



JOY
TO THE WORLD

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

December 24, 2018

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 the 3x5 white cards located in the pew racks in front of you.

AS WE GATHER “Fear not.” Nearly two thousand years ago, an angel of the Lord speaks these two simple words to shepherds on a dark night outside the little town of Bethlehem. However, this is not the first time an angelic messenger has spoken this profound imperative. “Fear not” is the angel Gabriel’s message to Mary when it was announced that she would bear the Savior. “Fear not” are the angel’s words to Joseph when he was instructed to not be afraid to take Mary as his wife. “Fear not” will be the comfort spoken to the women at the empty tomb of Easter. But “fear not” are words for your ears too. Whatever anxieties, heartaches, or fears you have this night, hear the message of the angel for you: “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” (Luke 2:10–11).

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.

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.

CLOSING PRAYER

P 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. Amen

BENEDICTION

P Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy

C that will be for all the people.

P For unto you is born this day in the city of David

C a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

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

Quem Pastores

Helmut Walcha

P Go in peace.

C Serve the Lord.

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**

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

INVOCATION

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

C **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P “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.” As we gather together this Christmas Eve, let us confess our sins to God our Father.

C **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.**

P Today we celebrate “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.” Because of this Savior

the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. 8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. 9 That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. 11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: 13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

**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**

CAROL *It Came upon the Midnight Clear* **LSB 366; vs 1,2,4**

1 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.

2 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 blessèd angels sing.

Pleased as Man with man to dwell,
 Jesus, our Immanuel!
 Hark! The herald angels sing,
 "Glory to the newborn King!"

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

LESSON EIGHT Luke 2:16-20

16 And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. 17 Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this child. 18 And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. 19 But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20 Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.

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
 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.

He the source, the ending He,
 Of the things that are, that have been,
 And that future years shall see
 Evermore and evermore.

3 This is He whom seers in old time
 Chanted of with one accord,
 Whom the voices of the prophets
 Promised in their faithful word.
 Now He shines, the long-expected;
 Let creation praise its Lord
 Evermore and evermore.

5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Father,
 And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee
 Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
 And unending praises be,
 Honor, glory, and dominion,
 And eternal victory
 Evermore and evermore. Amen.

LESSON TWO 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 *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

LSB 357

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
 And ransom captive Israel,
 That mourns in lonely exile here
 Until the Son of God appear. **Refrain**

CHOIR*Still, Still, Still*

Salzberg Melody

LESSON SIX Luke 2:1-7

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. 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*Once in Royal David's City***LSB 376; vs 1,2,5**

- 1 Once in royal David's city
 Stood a lowly cattle shed,
 Where a mother laid her baby
 In a manger for His bed:
 Mary was that mother mild,
 Jesus Christ her little child.
- 2 He came down to earth from heaven,
 Who is God and Lord of all,
 And His shelter was a stable,
 And His cradle was a stall;
 With the poor and mean and lowly
 Lived on earth our Savior holy.
- 5 Not in that poor, lowly stable
 With the oxen standing by
 Shall we see Him, but in heaven,
 Set at God's right hand on high.
 Then like stars His children, crowned,
 All in white, His praise will sound!

CAROL*Low How a Rose***LSB 359**

- 1 Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
 From tender stem hath sprung!
 Of Jesse's lineage coming
 As prophets long have sung,
 It came, a flow'ret bright,
 Amid the cold of winter,
 When half-spent was the night.
- 2 Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
 The rose I have in mind;
 With Mary we behold it,
 The virgin mother kind.
 To show God's love aright,
 She bore to us a Savior,
 When half-spent was the night.

LESSON FOUR

Isaiah 60:1-6

1 Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the Lord is
 Risen upon you. 2 For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, And
 Deep darkness the people; But the Lord will arise over you, And His
 glory will be seen upon you. 3 The Gentiles shall come to your light,
 And kings to the brightness of your rising. 4 "Lift up your eyes all
 around, and see: They all gather together, they come to you; Your sons
 shall come from afar, And your daughters shall be nursed at your side.
 5 Then you shall see and become radiant, And your heart shall swell
 with joy; Because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, The
 wealth of the Gentiles shall come to you. 6 The multitude of camels
 shall cover your land, The dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; All those
 from Sheba shall come; They shall bring gold and incense, And they
 shall proclaim the praises of the Lord.

CAROL*On Christmas Night All Christians Sing***LSB 377; vs 1-3**

- 1 On Christmas night all Christians sing
 To hear the news the angels bring,
 On Christmas night all Christians sing