



## The Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord



*The Nativity, Filippino Lippi, c 1445.*

*Merry Christmas*

**Christmas Eve Services**  
**3:30pm ~ 5:30pm ~ 7:30pm**  
St. Stephen Lutheran Church  
Marshall, MN

## **GATHERING HYMN “Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful”**

Oh, come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant! Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem; Come and behold him born the king of angels:

### *Refrain*

Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

The highest, most holy, Light of light eternal, born of a virgin, a mortal he comes; Son of the Father Now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation, Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God in the highest:  
*Refrain*

## **PRAYER OF THE EVENING**

**P / A:** Let us pray... ..through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** **Amen.**

## **READING Isaiah 9:2-7**

## **HYMN “O Little Town of Bethlehem”**

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.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above, While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love. O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth, And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth!

## **Worship Participants**

- **Presiding:** Lyle Snyder
- **Assisting Minister:**  
Aiden Erickson (5:30)  
Paige Doose (7:30)
- **Acolyte:**  
Ascher Holland (5:30)  
Trenton Klenken (7:30)
- **Projector:**  
Taylor Brandt (3:30)  
Colby Allen (5:30)
- **Musician:**  
Jennifer Marty (3:30)  
Jennifer Marty (5:30)  
Judy DeCramer (7:30)
- **Lector:**  
Shanda Walker (3:30)  
John DeCramer (7:30)
- **Ushers:**  
Kevin Dubs (3:30)  
David & Brittany Krull (5:30)  
Carey & Megan Mattison (7:30)
- **Communion Assistants:**  
Arlyss Hovland (3:30)  
Robin Bednarek (5:30)

## **Christmas Poinsettias**

- In memory of our parents Arla and Hardin Kindler, Mildred and George DeCramer from John and Judy DeCramer.
- In memory of Robert and Shirley Green, Minnie and Herold Luckow from Roger and Ardy Green.
- In memory of Jason Bielinski from Frank and Karen Bielinski.
- In honor of our children and grandchildren from Lyle and Carol Moseng

**HYMN OF LIGHT      "Silent Night, Holy Night!"**

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. Heavenly 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.

**BLESSING**

**SENDING HYMN      "Joy to the World!"**

Joy to the world! The Lord is come. Let earth receive her  
King! Let every heart prepare Him room and heaven and  
nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs  
employ, While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,  
repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sin and sorrow grow, nor thorns infest the  
ground; He comes to make the blessings flow far as the  
curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the  
nations prove, The glories of his righteousness, and  
wonders of his love.

**SENDING**

**P / A:**    Go in peace. Remember the Christ child!

**C:**        **We will! Thanks be to God!**

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray!  
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings  
tell; O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

**READING    Titus 2:11-14**

**HYMN      "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"**

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born  
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 host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark! the herald angels  
sing, "Glory to the new born King!"

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of  
Righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, risen  
with healing in his wings. Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die, born to raise us from  
the earth, born to give us second birth. Hark! the  
herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King!"

**READING    Luke 2:1-7**

**HYMN      "Away in a Manger"**

Away in a manger, no crib for his 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 you, Lord Jesus, look  
down from the sky, and stay by my cradle till morning  
is nigh.

**GOSPEL    Luke 2:8-20**

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

### HYMN "Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

#### *Refrain*

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching, over silent flocks by night, Behold throughout the heavens, there shone a holy light! *Refrain*

The shepherds feared and trembled, when lo, above the Earth; Rang out the angel chorus, that hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain*

Down in a lowly manger, our humble Christ was born; and God sent us salvation, that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

## SERMON

## OFFERING

### OFFERTORY HYMN "What Child is This?"

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!

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!

## THE PRAYERS

P: Merciful God,  
C: **Receive our prayer.**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

### COMMUNION

*St. Stephen Lutheran Church practices open communion and all are welcome to the Lord's table. Should you not be able to come forward for communion, please alert one of the ushers and it will be brought to you at your pew. Gluten Free wafers are available upon request.*

### LITANY OF LIGHT

P / A: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

C: **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

P / A: Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

C: **We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

P / A: For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

C: **In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

### GOSPEL OF THE INCARNATION John 1:1-14

*The presider lights a large candle from the Christ candle, which symbolizes the Light of the world of whom John's Gospel speaks. The ushers light their candles from the presider's candle, then light the candle of each worshiper nearest the aisle. The lighted candle is never tilted, but is always held upright when giving light to another.*