

CHRISTMAS EVE

24 December 2024



JOIN EVERYONE TOMORROW MORNING, 10:30AM, FOR

CHRISTMAS DAY HOLY COMMUNION WORSHIP



MERRY CHRISTMAS !



How does it feel to be stuck in a pit, jumping up frantically with no way out?
How does it feel to be stuck in a grave, clawing at the walls,
only to fall back down again and again?

We know. Oh God, we know!

That's why our Savior's arms reach into our pit to pull us up and get us out!

And this is why we sing tonight,
"Joy to the world, the Lord is come."

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

"Bring 'em in, Build 'em Up, Send 'em Out"

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Christmas Remembrances

A Service of Lessons and Carols

24 December 2024



Christmas remembrances - surely the most precious of memories. We all have images to treasure: the smell of a crackling fire ... the warm glow of being with loved ones ... the wonder of fresh snow with Christmas lights shining through in a myriad of colors ... the shared joy of Christmas worship ... children ripping open presents until they're buried in paper and ribbons themselves ... the smell of turkey roasting and pies baking ... and songs - all the wonderful hymns and carols of Christmas!

*Best of all is the remembrance of one special birthday!
Christmas is a celebration for all time
because God loved us enough to send His Son!
God remembered!*

PRELUDE

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.

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**

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



SOME CHRISTMAS REMINDERS

- May the Christmas **gifts** remind you of God's greatest gift, His only-begotten Son.
- May the Christmas **candles** remind you of Him who is the "Light of the world."
- May the Christmas **trees** remind you of another tree upon which He died for you.
- May the Christmas **cheer** remind you of Him who said, "Be of good cheer."
- May the Christmas **bell** remind you of the glorious proclamation of His birth.
- May the Christmas **carols** remind you of the song the angels sang,
"Glory to God in the highest."
- May the Christmas **season** remind you in every way of Jesus Christ your King.



THE MESSAGE OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH

BY GRACE ALONE -- We are all sinners who need a Savior. We have this Savior, Jesus Christ, not because of our goodness, but because God, in grace, sent Him for us.

BY FAITH ALONE -- Our sins were paid for when Jesus said "It is finished!" on the cross of Calvary. We hold onto this gift with the trusting, confident hand of faith.

BY JESUS CHRIST ALONE -- Salvation comes from God to us only by Jesus, who is true God and true Man. He came to take our sins onto Himself. Risen from the dead, He still lives and rules the world. He will come a second time to bring salvation to those who are waiting for Him.

BY THE SCRIPTURES ALONE -- No one can add to or subtract from the message God the Holy Spirit has given us through His inspired prophets and apostles. The Bible is able to make us wise for salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.

and truth.

♪ 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.

LSB 363

SILENT PRAYER

Lord Jesus, enter my deep darkness and save me from my pit. With Your everlasting arms rescue me, guide me, and hold me close to You forever. I ask it in Your holy name. Amen.

POSTLUDE

CHRISTMAS PRAISES

- P** All creation sings to the Lord Almighty! Blessed be the Father who remembers His people. Praise to God who sends us His Son!
- C** **All creatures in heaven and all creatures here on earth, rejoice in the day when God remembered His mercy!**
- P** The Lord be praised through all eternity for His devotion to His fallen creation. All glory to God in the highest!
- C** **All creatures in heaven and all creatures here on earth, rejoice in the day when God remembered His mercy!**
- P** Let the birth of Christ be celebrated by the universe and everything in it, for on this day God called down salvation upon the earth.
- C** **All creatures in heaven and all creatures here on earth, rejoice in the day when God remembered His mercy!**
- P** In eternal mercy and love, the Father has remembered our mortality and conquered it through Jesus Christ, His Son.
- C** **All creatures in heaven and all creatures here on earth, rejoice in the day when God remembered His mercy!**
- P** The very earth and sky cry aloud at what our God has done. Our hearts reach out to Him, and our minds remember with joyous abandon the birthday of Christ Jesus. Alleluia!
- C** **Alleluia! Alleluia! Let all creation dance with joy and praise the Lord. Let all remember that God has saved His people. Alleluia!**

HYMN — Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

LSB 380

♪ 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, incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King."



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Organist and Pianist: Brian Tidwell

Christmas Remembrances: A Service for Christmas Eve was prepared by Lisa A. Frenz and Arden W. Mead and published by Creative Communications for the Parish, 10300 Watson Road, St. Louis, Missouri 63127. © 1991. All rights reserved.

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1ST READING

Luke 1:26-33

Six months after Elizabeth had become pregnant, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a city in Galilee. The angel went to a virgin promised in marriage to a descendant of David named Joseph. The virgin's name was Mary.

When the angel entered her home, he greeted her and said, "You are favored by the Lord! The Lord is with you."

She was startled by what the angel said and tried to figure out what this greeting meant.

The angel told her,

"Don't be afraid, Mary. You have found favor with God. You will become pregnant, give birth to a son, and name Him Jesus. He will be a great man and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give Him the throne of His ancestor David.

Your Son will be King of Jacob's people forever, and His kingdom will never end."



♪ 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!

P Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, for He has visited and redeemed His people.

C He has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered His holy covenant.

P By the tender mercy of our God, the Dayspring from on high has dawned upon us.

♪ ³ How silently, how silently The wondrous gift is giv'n! LSB 361
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.

2ND READING

Matthew 1:18-23

The birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. His mother Mary had been promised to Joseph in marriage. But before they were married, Mary realized that she was pregnant by the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph was an honorable man and did not want to disgrace her publicly. So he decided to break the marriage agreement with her secretly.

Joseph had this in mind when an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. The angel said to him, “Joseph, descendant of David, don’t be afraid to take Mary as your wife. She is pregnant by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you will name Him Jesus [He Saves], because He will save His people from their sins.” All this happened so that what the Lord had spoken through the prophet came true: “The virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they will name Him Emmanuel,” which means “God is with us.”

♪ ¹ O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

P Remember, O Lord, Your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.

C Remember not my sins and my transgressions.

P Remember me according to Your love, and for the sake of Your goodness, O Lord.

**C All join in Christmas.**

¹³ Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
A quiet chamber set apart
For You to dwell within my heart.

¹⁴ My heart for very joy must leap;
My lips no more can silence keep.
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue
That sweetest ancient cradlesong:

¹⁵ Glory to God in highest heav'n,
Who unto us His Son has giv'n!
While angels sing with pious mirth
A glad new year to all the earth.

**JOHN 1 - “SILENT NIGHT”**

LSB 363

In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was already with God in the beginning.

Everything came into existence through Him. Not one thing that exists was made without Him.

He was the source of life, and that life was the light for humanity.
The light shines in the dark, and the dark has never extinguished it.

♪ ¹ Silent night, holy night! LSB 363
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.

The real light, which shines on everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into existence through Him. Yet, the world didn’t recognize Him. He went to His own people, and His own people didn’t accept Him. However, He gave the right to become God’s children to everyone who believed in Him.

♪ ² Silent night, holy night! LSB 363
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!”

The Word became human and lived among us. We saw His glory. It was the glory that the Father shares with His only Son, a glory full of kindness (grace)

- P** You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and then cover its light. Instead they set the lamp on its stand, set it up high, and it lights everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before all people, that they may see your good works and give praise to your Father in heaven.

PRAYERS

- P** Dear Lord, we gather tonight to remember Your gifts to us, Your Son Jesus Christ.
- C** **We thank You, Father, for the remembrance of Your promise.**
- P** Help us to live each day remembering Your generosity, so that we also may be generous with our time, our talents, and our love.
- C** **We thank You, Father, for the remembrance of Your promise.**
- P** We thank You, Lord, for all the care and love You lavish on us. For those among us who are ill or grieving, for those bothered by life's problems, give Your strength to face each day and rejoice in Your good giving.
- C** **We thank You, Father, for the remembrance of Your promise.**
- P** We pray for Your grace, that each day will create for us new memories to Your glory and honor.
- C** **We thank You, Father, for the remembrance of Your promise. We praise Your name, for You always remember Your people.**

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.

- P** Christmas remembrances. Because our God remembers, new memories are created to be kept.
- C** **All creation surrounds this night.**
- P** The evocative dreaming and memories of the past, the vague outlines and hopeful images of the future -
- C** **All join in Christmas.**
- P** Every memory where shadows drift and whisper, every song and carol sung with joyful hearts, everything that all creation can recall -

- ♪ ⁶ O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
 And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 And death's dark shadows put to flight.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.

LSB 357

3RD READING

Luke 2:1-7

At that time the Emperor Augustus ordered a census of the Roman Empire. This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All the people went to register in the cities where their ancestors had lived.

So Joseph went from Nazareth, a city in Galilee, to a Judean city called Bethlehem. Joseph, a descendant of King David, went to Bethlehem because David had been born there. Joseph went there to register with Mary. She had been promised to him in marriage and was pregnant.

While they were in Bethlehem, the time came for Mary to have her child. She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped Him in strips of cloth and laid Him in a manger because there wasn't any room for them in the inn.

HYMN — *Away in a Manger*

LSB 364

- ♪ ¹ Away in a manger, no crib for His 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.

- P** The Lord knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.
- C** **Lord, remember me when you come in Your kingly power.**
- P** Truly, I tell you, today you will be with Me in paradise.

- ♪ ³ 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.

LSB 364

4TH READING

Luke 2:8-14

Shepherds were in the fields near Bethlehem. They were taking turns watching their flock during the night. An angel from the Lord suddenly appeared to them. The glory of the Lord filled the area with light, and they were terrified. The angel said to them, "Don't be afraid! I have good news for you, a message that will fill everyone with joy. Today your Savior, Christ the Lord, was born in David's city. This is how you will recognize Him: You will find an infant wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger."

Suddenly, a large army of angels appeared with the angel. They were praising God by saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those who have His good will!"

The angels left them and went back to heaven. The shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see what the Lord has told us about."

They went quickly and found Mary and Joseph with the baby, who was lying in a manger. When they saw the child, they repeated what they had been told about Him. Everyone who heard the shepherds' story was amazed.

Mary treasured all these things in her heart and always thought about them.

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!

P The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah.

C I will put My law within them, and I will write it on their hearts.

P I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

♪ ² Why lies He in such mean estate Where ox and ass are feeding? LSB 370
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;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mary!

As the shepherds returned to their flocks, they glorified and praised God for everything they had seen and heard. Everything happened the way the angel had told them.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE —"Joy to the World" - Isaiah 40:10-11



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,...

³No more let sins and sorrows grow Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,...

⁴He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love,...

I believe in God,

the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, Who sent His Son as my Savior on Christmas Day.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, announced by the angels, worshiped by the shepherds, adored by the Wise Men; Who lived to suffer, die, and rise again to free me from sin, death, and the power of the devil.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, Who has brought me to faith in the Christ of Christmas and by Whose continuous work in my heart I am ever led to lay before the feet of Christ the treasures of my love and live under Him as my King both now and forever. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES



The light is passed from the pastor to acolytes and assisting ushers who pass it to the congregation.

Do NOT let small children hold candles unattended.

For your safety and to prevent wax from dripping, please do NOT tip the lit candle.

Tip only the unlighted candle.

Hold the candles straight up and they will not drip. Blow them out gently.

P As the light of these candles illumines our faces, it symbolizes the light of Christ, a child in the manger at Bethlehem, a 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 proclaimed to you: that God is Light and in Him is no darkness at all.

(The candlelight begins to be spread throughout the congregation.)

C If we say we have fellowship with Him but still walk in darkness, we lie, and do not live according to the truth.

P 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 our sins.

(The candlelight is spread to the rest of the congregation.)