



Christmas Eve Family Service December 24, 2024 5:00pm

"The Light has Come"!

As We Gather

We come together to celebrate Christmas. Many times, our celebrations come with lots of music, decorations, joyous conversations, and laughter, and we cannot forget the presents under the tree and the stockings hung by the chimney with care.

O Come, All Ye Faithful LSB 379

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!

Highest, most holy,
Light of Light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;
Son of the Father
Now in flesh appearing! Refrain

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

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

Text: tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–80, alt.; John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786

Text: Public domain

Invocation

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

C **Amen.**

Opening Sentences

Isaiah 9:2; 2 Samuel 22:29

A The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

C **those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.**

P You are my lamp, O LORD,

C **and my God lightens my darkness.**

Candle Lighting Song (Children come forward)

Light One Candle for hope
one bright candle for hope,
He brings hope to every heart
He comes! He comes!

Light one candle for peace
One bright candle for peace,
He brings peace to every heart,
He comes, He comes,

Light one candle for joy,
One bright candle for joy,
Every nation will find salvation
for Bethlehem's baby boy.

Light one candle for love,
one bright candle for love,
He brings love to every heart,
He comes! He comes!

Light one candle for Christ
One bright candle for Christ
He has come to save the world
He's Here
He's Here

Text: Traditional

Text: Public domain

Confession and Absolution

Romans 13:11–12

P The apostle Paul reminds us, "You know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light." In order to hear again the beautiful Good News of how the Savior of the world came to save us all, let us confess our need to hear, to repent of our sin and to believe.

C **Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, I confess to You once again this night that I have walked in the darkness of sin, that I have sinned in the shadows of my conscience and in words and actions toward others; all of it in disobedience to Your commands. I pray You to send forth the light and truth of Your Son, my Savior. Have mercy on me, forgive me my sins, and bring me to everlasting life.**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing LSB 380

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

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

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: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt.
Text: Public domain

Prayer of the Day

A Let us pray.

O God of light, on the night of the birth of the Savior of the world, Your holy angels sang of Your glory. Grant that Your Word as a lamp unfailingly pierces the darkness of our earthbound way, showing us Your grace and enlightening our path with Your holiness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 9:2–7

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 shined.
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.

⁶For 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.
⁷Of 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.

Piano Solo "O Come, Little Children" Evelyn Thompson

Epistle

Titus 2:11–14

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people,
¹²training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live
self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³waiting for
our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior
Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness
and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous
for good works.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

The Promise Fulfilled Christmas Story from Luke 2: 1-20

O Little Town of Bethlehem LSB 361

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.

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!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–93

Text: Public domain

Scene 1 Long awaited Promise

Angels We Have Heard on High LSB 368

Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains. Refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly song? Refrain
Text: tr. The Crown of Jesus, 1862, Part 2, London, alt.; French
Text: Public domain

Scene 2 The Angel visits and with the birth of Jesus

Go Tell It on the Mountain LSB 388

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

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

The shepherds feared and trembled
When lo, above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth. Refrain

Text (sts. 1–2): John W. Work II, 1873–1925, alt.; (ref): African American spiritual
Text: Public domain

Scene 3 The Shepherd visits Jesus and spread the good news

Away in a Manger LSB 365

Away in a manger, no crib for a 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.

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.

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 (sts. 1–2): Little Children's Book, 1885, Philadelphia; (st. 3): Vineyard
Songs, 1892, Louisville, alt.

Text: Public domain

Affirmation of Faith

☐ I believe that Jesus Christ, true God begotten of the Father from all eternity and also true man, born of the virgin Mary is my Lord, who has redeemed me a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sin, death and the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with His holy precious blood and His innocent suffering and death; that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness, even as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true. Amen.

What Child Is This LSB 370

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!

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!

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: William C. Dix, 1837–98
Text: Public domain

Sermon "Mary's Christmas Treasures- Her Firstborn Son" Luke 2:1-20

Prayer of the Church

LSB 351:1–2, 5–6

A Let us pray.

O Dayspring from on high, babe of Bethlehem, we follow in the steps of those who knelt in humble adoration at Your manger so many years ago. Like shepherds of old, we thrill to hear the message that the herald angel brings: "Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." We, too, go to see this thing that has happened. The glory shines around us as well. Our hearts grow warm before the meaning of the miracle. God is love, indeed, and there is hope for all who humbly open up their lives to You. You have come to do for us what we are so helpless to do for ourselves. Empower us to fulfill in faithfulness the things that You have given us to do, so that like ancient shepherds, our daily walk may become for us a road of glory and a mission of peace.

As You did with Mary and Joseph, so make Your home in our human lives and hearts. As Joseph and Mary went up from Galilee to Judea, lead us wherever we may help to carry out Your plan for humankind. As Mary brought into this world "a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Your people Israel," so enable us, too, to bring Your peace to desperate people.

Grant that all who see our worship of the newborn babe wonder at the way we keep this day. And O Bethlehem's royal prince, let there be some who, because of us, ponder these things deep within their hearts. Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray...

Lord's Prayer

**☩ 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.**

Offerings Are Received: "Mary Did Know" Beverly DuPree

Lighting of the Candles

The pastor takes the light from the Christ candle to the acolytes and assisting ministers. They pass the light on to the congregation.

P As the light of these candles illumines our faces, it symbolizes the light of Christ, the Child in the manger at Bethlehem, the Savior suffering our death on the cross and soon to come from His throne on high as Judge of all. He is our light here on earth and the eternal light who enlightens heaven, where there is no need of candle or sun. Rejoice, for the Light of the world has come, who transforms us with the brightness of His glory.

This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all.

C **If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.**

A But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another,

C **and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.**

P You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

O God, as You make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, grant that we, who joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

In A Little Stable

In a little stable
Far across the sea
Was a little Baby
Just like you and me.

Not a bed or cradle,
Not a pillow deep,
But a lowly manger
Was His place to sleep.

Text: traditional

Text: Public domain

Silent Night, Holy Night LSB 363

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.

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!

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: Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792–1848; tr. John F. Young, 1820–85
Text: Public domain

Benediction

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.**

Joy to the World LSB 387

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.

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.

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: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Text: Public domain

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C, Quarter 1.

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