

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service- December 24, 2025

PRESERVICE MUSIC (Prelude)

PROCESSIONAL

WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS/ INSTRUCTIONS

OPENING HYMN LSB 379 “O Come All Ye Faithful”



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,

come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le - hem;
Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;

Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

Refrain

O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,

O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

INVOCATION / CONFESSION

Pastor: In the Name of the Father who created us, the + Son who was born to save us, and of the Holy Spirit who brings us to know Christ and keeps us in the faith.

People: Amen.

Pastor: God's Word tells us that *"in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth"* and all that is within them.

People: And God saw that it was very good — in fact, it was *perfect*.

Pastor: But the "very good" world was soon to be desecrated by sin. Our first parents Adam and Eve took some of the fruit from the tree that God told them not to touch and ate it. In Adam we have all sinned, and like Adam we will all die. Sin, sorrow, suffering and death had come into the world.

People: We, too, suffer from the sins we have committed, sins of thought, word and deed; things that God has told us to do that we haven't done, and things that God has told us not to do that we have done.

Pastor: These sins separate us from God just as the sin of Adam and Eve separated them from their Creator God. Confession of these sins is the first step of God cleansing our souls and forgiving us in Christ. We admit and bring our sins before God now.

(quiet reflection and confession of specific sins...)

WORD OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Yet there was hope. Even in the garden, God cursed the serpent and promised the woman: *"I will put enmity between you and the woman, and the woman and between your offspring and hers; He will crush your head, and you will strike His heel."*

People: When the time was right, God sent His Son, born of a woman, Born under the law to redeem those under the law. When the time was right, God did it. He brought His plan into action. He brought us righteousness. He gave us Jesus.

Pastor: By Jesus' birth, His perfect life, and His death on the cross, He has crushed the serpent's or Satan's head. Jesus has crushed and defeated Satan and death.

People: Amen!

HYMN LSB 387 “Joy to the World”

THE CENSUS

Luke 2:1-5

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ²This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And everyone went to his own town to register. ⁴So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

HYMN LSB 361 “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

THE BIRTH OF THE CHRIST CHILD

Luke 2:6-7

“While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷and she gave birth to her firstborn, a Son. She wrapped Him in cloths and placed Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.”

HYMN LSB 383 “A Great and Mighty Wonder”



1 A great and mighty wonder, A full and holy cure:
4 Since all He comes to ransom, By all be He adored,



The virgin bears the infant With virgin honor pure!
The infant born in Beth-l'em, The Savior and the Lord.

Refrain



Pro-claim the Savior's birth: "To God on high be



glo-ry And peace to all the earth!"

THE ANGELS VISIT THE SHEPHERDS

Luke 2:8-14

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger. ¹³Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests."

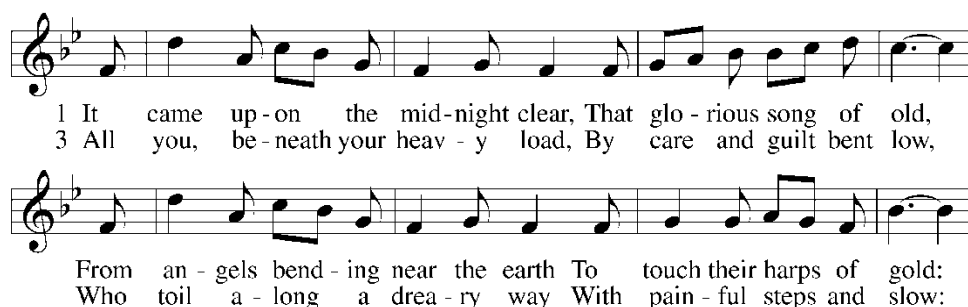
HYMN LSB 368 "Angels We Have Heard on High"

THE SHEPHERDS' RESPONSE

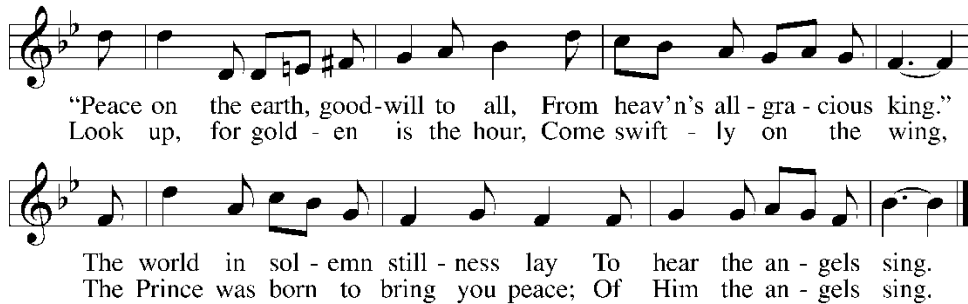
Luke 2:15-20

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." ¹⁶So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the Baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they had seen Him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this Child. ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

HYMN LSB 366 "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"



1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, That glo-rious song of old,
3 All you, be-neath your heav-y load, By care and guilt bent low,
From an-gels bend-ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold:
Who toil a-long a drea-ry way With pain-ful steps and slow:



CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

OFFERING

Pastor: Arise, shine, for your light has come!

People: The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

Pastor: See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the earth.

People: But the Lord rises upon us and His glory appears to us.

THE LORDS PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

A CHRISTMAS BLESSING

Pastor: May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the Magi, and the peace of the Christ child. The Almighty God: Father, + Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

People: Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

HYMN LSB 363 “Silent Night”



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright Round yon
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep-herds quake at the sight; Glo - ries
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light Ra - diant

vir - gin moth-er and child. Ho - ly In-fant, so ten-der and mild,
stream from heav-en a - far, Heav'n-ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
beams from Thy ho-ly face With the dawn of re-deem - ing grace,

Sleep in heav - en - ly peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

RECESSIONAL