

Christmas Eve

Our Worship Service and hymns come from Lutheran Service Book (LSB)
which is the maroon hymnal usually in the pew racks

Opening Hymn: Joy to the World

LSB 387

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.
2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
3. No more let sins and sorrows 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.
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.

Text: Public domain

Invocation and Confession and Absolution

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

C: Amen

P: We celebrate God's love on the eve of the birth of our Savior, Jesus. We know that our sin was the reason for His coming to earth. As we reflect on our sins, we realize that Jesus came to this earth to suffer and die on the cross. But He suffered and died so that we can be forgiven.

C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name.

Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary so that He could die for us and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

Collect of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

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

First Reading

Genesis 3:1-15

¹Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” ²And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. ⁵For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

⁸And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” ¹⁰And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.”

¹¹He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” ¹²The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” ¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

¹⁴The LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. ¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

Hymn: What Child Is This

LSB 370

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary’s lap is sleeping?

Whom angels greet with anthems sweet While shepherds watch are

keeping? This, this is Christ the king, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing; Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mary!

2. Why lies He in such mean estate Where ox and ass are feeding?

Good Christian, fear; for sinners here The silent Word is pleading.

Nails, spear shall pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you; Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mary!

3. So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peasant, king, to own Him. The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone Him. Raise, raise the song on high, The virgin sings her lullaby; Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mary!

Text: Public domain

Reading:

Micah 5:2-5a

² But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. ³Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. ⁵And he shall be their peace.

Hymn: O Little Town of Bethlehem

LSB 361

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.

2. For Christ is born of Mary, And, gathered all above

While mortals sleep, the angels keep Their watch of wond'ring love.

O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth,

And praises sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!

3. How silently, how silently The wondrous gift is giv'n!

So God imparts to human hearts The blessings of His heav'n.

No ear may hear His coming; But in this world of sin,

Where meek souls will receive Him, still The dear Christ enters in.

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;

O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!

Text: Public domain

Reading:

Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be

with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel”

(which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Hymn: Once in Royal David’s City

LSB 376

2 & 4pm Choir Sings; 7pm V. 1 Patrick Clark Solo; Congregation v. 2-5

1. Once in royal David’s city Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby In a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.
2. He came down to earth from heaven, Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable, And His cradle was a stall;
With the poor and mean and lowly Lived on earth our Savior holy.
3. For He is our childhood’s pattern, Day by day like us He grew;
He was little, weak, and helpless, Tears and smiles like us He knew;
And He feels for all our sadness, And He shares in all our gladness.
4. And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His own redeeming love;
For that child so dear and gentle Is our Lord in heav’n above;
And He leads His children on To the place where He is gone.
5. Not in that poor, lowly stable With the oxen standing by
Shall we see Him, but in heaven, Set at God’s right hand on high.
Then like stars His children, crowned, All in white, His praise will sound!

Text: Public domain

Reading:

Luke 2:1-7

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And 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, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And 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.

Hymn: Away in a Manger

LSB 364

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet

head. The stars in the 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 cradle till 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

Text: Public domain

Reading:

Luke 2:8-14

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰And 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. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths 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, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

Hymn: It Came upon the Midnight Clear

LSB 366

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, goodwill to all, From heav’n’s all-gracious king.”
The world in solemn stillness lay To hear the angels sing.

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 blessèd angels sing.

3. 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.

4. 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.

Text: Public domain

Reading

Luke 2:15-20

¹⁵When 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.” ¹⁶And they went with haste and found

Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Hymn: Go Tell It on the Mountain

LSB 388

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

1. While shepherds kept their watching O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens There shone a holy light. **Refrain**
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**

Text: Public Domain

Sermon

Rev. Matthew Gehrke

Prayers

P: Lord, in Your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

Lord's Prayer

C: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

Lighting of the Candles:

(We light our candles from the Christ Candle. Pastor will light his candle from the Christ Candle. The ushers will light their candles from Pastor's candle. The ushers will then come down the center aisle and light the congregation's candles. Please remember the unlit candles should be tipped toward to lit ones to avoid wax dripping on the floor or people.)

P: Light's importance was shown on the very first day of creation.

C: In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

P: And God said,

C: “Let there be light,” and there was light. And God saw that the light was good.

P: But then humans corrupted God’s creation with sin. We needed something greater than created light. We needed the Light of the world to come and shine in our lives forever.

C: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

P: All things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made.

C: In Him was life, and that life was the light of men. The Light shines in the darkness,

P: and the darkness has not overcome it.

C; The true Light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

P: Christmas is the celebration that the Light of the World has come.

C: And all who believe in Him have eternal life.

P: The people who walked in darkness

C: have seen a great light;

P: those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,

C: on them has light shined.

P: Jesus said, “I am the Light of the World.

C: Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

P: Now as we celebrate His birth, we await the Light’s return.

C: And I saw the Holy City, the New Jerusalem coming down out of Heaven from God

P: and the city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it,

C: for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb.

P: And night will be no more. They will need no light of a lamp or sun,

C: for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

P: Sing to the Lord a new song,

C: for He has done marvelous things!

Silent Night

LSB 363

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! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Text: Public domain

P: Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has
risen upon you!

C: Thanks be to God!

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on
you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give
you peace.

C: Amen

(Congregation may extinguish candles)

Closing Hymn: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing LSB 380

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!" **Refrain**

Refrain: Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

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! **Refrain**
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. **Refrain**

Text: Public domain

Soli Deo Gloria

*Please drop off your offering in the basket underneath the archway as you
leave the sanctuary. Pastor will dismiss you by individual pews.*

Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy
Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing
ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2020 Concordia Publishing House.