

# Christmas Eve

Saturday December 24, 2022



“Glory to the newborn King!” *LSB 380 vs 1*

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,

## **Mount Hope Lutheran Church**

Sunday Service - 9:30am

Sunday Bible Study – after Service

Wednesday Bible Study – 10:30am

(313) 565- 9445

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Allen Park, MI 48101

Rev. Paul Pollatz

(734) 765–3468

## **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**  
**THE RINGING OF THE BELLS**  
**PREPARATION**

**Angels: The Ultimate Divine Messengers of Hope**

A Multitude of the Heavenly Host Announces a Peace  
Which Brings Renewed Hope

Pastor: “All is calm, all is bright.” Is it really? We sing those words from the hymn “Silent Night, Holy Night” every Christmas Eve. Yet the world in which we live is in so many ways neither calm nor bright. War, violence, shootings, unending anxiety: these are anything but calm and bright. Yet we sing. Why? Because the calmness and brightness of which we sing on Christmas Eve comes not from politics or laws or humanity’s ability to overcome obstacles; it comes from God. “Glory to God in the highest,” sings the multitude of angels to the shepherds, “and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased” (Luke 2:14). In Christ, we are given peace beyond human understanding, peace flowing from God to us, peace that comes from God’s self-sacrificing love. So filled with hope, we join the angel chorus and sing of the peace found only in Jesus.

(Please stand)

**✠ PREPARATION ✠**

**HYMN**

**“Angels from the Realms of Glory” *LSB 367***

**Angels from the realms of glory  
Wing your flight o’er all the earth  
Ye who sang creation’s story  
Now proclaim Messiah’s birth**

**Come and worship,  
Come and worship,  
Worship Christ the newborn King**

**Shepherds in the field abiding  
Watching o’er your flocks by night  
God with us is now residing  
Yonder shines the Infant Light**

**Come and worship,  
Come and worship,  
Worship Christ the newborn King**

**Sages, leave your contemplations  
Brighter visions beam afar  
Seek the great Desire of nations  
Ye have seen His natal star**

**Come and worship,  
Come and worship,  
Worship Christ the newborn King**

**Saints before the altar bending  
Watching long in hope and fear  
Suddenly the Lord descending  
In His temple shall appear**

**Come and worship,  
Come and worship,  
Worship Christ the newborn King**

**All creations join in praising  
God the Father Spirit Son  
Evermore your voices raising  
To the eternal Three in One**

**Come and worship,  
Come and worship,  
Worship Christ the newborn King**

## **INVOCATION**

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

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

## **OPENING SENTENCES** *Luke 2:10–12, 14*

Pastor: To shepherds filled with fear, the angel said,

**People: “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of  
a great joy that will be for all the people.”**

Pastor: To those shepherds and to us this holy night, the  
angel declares,

**People: “For unto you is born this day in the city of  
David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”**

Pastor: To all who seek signs of God’s peace in this  
broken world, the angel proclaims,

**People: “And this will be a sign for you: you will find a  
baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a  
manger.”**

Pastor: To our world, so filled with uncertainty, confusion, and fear, the multitude of angels sings,

**People: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!”**

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

## **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** *John 14:27*

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**People: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*Silence for reflection on God’s Word and for self-examination.*

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**People: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Pastor: Friends in Christ, take heart! Jesus said, “My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.” Real peace comes and starts from forgiveness of sins in Jesus’ name. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

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

(Please stand)

**✠ WORD ✠**

**INTROIT** *Psalm 2:1–2, 4–6*

Pastor: When all was still, and it was midnight, Your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the heavens.

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

Pastor: Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel to gether, 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.**

Pastor: When all was still, and it was midnight, Your  
almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the  
heavens.

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

**KYRIE** (we sing)

**All: Lord, have mercy upon us  
Christ, have mercy upon us  
Lord, have mercy upon us**

**HYMN**

“Angels We Have Heard on High” *LSB* 368 vs 1

**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**

**SALUTATION**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: (spoken) And also with you.**



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Mighty God, You sent a multitude of angels to announce the birth of our Savior, Jesus. Fill our voices with this Good News of great joy, that we may join the angels in speaking peace and hope in Jesus to a hurting world; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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

(Please be seated)

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

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 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.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** (spoken) **Thanks be to God.**

## **SPEICAL MUSIC**

“How great our Joy”

Sung by the Choir

## **GRADUAL** *Isaiah 9:6; Psalm 98:1a*

Pastor: To us a child is born, to us a son is given;

**People: and the government shall be upon His shoulder.**

Pastor: And His name shall be called Wonderful  
Counselor, Mighty God,

**People: Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Pastor: Sing to the Lord a new song,

**People: for He has done marvelous things!**

## **EPISTLE** *Titus 2:11–14 ESV*

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.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand)

**VERSE** *Luke 2:11*

Pastor: Alleluia!

**People: Alleluia!**

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

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

Pastor: Alleluia!

**People: Alleluia!**

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

**People: (we sing) Glory to You, O Lord.**

**HOLY GOSPEL** *Luke 2:1–20 ESV*

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:** (we sing) **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## HYMN OF THE DAY

“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come” LSB 358 vs 1-3

**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**

**To you this night is born a child  
Of Mary chosen virgin mild  
This little child of lowly birth  
Shall be the joy of all the earth**

**This is the Christ our God Most High  
Who hears your sad and bitter cry  
He will Himself your Savior be  
From all your sins to set you free**

**++ SERMON ++**

CHRISTMAS EVE

### **A Multitude of the Heavenly Host Announces a Peace Which Brings Renewed Hope**

Luke 2:13–14 : 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!”*.

#### **Outline**

In the Midst of a World So Often Marred by Violence and Hatred and Hardship, a Veritable Multitude of Angelic Messengers Breaks into the Night to Announce a Living Hope: Peace for Those on Whom God’s Favor Rests.

- I. The angelic multitude announces that true peace has come in the birth of the Christ Child—that in Christ we are reconciled to God.
- II. While the world does not understand the true nature of this peace, we know it in Christ through Word and Sacrament.

(Please stand as we sing the “gloria in excelsis” (tlh pp. 17-19)  
and prepare to confess our faith)

Pastor: Glory be to God on high:

**People: And on earth peace, good will toward men.**

**We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor-ship  
Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee,  
for Thy great glory.**

**O Lord God, heav’n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al-  
mighty.**

**O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;  
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of their Father,  
That takest away the sin of the world, have  
mercy up-on us.**

**Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-  
ceive our prayer.**

**Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the  
Father, have mercy up-on us.**

**For Thou only art holy;  
Thou on-ly art the Lord.**

**Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho-ly Ghost, art  
most high in the glory of God the Father, Amen.**

**CREED** *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 Prayer of the Church)

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Pastor: On this night of wonder and praise, let us pray to our mighty and merciful God for churches to be filled with hope, for the world to find lasting peace, and for ourselves to glorify God in all that we say and do. Wonderful Counselor, fill Your Church with enduring hope. Uphold missionaries near and far as they speak Your Word in difficult circumstances. In the birth of Christ, help us to catch the vision of Your coming restoration of all creation. God of glory,

**People: let Your peace and hope reign.**

Pastor: Mighty God, amidst many reminders of how the world You created is broken by sin, establish Your justice and Your righteousness. Guide all who wield power to use it in godly ways to serve others, especially among those most vulnerable. God of glory,

**People: let Your peace and hope reign.**

Pastor: Everlasting Father, bless us and keep us: in our joys, in our travels, in our sickness, in our dying, and in our grief. Guide all mothers and fathers to seek Your wisdom in raising children. Draw the hearts of young people to Your gracious ways. Accompany older adults through the perils of aging. Fill our homes with godliness, patience, love, joy, generosity, and self-control. God of glory,

**People: let Your peace and hope reign.**



Pastor: Prince of Peace, for those who have gone before us in faith and now rest eternally in Your embrace, we give thanks. Fill all who mourn with Your peace that surpasses human understanding. God of glory,

**People: let Your peace and hope reign.**

Pastor: You showed Your goodness and loving kindness, O God, in the birth of our Savior. You saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to Your own mercy. By the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom You poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ, our Savior, You made us heirs according to the hope of eternal life. For all this we thank and adore You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

(Please be seated as the offering is being received and Hymn 358 vs 9 & 10 is sung)

## **OFFERING**

## **OFFERTORY**

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come” *LSB 358 vs 9-10*

**Ah Lord though You created all  
How weak You are so poor and small  
That You should choose to lay Your head  
Where lowly cattle lately fed**

**Were earth a thousand times as fair  
 And set with gold and jewels rare  
 It would be far too poor and small  
 A cradle for the Lord of all**

**✠ 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.

**PROPER PREFACE**

**Pastor:** It is our duty and delight to thank You, O merciful God, through our Lord Jesus Christ; at just the right time, You sent Your only Son to be born into this world as a vulnerable infant, drawing us to You not with pomp and power but with awe and wonder that the God of all creation would enter it as a baby to save those created in His image. And so, in joy and thanksgiving, we join the angels and all the company of heaven to sing Your praise:

**SANCTUS** *(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**

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Praise, honor, and thanks be to You, God of all creation, for creating the heavens and the earth, angels and human beings, for saving Noah and his family in the flood, for calling Abraham and Sarah, for freeing the Israelites from slavery, and for the prophets who cried both disaster and hope in the wilderness.

**People: All thanks be to You, Holy God!**

Pastor: Mostly on this night we thank and praise You for the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ, for His ministry of restoration and healing, for His suffering and death, and for His resurrection and ascension.

**People: All glory and honor, thanks and praise be to You, triune God, forever and ever! Amen!**

## **LORD'S PRAYER** *Matthew 6:9–13*

Pastor: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.

## 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.”**

## PAX DOMINI

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

People: (spoken) Amen.

**AGNUS DEI** (we sing) 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.**

**DISTRIBUTION HYMN**

*“Away in a Manger”* LSB 364

**Away in a manger no crib for a 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**

**The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

**Be near me Lord Jesus I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever and love me I pray  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care  
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there**

(Please stand at the conclusion of the distribution for the blessing  
followed by the Post-Communion Canticle)

**THE POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

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

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

## POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

### 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 THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray.

You, Lord, who came into the world long ago as an infant, have come to us this night in Your body and blood. Thank You for providing this bread of life and cup of salvation. Join us together as one Body called to love one another as You have loved us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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

## CANDLELIGHTING

(During the special music, a Gospel procession (pastor, crucifer, candle bearers) may form and move to the center of the sanctuary. 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)

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

**People:** (spoken) **Glory to You, O Lord.**

## HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 2:8–17 (KJV)*

Pastor: There were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, 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, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into

heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People:** (spoken) **Praise to You, O Christ.**

(The Gospel procession continues toward the back of the sanctuary during the hymn.)

## **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**

## **COLLECT**

Pastor: Let us pray.

O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light.

**People: Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven;**

Pastor: through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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

## **BENEDICTION**

Pastor: The blessing of God Almighty—the Father, the ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit—be with you and fill you with Christmas peace and joy, now and forever.

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

## Late that First Christmas Night

Wide awake is Mary. My, how young she looks! Her head rests on the soft leather of Joseph's saddle. The pain has been eclipsed by wonder. She looks into the face of the baby. Her son. Her Lord. His majesty.



At this point in history, the human being who best understands who God is and what He is doing is a teenage girl in a smelly stable. She can't take her eyes off him. Somehow Mary knows she is holding God. *So this is He.*

He looks like anything but a king. His face is prunish and red. His cry, though strong and healthy, is still the helpless and piercing cry of a baby. And he is absolutely dependent upon Mary for his well-being. Majesty in the midst of the mundane. Holiness in the filth of sheep manure and sweat. Divinity entering the world on the floor of a stable, through the womb of a teenager and in the presence of a carpenter. She touches the face of the infant-God. *How long was your journey! (God Came Near, page 4, Max Lucado)*

**THOSE SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE**

Rev. Paul Pollatz, Pastor

Marie Brown, Organist

Ken Kosmalski, Elder & Reader

Bill Switter, Dave Brown, Kathy King, Ushers

**Poinsettias Provided by:**

Karen & Jim Bumgarner

Kathy King

Mack Mayfield

Carolyn & Melvin Kimbrough

Sally & Sherm Trout

Bev Kero

Marilyn & Bill Switter

Frances Ladach

Lori Wilson (2)

Ruth & Pastor (2)

Joan Hafkesbrink

Phyllis Dasher

Brophy Family

Cheryl & Jim Smith

Sis & Dave Hamilton

(Don't forget to take your plant home with you after  
Service)