

# CHRISTMAS EVE

Beautiful News to Hear Again

December 24, 2024



O sing of Christ, whose birth made known  
The kindness of the Lord,  
Eternal Word made flesh and bone  
So we could be restored.  
Upon our frail humanity  
God's finger chose to trace  
The fullness of His deity,  
The icon of His grace. *LSB 362:1*

## **Mount Hope Lutheran Church**

Sunday Service - 9:30am

Sunday Bible Study – after Service

Wednesday Bible Study – 10:30am

Rev. Paul Pollatz

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### **Welcome! Members and Guests**

We are blessed to have you here today. Please fill out the Guest/Member Attendance Card located in the pew rack in front of you. Guests please include your full address, zip code, and phone number. The cards will be collected by the ushers early in the service. Prayer Requests cards are available in the pew racks and should be handed to the ushers when the attendance cards are collected.

### **Holy Communion**

The Lord's Supper is a sacrament in which Jesus' body and blood are given in and with the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins (Matthew 26:26-30). When we receive the Holy Communion at a church, we are making a public statement that we agree with the teachings of that church (1 Corinthians 10:14-18). The Bible cautions us against receiving the body and blood of Christ in a manner that is spiritually harmful (1 Corinthians 11:27-29). Therefore, we invite to the Lord's Supper those who have been instructed and confirmed in the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

### **Large Print Bulletins**

Large print worship guides are available at the ushers' stand.

### **Listening Devices**

Listening devices are available; our ushers will be glad to assist you in signing one out for today's service.

### **Pew Cushions**

Pew cushions are available; our ushers will be glad to get them for you.

### **Wheelchair Accessible Seating**

Wheelchair seating is located in the fifth row from the front of the church on the left and right side of the center aisle.

### **Church Nursery**

Our Nursery is located in the Parlor, which is the first room next to the stained glass doors. The worship service can be heard in this room. The ushers can direct you to this room.

### **Our Divine Service, & Bible Studies**

Our Divine Service is held on Sundays at 09:30 a.m. Bible Study is held on Sundays after Service and Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.

Our Bible studies are held Sep-May.

***Our Vision Statement: Revitalize Within—Reach Out!***

**PRELUDE**  
**RINGING OF THE BELLS**  
**SPECIAL MUSIC**  
**“Joy to the World” by Bells**  
**PREPARATION**

Pastor: Can you imagine a person who has never heard of Christmas? How would you explain what we are hearing on Christmas night to such a person? To fully understand what Christmas is about, that person needs to know, first, that God who created everything, including the person you are explaining this to. Then that person needs to know that, from the beginning, all people have sinned against God, with the result that “the wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23). Christmas is the discovery that God’s love is so deep that, even though we have sinned, from eternity He planned a way everyone could be forgiven, return to Him, and live forever in the way He originally intended for us. People in Old Testament times were saved by faith in the promised Christ. And people are saved by faith now in that same Christ who has come in the person of the Son of God, “conceived by the Holy Spirit” and “born of the virgin Mary.” He was born in our flesh so that He could satisfy those “wages of sin” before God for us and for the whole world by His sacrificial death. The proof that His payment was sufficient is His resurrection from the dead and return to the Father to live and reign over all forever.

Paul said, ***“My heart’s desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved.”*** Then he asked our question, ***“But how are they to call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in Him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? . . . So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ”*** (Romans 10:1, 14–17).

It is not that difficult to imagine someone who has never heard of Christmas for one more reason. For even we who have heard still too often live as if we have never heard! Because sin continues to be our struggle until we are finally delivered from its power, we need to hear this story over and over again. Tonight we recall how Christmas and the entire Gospel of our salvation is beautiful news to hear and to believe over and over again.

(Please stand)

## **+ PREPARATION +**

### **HYMN**

“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 you nations rise  
 Join the triumph of the skies  
 With the angelic hosts 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 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  
Born to raise the sons of earth  
Born to give us second birth  
Hark the herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn King**

## **INVOCATION**

**Pastor:** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and  
of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** Amen.

## **OPENING SENTENCES** *Isaiah 9:2; 2 Samuel 22:29*

Pastor: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

**People: those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.**

Pastor: You are my lamp, O LORD,

**People: and my God lightens my darkness.**

(Please be seated or kneel, as you are able, for the confession and absolution)

## **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

*Romans 13:11–12*

Pastor: The apostle Paul reminds us, *“You know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.”* In order to hear again the beautiful Good News of how the Savior of the world came to save us all, let us confess our need to hear, to repent of our sin and to believe.

**People: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, I confess to You once again this night that I have walked in the darkness of sin, that I have sinned in the shadows of my conscience and in words and actions toward others; all of it in disobedience to Your commands. I pray You to send forth the light and truth of Your Son, my Savior. Have mercy on me, forgive me my sins, and bring me to everlasting life.**

Pastor: The Lord sends out His light and His truth to find you and to save you. Upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

(Please stand)

**+ WORD +**

**INTROIT** *Psalm 2:1–2, 4–6; antiphon: Liturgical Text*

**People: When all was still, and it was midnight, Your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the royal throne.**

Pastor: Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against His anointed. He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision. Then He will speak to them in His wrath, and terrify them in His fury, saying, “As for Me, I have set My King on Zion, My holy hill.”

**People: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. When all was still, and it was midnight, Your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the royal throne.**

## KYRIE

Pastor: Lord, have mercy upon us.

**People: Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Pastor: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Pastor: Christ, have mercy upon us.

**People: Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Pastor: Christ, have mercy upon us.

Pastor: Lord, have mercy upon us.

**People: Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Pastor: Lord, have mercy upon us.

## HYMN OF PRAISE

“My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord” *LSB* 934 vs 1 & 2

**My soul now magnifies the Lord**

**My spirit leaps for joy in Him**

**He keeps me in His kind regard**

**And I am blest for time to come**

**For He alone who shows such might**

**Has done amazing things to me**

**His mercy flows His name like light**

**Remains in time perpetually**

## SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**



## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Let us pray.

O God of light, on the night of the birth of the Savior of the world, Your holy angels sang of Your glory. Grant that Your Word as a lamp unfailingly pierces the darkness of our earthbound way, showing us Your grace and enlightening our path with Your holiness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

(Please be seated)

## **OLD TESTAMENT READING** *Isaiah 9:2–7*

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it

with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## **SPECIAL MUSIC**

“How Great Our Joy”

Sung by the Choir

## **EPISTLE** *Titus 2:11–14*

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand)

## **VERSE** *Luke 2:11*

Pastor: Alleluia. For unto you is born this day in  
the city of David a Savior,

**People: who is Christ the Lord. Alleluia.**

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

**People: Glory to You, O Lord.**

**HOLY GOSPEL** *Luke 2:1–20*

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!” When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one

another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

(Please be seated)

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

"Angels We Have Heard on High" *LSB 368*

**Angels we have heard on high,  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains  
And the mountains in reply,  
Echoing their joyous strains**

**Glo----ria  
In excelsis Deo  
Glo----ria  
In excelsis Deo**

Shepherds why this jubilee  
 Why your joyous strains prolong  
 What the gladsome tidings be  
 Which inspire your heav'nly song  
 Glo----ria  
 In excelsis Deo  
 Glo----ria  
 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  
 Glo----ria  
 In excelsis Deo  
 Glo----ria  
 In excelsis Deo

## **++ SERMON ++**

### **The Song of the Angels**

Luke 2:1–20 (The Gospel Reading)

#### **Outline**

There's Beauty to Be Found Considering the Noise of Christmas.

- I. Like many on that first Christmas night, tonight we are singing the song of sorrow.
- II. But the angel of the Lord has come armed with a new song for you to sing, a heavenly song of joy.

(Please stand)

## **NICENE CREED**

**People: I believe in one God, the Father**

**Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.**

**(Please be seated or kneel, as you are able, for the Prayers of the Church)**

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH** *LSB 351:1–2, 5–6*

Pastor: Let us pray.

Creator of the stars of night, Thy people's  
everlasting Light:

**People: O Christ, Redeemer, save us all and hear Thy  
servants when they call.**

Pastor: O God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and  
earth, the wonder and beauty of Your creation is  
surpassed only by the awe and miracle that You  
became one with us in the incarnation of the Son  
of God, the Son of Mary. Thou, grieving that the  
ancient curse should doom to death a universe,

**People: hast found the healing, full of grace, to  
cure and save our ruined race.**

Pastor: O Jesus Christ, true Son of God, You came into  
the world to save sinners. Come now to us in  
Word and Sacrament to give us life by living in us.  
O Thou, whose coming is with dread to judge the  
living and the dead,

**People: preserve us from the ancient foe while still we  
dwell on earth below.**

Pastor: O Holy Spirit, Lord and giver of life, move us to  
truly repent of our sins and more truly to be filled  
with faith in Christ, our life. As the angels revealed  
to Mary and Joseph the miracle of Your visitation  
and to the shepherds the majesty of the  
incarnation of Your Son and to the Wise Men the  
holiness of the gift of Your salvation, so continue  
to send forth preachers of Your Word and  
witnesses of Your truth, that many may come to

believe in Your love and receive eternal life. Lord,  
in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Inspire those whom you send to preach and  
proclaim Your salvation, that they may remain  
steadfast in the clarity and purpose of Your Word.  
Fill the entire earth with the beautiful news of  
Your grace and mercy. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: For all who are in any need—all who suffer  
illness, injury, or any adversity—send Your healing  
and help, forgiveness and strength. Lord, in Your  
mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Give to all who have died in Christ Your  
safekeeping and peace. Bring us all at last to the  
great joy of our resurrection and the life of the  
world to come. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: To God the Father and the Son and Holy  
Spirit, Three in One,

**People: praise, honor, might, and glory be  
from age to age eternally. Amen.**

(Please be seated)

## OFFERING

## OFFERTORY HYMN

“Joy to the World” LSB 387 vs 1 & 4  
**Joy to the world, the Lord is come**  
**Let earth receive its 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

### **+ SACRAMENT +**

**PREFACE**    *2 Timothy 4:22*

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

(Please stand)

### **PROPER PREFACE**

Pastor: It is truly meet, right, and salutary that  
 we should at all times and in all places give thanks  
 to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting  
 God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Beginning  
 from His home on high in human flesh, He came  
 to die, and from the cross, He became Your bright  
 redeeming light. Therefore with angels and  
 archangels and with all the company of heaven we  
 laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore  
 praising You and singing:

**SANCTUS** *(we sing) LSB 195*

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth  
 Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory  
 Hosanna, Hosanna  
 Hosanna in the highest  
 Blessed is He, Blessed is He  
 Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord  
 Hosanna, Hosanna  
 Hosanna in the highest

**THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**

*Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."  
 In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

**LORD'S PRAYER** *Matthew 6:9–13*

People: 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.**

## **PAX DOMINI**

**Pastor:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**People:** Amen.

## **AGNUS DEI** (Sung) LSB 198

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God that takest away the sin of  
the world have mercy upon us**  
**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of  
the world, have mercy upon us**  
**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of  
the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.**

(Please be seated)

## **DISTRIBUTION HYMN**

**“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”**

*LSB 358 vs 1,8,13*

**From heav’n above to earth I come  
To bear good news to ev’ry home  
Glad tidings of great joy I bring  
Where of I now will say and sing**

**Welcome to earth O noble Guest  
Through whom the sinful world is blest  
You came to share my misery  
That You might share Your joy with me**

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

(Please stand)

## **THE POST-DISTRIBUTION BLESSING**

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus  
strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to  
life everlasting.

**People:** (spoken) **Amen**

## **THE NUNC DIMITTIS** (we sing) TLH p. 29-30

**Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant  
depart in peace according to Thy word,  
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,  
which Thou hast prepared before the face  
of all people, a light to lighten the  
Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.  
Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and ever shall be, world without end. Amen**

## **POST-COMMUNION COLLECT** LSB 384:5

Pastor: Let us pray. Christ, to Thee, with God the Father,  
And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee Hymn and chant and  
high thanksgiving And unending praises be,  
Honor, glory, and dominion, And eternal victory  
Evermore and evermore.

**People:** **Amen.**

## **BENEDICTION** *Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make  
His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The  
Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you  
peace.

**People:** **Amen.**

## CANDLELIGHTING

(During the special music, Individual candles are lit from those of the candle bearers and on through the congregation.)

## SPECIAL MUSIC

**“O Holy Night”**

Sung by Dave Brown

(When all the candles are lit)

## HYMN

**“Silent Night, Holy Night”** *LSB* 363

**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’nly hosts 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 Thy holy face**

**With the dawn of redeeming grace**

**Jesus, Lord at Thy birth**

**Jesus Lord at Thy birth**

**THOSE SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE**

Rev. Paul Pollatz, **Pastor**

Marie Brown, **Organist**

Dave Brown, **Elder & Reader**

Jim Bumgarner & Frank Pignanelli, **Ushers**

Dave Brown, Marie Brown,

Jim Bumgarner & Ken Kosmalski, **Bell Ringers**