

CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 24, 2020

**IMMANUEL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

*Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod*



**703 W 3RD Street
Mercedes**

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**Rev. Ed Weber,
Pastor**

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Sunday

9:00 AM

Worship Service

10:30 am

Adult Bible Class

Sunday School

Holy Communion:

1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday

Website

***lutheranmercedes.
com***

FACEBOOK

***www.facebook.com/
lutheranmercedes/***

Office Hrs, M-F

8:00 am to 12:00 pm

CCLI # 2585



**“For there is born to you this
day in the city of David a
Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”
And this will be the sign to you:
You will find a Babe wrapped in
swaddling cloths, lying in
a manger.””**

(Luke 2:11-12)

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

December 24, 2020

WELCOME to IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

We wish to extend a warm welcome to all our visitors here today. It is our hope that you will benefit by your worship here with us, and that you will return again soon. We would greatly appreciate it if everyone would fill out an Attendance/Communion card so that we can keep track of our attendance. They are located in the pew racks in front of you.

AS WE GATHER Most of us have heard the old carol “O Holy Night,” but sometimes we forget that none of us makes this night holy. The Lord makes this night holy, and He needs no help from us. What He does ask of us is that we listen to the familiar story, that we believe its truth and promise, and that we live in reflection of what God has done to save us. We cannot make this night holy, but we can keep it holy with faith that kneels at the manger, heads bowed in prayer and adoration, and voices raised in a joyful song of thanksgiving and praise.

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME

P 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 sight that must have been—and what amazing sounds for the shepherds to hear! The music must have resounded off the rocks on the fields there outside of Bethlehem in an unforgettable way! Through our singing, we echo that praise this day.

PRELUDE

Away in a Manger

(A quiet time for prayer and meditation in preparation for worship)

+ SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS +

CAROL

O Come, All Ye Faithful

LSB 379

1 O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him
Born the king of angels: **Refrain**

ref O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!

2 Highest, most holy,
Light of Light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;
Son of the Father
Now in flesh appearing! **Refrain**

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

4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father
Now in flesh appearing! **Refrain**

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

P Merciful Father,

C We confess that we have sinned against You and against one another. We have done the evil You forbid and have not done the good You desire. We do sincerely repent of our sins and ask Your mercy for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord, to grant us forgiveness. Give us the will and desire to amend our sinful lives by the power of Your Holy Spirit, that we come to delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and 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.

C Amen.

LIGHTING THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE

P Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,

C the light no darkness can overcome.

P Let Your light scatter the darkness

C and illumine Your Church.

HYMN *"We Light the Christmas Candle"*

5 We light the Christmas candle
 And sing with peace and joy.
 Our hope is now begotten
 In Christ, the infant boy.
 God's love with us is dwelling,
 All darkness now dispelling.
 We celebrate with light,
 For God makes all things right!

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SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

COLLECT

P Let us pray. O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive the Word made flesh as our Redeemer, we may one day with sure confidence behold the Son of Righteousness; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

THE PROCLAMATION *John 1:1-5; Isaiah 40:9*

P In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!"

CAROL *From Heaven Above to Earth I Come* **LSB 358**

1 "From heav'n above to earth I come
 To bear good news to ev'ry home;
 Glad tidings of great joy I bring,
 Whereof I now will say and sing:

2 "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.

13 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
 Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,

A quiet chamber set apart
For You to dwell within my heart.

15 Glory to God in highest heav'n,
Who unto us His Son has giv'n!
While angels sing with pious mirth
A glad new year to all the earth.

LESSON ONE Isaiah 7:10-14

10 Moreover the Lord spoke again to Ahaz, saying, 11 "Ask a sign for yourself from the Lord your God; ask it either in the depth or in the height above." 12 But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, nor will I test the Lord!" 13 Then he said, "Hear now, O house of David! Is it a small thing for you to weary men, but will you weary my God also? 14 Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

CAROL *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

LSB 380

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!" **Refrain**

ref Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

2 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 the_incarnate Deity!


Pleased as Man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel! **Refrain**

3 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 them second birth. **Refain**

LESSON TWO Luke 1:26–38 (Mary)

26 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!" 29 But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. 30 Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. 32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. 33 And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." 34 Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" 35 And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. 36 Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. 37 For with God nothing will be impossible." 38 Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

- 1 Savior of the nations, come,
Virgin's Son, make here Your home!
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.
- 2 Not by human flesh and blood,
By the Spirit of our God,
Was the Word of God made flesh—
Woman's offspring, pure and fresh.

8  Glory to the Father sing,
Glory to the Son, our king,
Glory to the Spirit be
Now and through eternity.

LESSON THREE*Luke 2:1-7*

(The infant Jesus)

1 And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. 3 So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city.

CAROL*In a Little Stable*

Sung by Joy Weber

4 Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, 5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. 6 So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. 7 And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

CAROL*O Little Town of Bethlehem***LSB 361**

- 1 O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep

3 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.

LESSON FIVE *Luke 2:13-14* (Angels)

13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly
host praising God and saying:

14 “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward
men!”

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

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

ref Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav’nly song? **Refrain**

3 Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. **Refrain**

LESSON SIX *Matthew 2:1-11* (Wise Men)

1 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod
the king, behold, wise men from the East came to

Jerusalem, 2 saying, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews?
For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.”

3 When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem

with him. 4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 5 So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet:

6 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are not the least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you shall come a Ruler who will shepherd My people Israel.' "

7 Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. 8 And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also." 9 When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. 10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. 11 And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

CAROL

We Three Kings of Orient Are

1 We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain, moor and mountain following yonder star. **Refrain**

**C: Ref: O---Oh, star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty
bright.
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect
light.**

2 Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown Him again.
King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign. **Refrain.**

3 Frankincense to offer have I; Incense owns a deity nigh,
Prayer and praising, all are raising, worship Him, God most high. **Ref**

4 Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume, breathes a life of gathering gloom.
Sorr'wing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb. **Ref**

**C: Ref: O---Oh, star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty
bright.**

**Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect
light.**

**5 C: Glorious now, behold Him arise, King and God and sacrifice!
Alleluia, alleluia, earth to the heaven replies; Ref**

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE *"Behold, a Savior who is Christ the Lord"*
(Luke 2:10-11)

OFFERING *(Please place your offering in the offering plate as you leave.)*

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

P Dear people of God, once again we have heard the message of the angels, visited Bethlehem with shepherds and Magi, and beheld the Son of God in human flesh, born of the Virgin Mary and lying in a manger. Now let us respond with praise and prayer, rejoicing to offer Him our petitions and supplications on behalf of ourselves and everyone according to their need, confident that He will answer with all that is good, right, and best for us all.

(Silence for meditation)

P Merciful Father, we have lived through a time of great uncertainty and fear and now come again into Your presence on this most holy of nights. Deliver us from all epidemics, from the perils of war and violence, and from the loss of job and home. Open our hearts to receive with faith the joy of our Savior's coming and to trust in His salvation forevermore. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Blessed Lord, give to those most in need the courage and patience to await Your deliverance, and give to us kind and generous hearts that we share Your gifts with those around us and multiply the blessing of Your rich and daily provision. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P O gracious God, deliver Your people from all their afflictions of body and soul, give aid and comfort to the hospitalized, be present with the aged and infirm, and give to the dying and the grieving Your peace, [especially . . .], and those now named in our hearts [silence].
Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P O wise and faithful Father, deliver Your Church from her enemies, and provide her with faithful pastors to serve the Means of Grace to us in Your name. Give Your guidance to those who lead us in our Synod, district, and circuit, and bless especially our pastors, church workers, missionaries, and those preparing for full-time service.
Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Mighty Lord, You have power over all things. Aid our government and elected leaders with Your Word and Spirit that they be guided by Your commands to pursue justice and work for the common good. Teach them and us the value of life and to work for the protection of the unborn, the care of the widow and orphan, and the support of the aged. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P O loving God, we give You thanks that Mary heard Your Word and pondered it in her heart and that Joseph served Your Son so faithfully. Bless husbands, wives, parents, children, and all families. Help us to ponder Your Word in our hearts and to live it out that our homes be places of blessing and peace. Accept our songs of praise and the tithes and offerings we bring in response to Your mercy and as signs of our gratitude and faith. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

**ALL 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.**

P Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

C Amen.

CAROL

Joy to the World

LSB 387

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her 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.
- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- 3 No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

4 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.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

1 John 1:5–7; Matthew 5:14–16

(The pastor takes the light from the Christ candle to the ushers. They pass the light on to the congregation.) ***Tip:** Tip only the unlighted candle.

P As the light of these candles illumines our faces, it symbolizes the light of Christ, the Child in the manger at Bethlehem, the Savior suffering our death on the cross and soon to come from His throne on high as Judge of all. He is our light here on earth and the eternal light who enlightens heaven, where there is no need of candle or sun. Rejoice, for the Light of the world has come, who transforms us with the brightness of His glory.

This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all.

C **If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.**

P But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another,

C **and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.**

P You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. O God, as You make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, grant that we, who joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

(Dim lights)

CAROL

Silent Night

LSB 363

- 1 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.
- 1s ¡Noche de paz, noche de amor!
Todo duerme en derredor.
Entre los astros que esparcen su luz,
bella anunciando al niño Jesús
brilla la estrella de paz,
brilla la estrella de paz.
- 2 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!
- 3 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.

BENEDICTION

P 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.

C Amen.

POSTLUDE





*May the
Miracle of
Christmas
fill your heart
with joy.*



