

# CHRISTMAS EVE

No Room?

December 24, 2023

7:00 pm



Can I, will I forget how Love was born, and burned  
Its way into my heart—unasked, unforced, unearned,  
To die, to live, and not alone for me,  
To die, to live, and not alone for me? *LSB 369:4*

## 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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Allen Park, MI 48101

(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**  
**RINGING OF THE BELLS**  
**“Joy to the World” by Bells**

**PREPARATION**

Pastor: One of the charming traditions of days gone by, still observed by some families, is the designation of a Christmas room in the house. In older homes, that room often was a parlor or dining room. The Christmas room was closed off to the family by the parents for days or even weeks before Christmas Eve and was beautified by a parent, grandparent, or other designated adult with decorations and greens and, most centrally, a Christmas tree, which frequently had heirloom ornaments on it. The room was set aside to remind all in the house to make room in their lives for the coming of Jesus, the Christ Child. In his well-loved paraphrase of Psalm 98, Isaac Watts writes: “Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King; Let ev’ry heart prepare Him room” (*LSB* 387:1). Tonight, the room in our hearts is filled with the joyful assurance that Christ has come to fill the world and our lives with His love.

(Please stand)

**✠ PREPARATION ✠**

## HYMN

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” *LSB 379 vs 1 & 2*

**O, come all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant!**

**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!**

**Highest, most holy,**

**Light of light eternal,**

**Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;**

**Son 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!**

## INVOCATION

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

**People: Amen.**

## OPENING SENTENCES *John 1:14; Psalm 96:3; Psalm 98:1*

Pastor: And the Word became flesh and dwelt among  
us,

**People: and we have seen His glory, glory as of the  
only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

Pastor: Declare His glory among the nations,

**People: His marvelous works among all the peoples!**

Pastor: Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things!

**People: His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.**

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

## **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

Pastor: Joined in worship on this sacred night, let us make confession to our heavenly Father, confident of His forgiveness for Jesus' sake.

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

Pastor: Almighty Father,

**People: we confess that we are sinners by nature and by thought, word, and deed. We have not always given You the best of what we have and are, and have not fully made room for You in our lives. With repentant hearts, we turn to You for mercy, seeking Your grace. In Your loving kindness forgive, restore, and lead us so that we may be renewed and live to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Pastor: With joy I announce God's Good News to You. Our gracious God in His mercy has given His Son to be born, to live, and then to die for you and to rise again in glory. For His sake God forgives you all your sins. 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. Be at peace and rejoice in the Lord.

**People: Amen.**

(Please be seated)

## **HYMN INTRODUCTION**

Pastor: The joy of Christmas echoes through the songs and carols of Christmas. Some of the most beloved songs of Christmas were learned in childhood and remain a source of joy and delight throughout our lives. A song associated with Christmas but sung in many churches throughout the year is “God Loves Me Dearly.”

Written in Germany in 1852 by a Lutheran pastor, this song was included in a collection of Christian songs for young people. Soon after it was first sung in German Lutheran settings, it made the journey across the Atlantic Ocean with those immigrating to America, where it became well loved by the Lutheran people settling in the United States. Translated into English by the early twentieth century, this expression of God’s love for us has found a welcome place in the hymnody of our congregations.

## **HYMN**

“God Loves Me Dearly” *LSB* 392 vs 1-3

**God loves me dearly,  
Grants me salvation,  
God loves me dearly,  
Loves even me.**

**Therefore I'll say again:  
God loves me dearly,  
God loves me dearly,  
Loves even me.**

**I was in slav'ry,  
Sin death, and darkness;  
God's love was working  
To make me free.**

(Please stand)

**✠ WORD ✠**

**INTROIT** *Psalm 24:1, 3–5; antiphon: Psalm 2:7*

Pastor: I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to Me,  
“You are My Son; today I have begotten You.”

**People: The earth is the LORD's and the fullness  
thereof, the world and those who dwell therein.**

Pastor: Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And  
who shall stand in His holy place?

**People: He who has clean hands and a pure heart,  
who does not lift up his soul to what is false and  
does not swear deceitfully.**

Pastor: He will receive blessing from the LORD

**People: and righteousness from the God of his  
salvation. 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.**

**I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to Me, “You  
are My Son; today I have begotten You.”**

**HYMN INTRODUCTION**

Pastor: The Christmas Gospel according to St. Luke records that the first angel who brought the good news of the birth of the Savior was suddenly joined by a multitude of the heavenly host who praised God together. What an amazing sound

that must have been! The sound of that “glorious song of old” must have resounded off the rocks in the fields there outside of Bethlehem in an unforgettable way! Through our singing we echo that praise this day.

Although our Christmas hymns come from as far back as the fourth century (such as “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”), a sizeable number of the songs we love to sing are from the nineteenth century, primarily from Great Britain and the United States. Reverend Edmund Sears, who served congregations in the Boston area in the mid-1800s, wrote the text of “It Came upon the Midnight Clear” in 1849 and sent it to a popular magazine called *The Christian Register*. It was published in the following year, and about forty years later the text by Sears was linked to a melody by Richard Willis, a musical editor who lived in New York City. Through this carol we are invited to hear the angels as they announce and rejoice in the birth of the Prince of Peace.

## **HYMN**

“It Came upon the Midnight Clear” *LSB* 366 vs 1 & 2

**It came upon the midnight clear  
That glorious song of old  
From angels bending near the earth  
To touch their harps of gold  
Peace on the earth, goodwill to all  
From heav'n's all gracious king  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
To hear the angels sing**



**Still through the cloven skies they come  
 With peaceful wings unfurled,  
 And still their heav'nly music floats  
 O'er all the weary world  
 Above its sad and lowly plains  
 They bend on hov'ring wing  
 And ever o'er its babel sounds  
 The blessed angels sing**

## **SALUTATION**

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Pastor:** Let us pray.

Gracious heavenly Father, with joy we celebrate our Lord's birth as the fulfillment of Your promise of redemption from sin. Grant that as Your Holy Spirit works in our lives, there always be room for Jesus as Lord of our hearts, who now lives and rules with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

**People:** Amen.

## **OLD TESTAMENT READING** *Isaiah 7:10–14 ESV*

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz: "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will

give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE** *1 John 4:7–16* ESV

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**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!**

**VERSE** *Matthew 1:21*

**People: Alleluia. She will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins. Alleluia.**

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.

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

**HOLY GOSPEL** *Matthew 1:18–25* *ESV*

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what

the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

“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

**++ SERMON ++**

(Please stand)

**CREED**      *Apostles' Creed*

**People: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ☩ everlasting. Amen.**

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

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**Pastor: Let us pray for God's great mercy, asking that He would hear our petitions and grant them according to His gracious will.**

Almighty and everlasting God, as we recall the first Christmas, we thank You for the gift of Jesus Christ, who came to earth in deep humility. We bless You that there was room in Your heart for

the people of earth and for the sacrifice of Jesus as He left the glory of Your eternal kingdom in coming to earth to be our Savior, our Brother and our Friend. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: As we think of Your chosen servants Mary and Joseph, we thank You for the gift of family. Grant that we always treasure the gifts we receive through them and seek to be those who cherish our family, our church family, our friends, and our neighbors. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: As we fill this sacred space with song, we thank You for the gifts of poetry and music and for writers and composers who have enriched our celebration with their devotion and creativity. Grant that we ever seek to bring You all that is the best and most beautiful in our worship. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: As we hear again of the shepherds to whom the angel brought the greatest of news, we thank You for those who serve in the various vocations of life, including those whose daily work goes unnoticed or underappreciated. We commend to Your special care, Lord, those in the military, our first responders and medical personnel, and all whose service keeps them distanced from their family homes in these days. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We pray for all situations and conditions of people, especially those on our hearts at this time ..... Be with all who need our petitions and our concern. Bless them according to their needs, Lord, and give us opportunities to be of comfort and assistance in Your name. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: As we pray, gracious God, we remember our dear ones who have completed their earthly lives and now are in Your eternal keeping. Grant that we follow their footsteps in ways of peace and love throughout our lives as we live to Your glory as those on whom Your favor rests. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: These and any other things You would have us ask of You, heavenly Father, grant to us for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

## **OFFERING**

## **OFFERTORY**

“We Give Thee But Thine Own” *LSB 781 vs 1-3*

**We give Thee but Thine own  
What-e'er the gift may be  
All that we have is Thine alone  
A trust O Lord from Thee**

**May we Thy bounties thus  
 As stewards true receive  
 And gladly as Thou blessest us  
 To Thee our first-fruits give**

**Oh hearts are bruised and dead  
 And homes are bare and cold  
 And lambs for whom the Shepherd bled  
 Are straying from the fold**

## **CAROLS**

Pastor: We now join in singing a variety of Christmas songs interspersed with the Good News from the Gospel according to St. Luke, chapter 2. Following each reading, we will sing a Christmas song that complements it.

## **READING** *Luke 2:1–5*

Pastor: 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.

Pastor: Although “O Little Town of Bethlehem” is an American carol, written by the Reverend Phillips Brooks of Pennsylvania in 1865, it was inspired by his visiting the actual town where Jesus was born



in what we call the Holy Land. On this holy evening, we all go in heart and mind to that little town that became so special in God's plan of salvation.

## **HYMN**

"O Little Town of Bethlehem" *LSB* 361 vs 1

**O little town of Bethlehem  
How still we see thee lie  
Above thy deep  
And dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting light  
The hopes and fears  
Of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight**

## **READING** *Luke 2:6–7*

Pastor: 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.

Pastor: The carol "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" is a translation of a Polish Christmas song that appeared in its original language in a song collection in 1838. As with many traditional folk songs, the text author and musical composer are not known. An adaptation in the American version we sing is the repetition of the last phrase of each

stanza: “Christ the child is Lord of all!” and “Christ the child was born for you!”—both lines are certainly worthy of being repeated!

## SPECIAL MUSIC

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

Sung by Choir

## READING *Luke 2:8–12*

Pastor: 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 fear. And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a 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.”

Pastor: Although “Away in a Manger” may sound like an “Old World” carol, its first Lutheran Church appearance was in a Lutheran Sunday School hymnal in Philadelphia published in the year 1885. Reminding us that there was no room in the inn and that our Savior was humbly born, the text was not translated into German until 1934. Now sung around the world, the text concludes in the third stanza with a prayer that has been memorized by countless generations of children.

## 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**

## READING *Luke 2:13–16*

Pastor: 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.

Pastor: Echoing the song of the angels is a joy for God’s people—especially on Christmas Eve. A traditional French carol gives us the opportunity to sing “Glory to God in the highest” in Latin, as “Gloria in

excelsis Deo.” The words and the melody of this Christmas carol, both from France, bring a bright excitement to our celebration as we bring to our God limitless praise.

## 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**

## READING *Luke 2:17–20*

Pastor: And when [the shepherds] 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: Luke writes that Mary “treasured up all these things” in her heart. We are invited to do as Mary did, to treasure these things—including our worship with the joyous carols—in our hearts. Through these songs, we share the joy of sisters and brothers around the globe who join in

praising Jesus Christ, our newborn King. With repeating alleluias, we give voice to our joy in the words and the music of a Bohemian carol from over five hundred years ago.

## **HYMN**

“Let Our Gladness Have No End” *LSB 374 vs 1 & 2*

**Gentle Mary laid her child**  
**Lowly in a manger**  
**There He lay, the Undefined**  
**To the world a stranger**  
**Such a babe in such a place**  
**Can He be the Savior**  
**Ask the saved of all the race**  
**Who have found His favor**

**Angels sang about His birth**  
**Wise Men sought and found Him**  
**Heaven's star shone brightly forth**  
**Glory all around Him**  
**Shepherds saw the wondrous sight**  
**Heard the angels singing**  
**All the plains were lit that night**  
**All the hills were ringing**

## **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)

## 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**

## CLOSING PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, who by Your coming among  
us united earth and heaven, fill us with peace and

good will. Grant that we always have room for You in our lives and days, and grant that we be joyfully joined with the heavenly host in praising Your graciousness and Your glory this evening and always; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

**People: Amen.**

**BENEDICTION** *Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: The blessing of God Almighty—the Father, who gave His Son to redeem the world; the Son, who has revealed to us God’s grace, mercy, and love; and the Holy Spirit, by whose blessed work in us we live our lives as children of God—be and remain with you, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**THOSE SERVING IN GOD’S HOUSE**

Rev. Paul Pollatz, Pastor

Marie Brown, Organist

Ken Kosmalski, Elder & Reader

Bill Switter, Dave Brown, Kathy King, Ushers

Dave Brown, Marie Brown,

Jim Bumgarner & Ken Kosmalski, Bell Ringers

