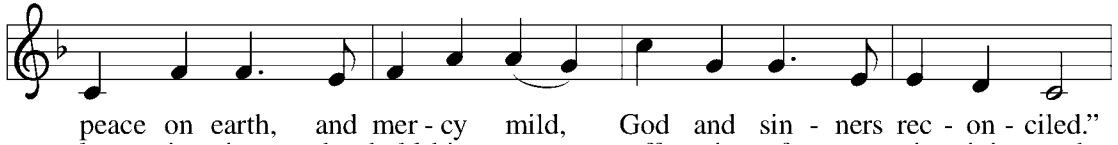
¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please rise in body or spirit.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING VS. 1 ELW 270



GOSPEL

The holy gospel according to Luke 2:1-20.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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!"

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 gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

2:00 PM Deacon Kathie Afflerbach

7:00 PM Dennis Faust

Please rise in body or spirit.

HYMN OF THE DAY

IT CAME UPON A MIDNIGHT CLEAR

ELW 282

NICENE CREED

Together, let us confess our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;**

he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The assembly is seated.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in God's good news of great joy for all people, we offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and the world God loves.

A brief silence.

Glory to you, God, for the song of the angels, proclaiming to the world Christ's holy birth. Give your church a joyful song to sing, that we bring the good news of peace and salvation to all people. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Glory to you, God, for the stars that shine in the depth of the night. Provoke awe in our hearts at the expansive mystery of the cosmos. Open us to find beauty in the clear darkness of night and in the first glimmers of dawn. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Glory to you, God, for the child born to us who establishes a kingdom of justice and righteousness. Break bonds of oppression, bring reconciliation

to warring lands, and establish peace from this time onward and forevermore. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Glory to you, God, for Mary's loving care. Lead us to tend to one another in time of need. Share the comfort of your presence with all people tonight who are alone or separated from loved ones due to estrangement, incarceration, or illness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Glory to you, God, for the faithfulness of the shepherds in their vocation. Grant rest to any who feel exhausted from their work during this season: retail and restaurant workers, church musicians, administrative staff, and clergy, organizers of charitable-giving events, and service workers doing essential tasks. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Glory to you, God, for the multitude of the heavenly host. We rejoice in the zeal of all your saints who have witnessed the appearing of your grace, and who reveal to us your salvation for all. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Abide with us, O God of mercy, and receive our prayers according to your abundant grace.

Amen.



MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of abundance,
receive and bless these gifts we have offered.
Join our hearts with the song of the angels,
and gather us at your table of celebration.
Strengthen us to share with all the world
the abundance of your grace upon grace,
poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.
Amen.

Please rise in body or spirit.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Gathered at the Lord's table, our congregation remembered with thanksgiving that "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.

This is the supper of our Lord Jesus Christ. This same bread and cup, shared in our community of faith, are here given for you.

All are welcome to the commune. Please follow the instructions of the presiding minister.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

**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

Glory to God in the highest!
Come to the table of peace.

The assembly may be seated.





1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen**

The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

God our redeemer,

you have fed us at this table

with gifts of grace, truth, and life.

As you have gathered us in joy,

send us forth as messengers of your peace.

Make us shine with the good news of your glory,

born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

CANDLE LIGHTING

At this time we share the light of Christ among us:
 The light that illumines shadows,
 The light that guides our steps,
 The light that gives us hope,
 The light of love.

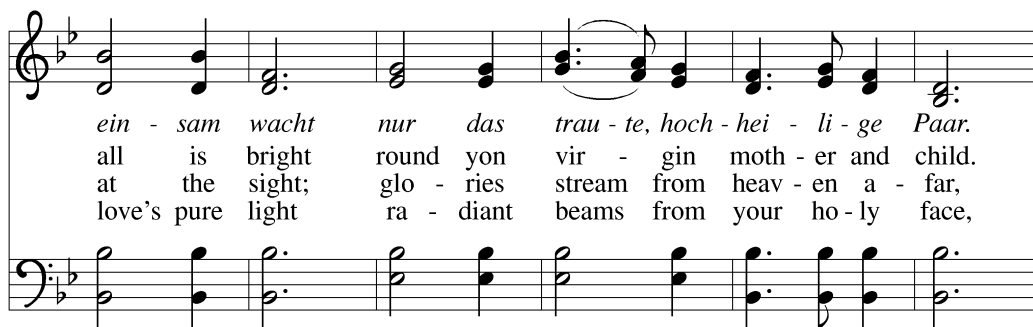
CANDLE LIGHTING SONG

SILENT NIGHT

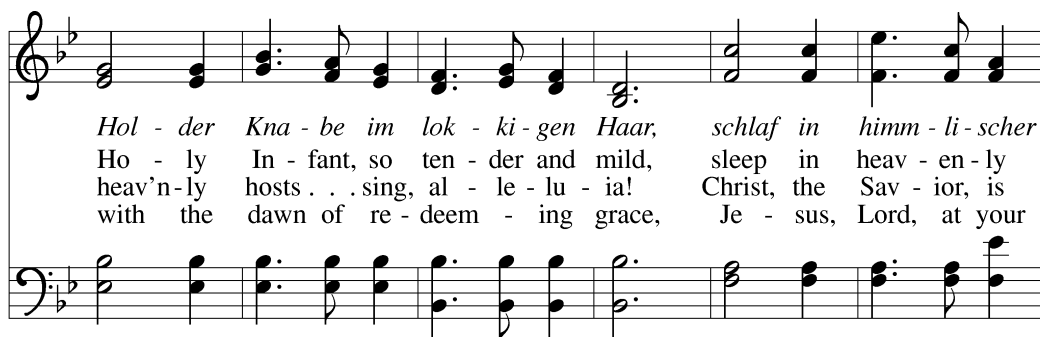
ELW 281



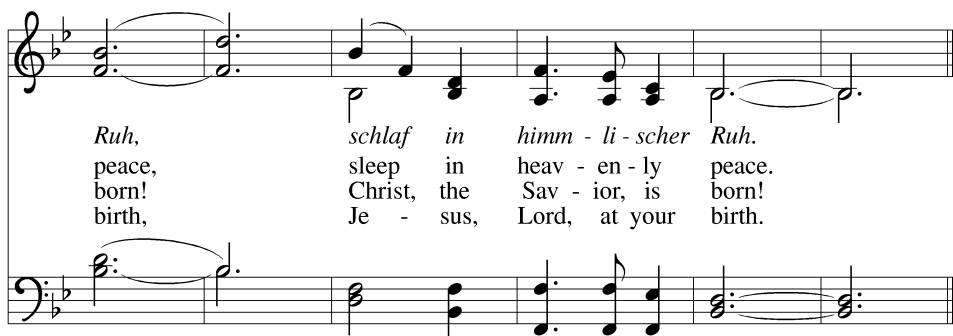
Stil - le Nacht, hei - li-ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,
 1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



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,



Hol - der 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



SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Please rise in body or spirit.

BLESSING

God bless you and keep you,
 ✠ Jesus grant you grace and truth,
 and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts,
 now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

JOY TO THE WORLD

ELW 267

DISMISSAL

Christ the Savior is born!
 Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

From sundaysandseasons.com.



Prelude

Do You Hear What I Hear

Emily Geiger, soloist

Text/Music: Noel Regney, Gloria Shayne; Arr. Harry Simeone

Pastorale on Adeste, fidelis

setting, David Schelat; ©2014 Oxford University Press

Holy Child within the Manger

Kathy Billger, soloist

Introduction: Mark Sedio, ©2003 Augsburg Fortress; Text/Music: Marty Haugen, ©1987 GIA Publications Inc.

On A Quiet Christmas Night

Handbell Choir

Arranger: Michael Ryan; ©2014 Lorenz Corp

Variations sur "In dulci jubilo"

setting Denis Bédard; ©1993 Éditions Cheldar

Postlude

Carillon on "Antioch" (Joy to the World)

setting, Mary Beth Bennett; ©2014 Oxford University Press

