



Christmas Eve

December 24th, 2020

Lord of Life Lutheran Church, North Pole, AK

Pastor Amanda Kempthorne

(907) 488-6720 www.lordoflifeak.com

Welcome to Worship! Words in **bold** are said together.

Welcome – You are encouraged to find a candle in your home and keep it at hand. We will light them together later in the service!

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who was in the beginning, who makes a dwelling among us, who covers us with justice and mercy. **Amen.**

Call to Worship – Isaiah 9:2-7a

L: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

C: You 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.

L: For 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.

C: For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

L: For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;

C: authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

L: His authority shall grow continually,

C: and there shall be endless peace.

Confession and Forgiveness

L: In this moment, in this space, on this holy night, I invite you to allow yourself some peace. If there are mistakes that haunt you, busy-ness that has consumed you, despair that eats away at you, let us confess them all to God, trusting in God's endless mercy and love.

L: God of goodness and lovingkindness,

C: our lives have turned in on themselves and we have much to worry about. We have put our faith in temporary things and too much trust in broken people and systems. We live without peace and lose hope. Forgive us and renew our hope, so that we may live in the light of your grace and welcome the truth of Christ the Lord. Amen.

L: Dear people of God, hear the good news: Christ the Savior is born! You are loved and forgiven in the name of Jesus, who has come among us. You are freed from proving that you deserve to be loved, because God's love is given to you as the most precious gift of all. Rejoice in this love and share it with the world. **C: Amen.**

Gathering Hymn – Joy to the World #267

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,
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
3. No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.
4. 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.

Prayer of the Day

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.

Children's Message

Gospel Carol – Away in a Manger #277

1. Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus lay down his sweet head;
the stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
2. The cattle are lowing; the baby a-wakes,
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.

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Luke 2:1-20

In 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.

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.**

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.

Sermon

Pastor Amanda Kempthorne

Hymn of the Day – Hark! The Herald Angels Sing #270

1. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you 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!"
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 God-head see! Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as one with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"
3. 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!"

Prayers of God's People and the Lord's Prayer

Each petition ends "Lord, in your mercy," please respond: **hear our 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.

Offering

- ◇ Mail: Lord of Life Lutheran, 1005 St. Nicholas Drive, North Pole, AK 99705
- ◇ Online: "giving" tab at www.lordoflifeak.com/giving or the QR Code →
- ◇ Phone app: download "Give Plus Church" search by zip 99705, choose Lord of Life, and follow the easy instructions



Closing Scripture

Titus 2:11-14

¹¹For the 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.

Candle Lighting

Closing Hymn – Silent Night #281

1. 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.
2. 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!
3. 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.

Blessing and Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Special Thanks to...

Pianist, Carol Hughes
Reader, Janis Robertson
Sound & Video, Jason Kempthorne

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