

Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.

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

POSTLUDE



Welcome to



December 24, 2025
Christmas Eve Candlelight

The vision of Gethsemane Lutheran Church is to:
GROW UP in His Word,
GROW OUT in his Ministry,
GROW TOGETHER in His Love.

*Pastor James Jennings
Preschool Director: Kim Perry
Administrative Assistant: Schawna Briney
Organist: Ben Harris
Elder: Milton Bade*

PRELUDE

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE INVOCATION

P: In the name of God the Father,
C: **Who created us and responded to our sin with the promise of a Savior;**

P: In the name of God the Son,
C: **The promise fulfilled as the Babe of Bethlehem, Who restored us who had fallen into sin;**

P: In the name of God the Holy Spirit,
C: **Who gives us faith in the Son and guides our lives;**

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit,
C: **In the name of our triune God we offer our worship this day and all days. Amen.**

THE CHRISTMAS GREETING (Isaiah 9)

P: For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called:
C: **Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

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

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!”**

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,

THE CHRISTMAS BLESSING

P: Friends, the Lord, has heard our prayers, and in His great mercy and love, He answers us in ways that are better and more excellent than we could ask or imagine! For He is the Lord of the Manger, the Christ of the Cross, and the Savior of the World who has come to save His people, and fill their lives today and forever with His unending love, hope, peace, and JOY! Merry Christmas in the name of Jesus!

C: **Merry Christmas to all, peace on earth, good will, and JOY in the Lord always. AMEN!**

“Joy to the World”

LSB387

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.

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.

THE OPENING HYMN

“Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful”

LSB379

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;
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
 O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
 O sing, all ye citizens of Heav'n above!
 Glory to God, all glory in the highest;
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
 O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,
 O Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n!
 Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
 O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

LSB357

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!

THE LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

O, come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

THE OPENING PRAYER

P: Lord, open our minds and hearts by the power of your Holy Spirit,
that we may hear and rejoice in the gospel of our Savior's birth.
C: Amen.

THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

Reading of Matthew 1:18-21

Reader: This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." *(NIV)*

"Silent Night"

(The first verse will be sung, as it was written, in German. We invite you to sing along.)

Stille Nacht! Heil'ge Nacht!
Alles schläft; einsam wacht
Nur das traute hoch heilige Paar.
Holder Knab' im lockigen Haar,
Schlafe in himmlischer Ruh!
Schlafe in himmlischer Ruh!

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'ly host 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 Your holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Your birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Your birth.

THE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Socks and Underwear Best Gift Ever!

THE APOSTLE'S CREED

THE GATHERING OF THE OFFERING

THE CHRISTMAS PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

P: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world!
C: **A light no darkness can extinguish!**
P: And now, may God grant you:
the light of Christmas, which is faith;
the warmth of Christmas, which is purity;
the righteousness of Christmas, which is justice;
the belief in Christmas, which is truth;
the all in Christmas, which is Christ.

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

(The ushers will light their candles from the Christ Candle and will then light the first candle from each row. Other worshippers will light their candles from the candle nearest the center aisle. We will all sing "Silent Night" after the candles are lit.)

"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.
Nail, spear shall pierce Him through,
The cross be born 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!

Reading of Luke 2:1-7

Reader: In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. *(NIV)*

Reading of Luke 2:8-12

Reader: And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Reading of Luke 2:13-20

Reader: Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, +praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the

manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told. *(NIV)*

"Angels We Have Heard on High" **LSB368**

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.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo;
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

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.