

Joy Has Dawned

A Candlelight Christmas Eve
Friday, December 24, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.



A special welcome to all who have gathered here this holy night, both in person and through our virtual congregation. May you experience here the love, peace, and joy that is ours to receive at Christmas!

Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, there is a place for you at Zion. God's doors are open to all! If you are looking for a community to call your spiritual home, we would be honored if you considered connecting with Zion.

For more information about our “ministries under the cross,” please visit our website and social media platforms.
www.zion-lutheran.org

PRELUDE “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (arr. Keesecker)

CALL TO WORSHIP “Still, Still, Still” (arr. Nelson)
“Do You Hear What I Hear?” (arr. Wagner)
“Away in a Manger” (arr. Stephenson)

WELCOME Cantor Kurt R. Schmidt

Please stand, as you are able.

OPENING LITANY

Adapted from the Nativity Sermon of St. Isaac the Syrian (7th century)

This Christmas night bestowed peace on the whole world;

So let no one threaten;

This is the night of the Most Gentle One –

Let no one be cruel;

This is the night of the Humble One –

Let no one be proud.

Now is the day of joy –

Let us not seek revenge;

In this Day of Peace –

Let us not be conquered by anger.

Today the Bountiful impoverished Himself for our sake;

So, rich one, invite the poor to your table.

Today we receive a Gift for which we did not ask;

So let us give to those who implore and beg us.

On this day, cast open the heavenly doors to our prayers;

Let us open our doors to those who seek forgiveness.

Today the Divine Being took upon Himself our humanity,

In order for humanity to be decorated by God’s divinity.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.

GATHERING HYMN

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” Hymn #283, Verses 1-3

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
 2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light c - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
 Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv' n!

come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
 Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain

Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

At the conclusion of the hymn, please be seated.

READING — ISAIAH 9:2-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

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.

*Joy has
dawned upon
the world,
promised from
creation:*

RESPONSE

“Welcome to Our World”

READING — LUKE 1:39-55

A reading from the Gospel according to Saint Luke.

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

⁴⁶And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹for the

Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. ⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; ⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE

“Mary, Did You Know?”

A revised text, set to the familiar tune

*God's
salvation now
unfurled,
hope for every
nation.*

Please stand, as you are able.

READING WITH HYMNS — LUKE 2:1-20

The Holy Gospel, according to Saint Luke, the second chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord!

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor 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.

“Away in a Manger” – Hymn #277

1 A - way in a man-ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord
2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -

Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked
 Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look
 ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in

down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
 down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
 your ten - der care and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

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!"

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” – Hymn #270, Verses 1 and 2

1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new - born king;
 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled.”
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
 born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Refrain

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king!"

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!

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain” – Hymn #290

Refrain

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;

go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si-lent flocks by night,
 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a-bove the earth
 3 Down in a lone-ly man-ger the hum-ble Christ was born;

Refrain

be-hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho-ly light.
 rang out the an-gel cho-rus that hailed our Sav-ior's birth.
 and God sent us sal-va-tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

At the conclusion of the hymn, please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor David E. Dangerfield

Please stand, as you are able.

HYMN MEDLEY

“Joy Has Dawned” and
 “Angels We Have Heard on High” – Hymn #289

Joy has dawned upon the world, promised from creation:
 God’s salvation now unfurled, hope for every nation.
 Not with fanfares from above, not with scenes of glory.
 But a humble gift of love: Jesus born of Mary.

Sounds of wonder fill the sky with the songs of angels,
 As the mighty Prince of Life shelters in a stable.
 Hands that set each star in place, shaped the earth in darkness,
 Cling now to a mother’s breast, vulnerable and helpless.

Shepherds bow before the Lamb, gazing at the glory;
 Gifts of men from distant lands prophesy the story.
 Gold, a King is born today, Incense, God is with us,
 Myrrh, His death will make a way, and by His blood He’ll win us.

Son of Adam, Son of heaven, given as a ransom,
 Reconciling God and man, Christ our mighty Champion.
 What a Savior, what a Friend, what a glorious mystery:
 Once a babe in Bethlehem, now the Lord of history.

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

Refrain

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo -

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

PRAYERS

Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*Not with
fanfares from
above, not with
scenes of glory.*

Love proclaims that a Savior has been born to us! Inspire your church throughout the world to proclaim the good news of Jesus' birth to all who seek salvation, hope, and new life. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Love whispers to a weary world that the time for rest and restoration has come. Maintain healthy cycles of wake and sleep for all creatures. Where light pollution disrupts natural rhythms, encourage new practices. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Love cries to a warring world that the time for peace is at hand. Direct those in power who make decisions on behalf of others, that they nurture and sustain all that is healthy, good, and holy. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Love sings through the wails of a newborn baby. Respond to all who cry out in pain, despair, or need this night. Bring comfort to those for whom separation, grief, or loss makes the Christmas season especially difficult. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

God's ever-present love is proclaimed through the faithful who came before us. We give you thanks for Mary, John the baptizer, Elizabeth his mother, Joseph the dreamer, and all who point toward your love. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

And finally, for all those things for which the Lord would have us ask—Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:
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.

At the conclusion of the prayers, please be seated.

CANDLELIGHTING

“All is Well”

Shayne Clancy, soloist

As the solo is sung, you are invited to light your candles at the invitation of the worship leaders. For safety's sake, tip only the candle to be lighted.

Please stand, as you are able.

READING — JOHN 1:1-14

The Holy Gospel, according to Saint John, the first chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord!

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ!

HYMN

“Silent Night, Holy Night” – Hymn #281

The image shows the musical score for the hymn "Silent Night, Holy Night". It features a treble clef and a bass clef, both with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the notes. The score is for three parts: 1. Soprano, 2. Alto, and 3. Tenor/Bass.

Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,
1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,

ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.
 all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,

Hol - der Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himn - li - scher
 Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
 heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your

Ruh, schlaf in himn - li - scher Ruh.
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

At the conclusion of the hymn, please allow the worship assistants to extinguish your candles.

BLESSING

*But a humble
gift of love:
Jesus born of
Mary.*

We rejoice in God's steadfast presence in our lives, and in God's unique presence in the life of Jesus of Nazareth—in all his life manifesting the peace, love, and justice of God.

Come to us, Lord Jesus, be born in us this night, in our hearts, our minds, our lives.

May the light of your life be kindled in us,
And lead us to the shining truth of God with us, God for us, God in us.

And may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you this night and forevermore.

Amen.

HYMN

“Joy to the World” – Hymn #267

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

DISMISSAL

Go and tell the good news that Christ is born anew this night!
 Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE



Christmas Poinsettias



Thank you to all those who contributed to the beauty of our church sanctuary this evening.

In memory of William and Eileen Thomson, Susan and Don Gillespie, Krystle Anderson, Lori Witteck, and all family members who have gone before us by Christine Ferrara

In memory of my granddaughter, Theresa, and in honor of Carolyn Durso, Anne Noto, and Dave Bundas by Pastor Annemarie Noto

In memory of my daughter, Krystle Rose, by Debbie Anderson

In memory of Agnes and Kaye Beermann by Michele Clancy

In memory of my grandfather, EJ Hutchins, by Kayla Butler

In memory of Tim Swanson, by the Swanson Family

In memory of Rick Schmidt, Gladys Schmidt, Freya Auger, Robert V. Courant, and Patricia C. Courant by Gail and Cantor Kurt Schmidt

In memory of Yvonne Tabal and to the glory of God by the Tahal Family

To the glory of God by Silda Ellison

In memory of Laurie Stuber and to the glory of God by Lois Stuber

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ZION

Ministries Under the Cross

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