

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2025



**Saint John Lutheran Church
Fairfield, Pennsylvania**

**Rev. Wayne Gallipo, Interim Pastor
Carol Garman, Organist/ Music Director**

Christmas Eve 2025~

A Festive Candlelight Eucharist Service

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

P: For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given.

C: **And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

P: We begin our worship this holy night in the name of Almighty God, the Father, and the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

CONFSSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: He was named Jesus, for he saves God's people from their sins. He was named Emmanuel, for through him God is with us. He is the Word of God incarnate. Gathered in his name, let us confess our sin against God and neighbor.
Silence for reflection

P: Gracious God, **in Christ Jesus you came among us as a light shining into the darkness of the world. We confess our failure to be led by your light. Forgive us and renew our hope, so we may live in the light of your grace and welcome the truth of Christ the Lord.**

P: I bring to you good news of great joy for all the people: To you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord; in him all your sins are forgiven. **Amen.**

HYMN

O Come All Ye Faithful

ELW 283 (Vs. 1,3)

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:*

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

Refrain

*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!*

INVOCATION

P: The Word of God was made flesh and dwelt among us full of truth and grace.

C: **O come let us adore him.**

P: May the light, the peace and the hope of Christ be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

HYMN *Angels We Have Heard on High* **ELW 289** **Vs. 1,2**

1 *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.*

2 *Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heav'nly song?
Refrain*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: 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.**

Hurry to Bethlehem (Larson)

Christmas Eve Choir

Children's Sermon

First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

²The 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.*

Second Reading: Titus 2:11-14

¹The 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.*

Hymn *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly (Vs. 1)*

ELW 276

*Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
 Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all.
 Swiftly winging, angels singing, bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
 Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!*

GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20

The Holy Gospel according to Luke ... Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar 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.*

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Pastor Wayne Gallipo

HYMN

Hark, the Herald Angels Sing

ELW 270 Vs. 1,3

*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 angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
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 we no more may die,
Born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*

NICENE CREED

(See inside cover of Hymnal)

THE PRAYERS

P: Glory to God in the highest,

C: **and peace to God's people on earth.**

P: Blessed are you, Prince of Peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.

C: **Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.**

P: Blessed are you, Wonderful Counselor. You enlighten the heart with steadfast love.

C: **Enliven your church that it might bear good tidings of great joy to all people.**

P: Blessed are you, Emmanuel. You promise to be with us even to the end of the age.

C: **Open our eyes to see your presence in all who are hungry, lonely, or homeless.**

P: Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.

C: **Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.**

P: Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.

C: **Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bear your light to all the world. Amen**

THE PEACE

P: For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given. And his name is Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, and of the increase of his rule and peace there will be no end. May his peace be with you this night and always.

C: **And also with you.** ~ *Please share a sign of God's peace with those around you.*

GATHERING OF GIFTS

OFFERTORY

What Child is This

ELW 296

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Blessed are you,

C: **O God of all creation. Through your goodness we have these gifts to share. Receive our offerings, and nourish us at your holy table, that your Word may take flesh in our lives; for the sake of Him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING *(spoken)*

P: The Lord be with you. C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts. C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is right and proper that we should... join their unending hymn:

**Holy, Holy, Lord most holy, God of power 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.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: In the night in which he was betrayed...

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Sung to Away in A Manger)*

1) Our Father in heaven, all praise to Your name!
Your kingdom among us, Your presence proclaimed!
What You want to happen, grant that it be done
On earth as in heaven, now for everyone.

2) For bread that is needed, provide us each day;
As we forgive others, our sins take away;
Don't bring us to testing more than we can bear,
But save us from evil by Your loving care.

3) For Yours is the kingdom; o'er all things You reign.

And Yours is the power, all things You maintain.

To You be the glory, resounding again
From all of creation, forever! Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Jesus Christ is the true bread that has come down from heaven.

C: Emmanuel, God is with us.

P: These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all are welcome.

DISTRIBUTION

All are invited to come forward and share in this life-giving sacrament. Please come forward as ushered. Children that do not yet commune are invited forward for a blessing. It is appropriate to say "Amen" after receiving the elements.

COMMUNION HYMNS

The First Noel

ELW 300

1 *The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.*

Refrain

*Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.*

2 *They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. Refrain*

3 *And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went. Refrain*

4 *This star drew near to the northwest,
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
and there it did both stop and stay
right over the place where Jesus lay. Refrain*

5 *Then entered in those wise men three,
full rev'rently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. Refrain*

I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve

- 1 *I am so glad each Christmas Eve,
the night of Jesus' birth!
Then like the sun the star shone forth,
and angels sang on earth.*
- 2 *The little child in Bethlehem,
he was a king indeed!
For he came down from heav'n above
to help a world in need.*
- 3 *He dwells again in heaven's realm,
the Son of God today;
and still he loves his little ones
and hears them when they pray.*

ELW 271

- 4 *I am so glad each Christmas Eve!
His praises then I sing;
he opens now for ev'ry child
the palace of the king.*
- 5 *And so I love each Christmas Eve,
and I love Jesus too;
and that he loves me ev'ry day
I know so well is true.*

Away In A Manger

*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.*

*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.
Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay, close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care, and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.*

ELW 278

- 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;
oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!*

COMMUNION BLESSING

P: May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood strengthen, keep and unite us now and forever. **Amen.**

P: Let us pray... Gracious God, **in the incarnation of your Son you have united heaven and earth. May we who have tasted heavenly things share the gift of your presence with all the world through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES (Ushers come forward)

A Gospel reading from John 1:1-9: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

Arise and shine, you people of God, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold darkness shall cover the earth (*lights extinguished*) and a thick darkness the people; but the Lord will rise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come unto your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. (*Ushers' candles are lit.*)

Jesus said, I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

(Please tilt only the unlit candles to receive your flame.)

The light of Christ is shining in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.

Silent Night, Holy Night

ELW 281

*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'ny hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior is born! Christ, the Savior is born!*

(Raise candles at last verse)

*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.*

PRAYER

P: 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 only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

P: The child is born! **Alleluia!**

P: Emmanuel! **Our God has come among us!**

P: Go on your way and leave this place rejoicing, spreading the Good News wherever you go, sharing God's love and promise with all whom you meet. And may the love of our creator, the joy of the Spirit, and the peace of the Christ-child be with you this Christmas and evermore. **Amen!**

(Lights are turned on and candles extinguished.)

(Please hold your candle upright until the wax has cooled.)

HYMN ***Joy to the World, the Lord Is Come!*** **Vs. 1 & 4** **ELW 267**
(Bells may be rung during the hymn)

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive its King;
Let every 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.*

*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, and wonders of his love.*

DISMISSAL

P: Christ the Lord is born! Glory to God in the highest!

C: **Peace to God's people on earth.**

POSTLUDE ***Good Christian Friends, Rejoice***

arr. Varner

Announcements

*No Sunday School Sunday, December 28th.

*Thank you to all of our musicians who shared their talents tonight during our service!

*Thank you to everyone who helped decorate the sanctuary!

Acolyte: Jack Runk

Lector: Josh Haynes

Communion Assistant: David Thomas

Usher: Linn Wichowski

Flower Sponsor: Poinsettias

Offering Counters: Dave & Barb Booz

Altar Guild: Linn Wichowski

Bread Sponsor: Linn Wichowski

Bulletin Sponsor: Doug & Susie Kump

Special Christmas Offering: *St. John Council has voted to approve a donation of \$1,000.00 from the Special Social Ministry Fund, to the family in Orrtanna who lost everything in a fire on Thanksgiving Eve. Please consider helping our neighbors who have to start over from nothing. Use the envelope marked Christmas Offering or pew envelope and designate (Fire Victims) as an additional donation to the family. Thank you.*

*May you and your family
have a
Blessed Christmas!*

