

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD: CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2023 A.D.
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*A Christ Caring People Who Gather Around Word and Sacrament,
Yoked Together, In Personal Service to Christ in World Wide Missions*



✠ DIVINE SERVICE ✠

ANTHEM

"O Holy Night" (arr. Mark Hayes)
Helen Kiepke, vocal soloist

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" (LSB 379)

INVOCATION

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

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

P Tonight we gather to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus. He is the king of our lives and the king of kings. But we do not always follow Jesus as our king. Sometimes we choose to go our own way. We want to rule our lives rather than letting Jesus rule our hearts and minds. We confess our sins, including the times when we have not honored Jesus as king.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. 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.

- P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

† WORD †

INTROIT

Psalm 2:1-2, 4-6 (antiphon: Liturgical text)

- P** When all was still, and it was midnight,
your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the royal throne.
- C** **Why do the nations rage
and the peoples plot in vain?**
- P** The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together,
against the LORD and against his anointed.
- C** **He who sits in the heavens laughs;
the Lord holds them in derision.**
- P** Then he will speak to them in his wrath,
and terrify them in his fury, saying,
- C** **“As for me, I have set my King
on Zion, my holy hill.”**
- C** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**
- P** When all was still, and it was midnight,
your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the royal throne.

HYMN OF PRAISE

“Angels from the Realms of Glory”

(LSB 367)

SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Let us pray. O God, you make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

(Please be seated)

OLD TESTAMENT Isaiah 9:2-7 (The promise of David's Son)

² 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. ³ 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. ⁴ 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. ⁵ For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶ 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. ⁷ 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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM (3:00PM, 5:00PM) "Mary Had a Baby" (*arr. Averitt/Burton*)
Andrew Wulf, flute soloist

ANTHEM (7:30PM) "All Is Well" (*Smith, arr. Larson*)
Moriah Gross, violin soloist

PSALM Psalm 110:1-4 (Reigning at God's right hand)

The Lord says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool."

² The Lord sends forth from Zion your mighty scepter. Rule in the midst of your enemies!

³ Your people will offer themselves freely on the day of your power, in holy garments; from the womb of the morning, the dew of your youth will be yours.

⁴ The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind, "You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek."

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)



HYMN OF PRAISE

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

(LSB 361)

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-14

(The birth of the Christ)

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. ² This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴ 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, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ 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.

⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And 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!”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

(Please be seated)

SERMON HYMN

"Lift Up Your Heads Ye Mighty Gates"

(LSB 341)

**1. Lift up your heads, you mighty gates! Behold, the King of glory waits.
The King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here.
His coming rends the dark of night where shines the everlasting Light.
God send the Light divine in our dark streets to shine.**

**2. A righteous Helper comes to thee; His chariot is humility,
His kingly crown is holiness, His scepter, pity in distress.
The end of all our woe He brings; Therefore the earth is glad and sings.
To Christ the Savior raise Your grateful hymns of praise.**

**3 How blest the land, the city blest, Where Christ the ruler is confessed!
O peaceful hearts and happy homes To whom this King in triumph comes!
The cloudless sun of joy is He Who comes to set His people free.
To God the Spirit raise Your happy shouts of praise.**

**4 Fling wide the portals of your heart; Make it a temple set apart
From earthly use for heav'n's employ, Adorned with prayer and love and
joy.
So shall your Sov'reign enter in And new and nobler life begin.
To God alone be praise For word and deed and grace!**

**5 Redeemer, come and open wide My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!
O enter with Thy grace divine; Thy face of mercy on me shine.
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on Until our glorious goal is won.
Eternal praise and fame We offer to Thy name.**

SERMON

"Reign"

(Psalm 110:1-4)

APOSTLES' CREED

Inside back cover of the Lutheran Service Book

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

(LSB 359)

CHRISTMAS EVE HYMN CELEBRATION

- P** O Wisdom, come!
C You govern all creation with your strong yet tender care.
P O holy Word of God:
C Come; teach us; make us wise!
P O sacred LORD, come!
C You showed yourself to Moses in the burning bush and gave him the Law on Mount Sinai.
P O Ruler of the house of Israel:
C Stretch out your arm and save us!

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.**



- P** O Branch of Jesse, come!
C Kings are silent in your presence and nations bow before you.
P O sign for all peoples:
C Come quickly to deliver us!
P O Key of David, come!
C You open and no one can close; you close and no one can open.
P O Royal Power of Israel:
C Break down the walls of prison death!

HYMN

"Once in Royal David's City"

(LSB 376, v. 1, 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.**

**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!**

P O Radiant Dawn, come!

C Shine on those who dwell in deadly darkness.

P O Splendor of Eternal Light:

C Arise and come, O Sun of Righteousness!

P O King of the nations, come!

C You are the only joy of every human heart; you bring together peoples long apart.



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



**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!"**

- P** O Cornerstone:
- C** Save us, whom you fashioned from the dust!
- P** O Emmanuel, come!
- C** You are the King of creation, the Hope of all nations, the Savior of all.
- P** O King and Lord:
- C** God-with-us, come!

HYMN "Angels We Have Heard on High" (LSB 368)

**1. 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.**

**2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heav'nly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**3. Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.**



LORD'S PRAYER

C 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.

Lighting of Christmas Candles

(The first candle will be lit from the Christ Candle and the ushers will bring the light to the aisles. Please tip the unlit candles to light them. Do not tip lit candles.)

HYMN

"Silent Night, Holy 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.**

**1. Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht! Alles schläft, einsam wacht
Nur das heilige Elternpaar: Das im Stalle zu Bethlehem war,
Bei dem himmlischer Kind, Bei dem himmlischer Kind.**

**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.**

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24–26

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.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

John & Carlene Barber	In thanksgiving for our family
Randy & Jodi Hartmann	For the blessings of Grandkids
Tim & Jan Larson	In memory of our parents
Pastor Brad & Susan	In thanks for our Moms & Dads
Lois Erbe & family	In memory of Jerry Erbe
Marrill & Sandy Bales	In memory of our parents
Brent & Shari Adney	In memory of our parents
Dale & Donna Gohl	In memory of our parents and niece
Mary Lou Dunwoody	In memory of husband Dick
Daris & Kelsey Kampfe	In memory of son Noah
Terry, Clareen & Karrie James	In memory of parents, grandparents, uncle
Brad & Laurie Schultz	In memory of Andy & Adam
Steve & Vona Johnson	In thanksgiving for family
Char Russell	In memory of Jim Russell & Shirley English
Candy & Ken Potter family, Mary & Dave	In memory of son, Garry Wayne Robinson
Schweigert family	In memory of our parents Howard & Marie Frost
Mary & Dave Schweigert	In memory of Mary's best friend, Cathleen Siebrasse Murphy
Robert 'Mal' Hinckley family	In thanksgiving for the birth of our Lord and Savior
Dennis & Carolyn Ryckman	In memory of Ted & Karen Wolff and Roger Ryckman
Sheryl Blake	In memory of Lanny Blake
Monfore family	In memory of Brooks Monfore
Jerry & Corinne Wulf	In memory of Irene Wilson and Marge Schlichenmayer

