

Christmas Eve Worship

December 24, 2020

PRELUDE

GATHERING

HYMN

“Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful”

LBW 45

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:
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O 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!
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God in the highest:
O come, let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

CALL TO WORSHIP

A child has been born for us;
a child has been given to us.
And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
eternal Father, Prince of Peace.
Once we were no people.
now we are God’s people.
The grace and loving kindness of our Savior Jesus Christ, Word made flesh, born of
the virgin Mary, be with you all.
And also with you.

HYMN

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

LBW 41

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 all on earth!

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given;
so God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

We light the Christ candle to remind us that you are the life, and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

Let us rejoice and walk in this light.

For you are Emmanuel, God with us.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

HYMN

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

LBW 71

Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.

Gloria, gloria, gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, gloria, gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, shy this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?

Gloria, gloria, gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, gloria, gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing,
come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Gloria, gloria, gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, gloria, gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!

WORD

FIRST READING

Responsive reading from - Isaiah 9:2-7 and Psalm 96

²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

¹**Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.**

²**Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD;
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**

³You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

³**Declare God's glory among the nations
and God's wonders among all peoples.**

⁴**For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised,**

more to be feared than all gods.

⁴For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵**As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.**

⁶**Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**

⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁷**Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.**

⁸**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.**

⁶For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁹**Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, all the earth.**

¹⁰**Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is king!**

The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peoples with equity."

⁷His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

¹¹**Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.**

¹²**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O LORD,
for you come to judge the earth.**

¹³**You will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with your truth.**

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20

The Christmas Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2nd chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Response after the reading.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

SERMON

HYMN

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

LBW 60

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 th' angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th' incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn 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 newborn King!"

THE PRAYERS

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

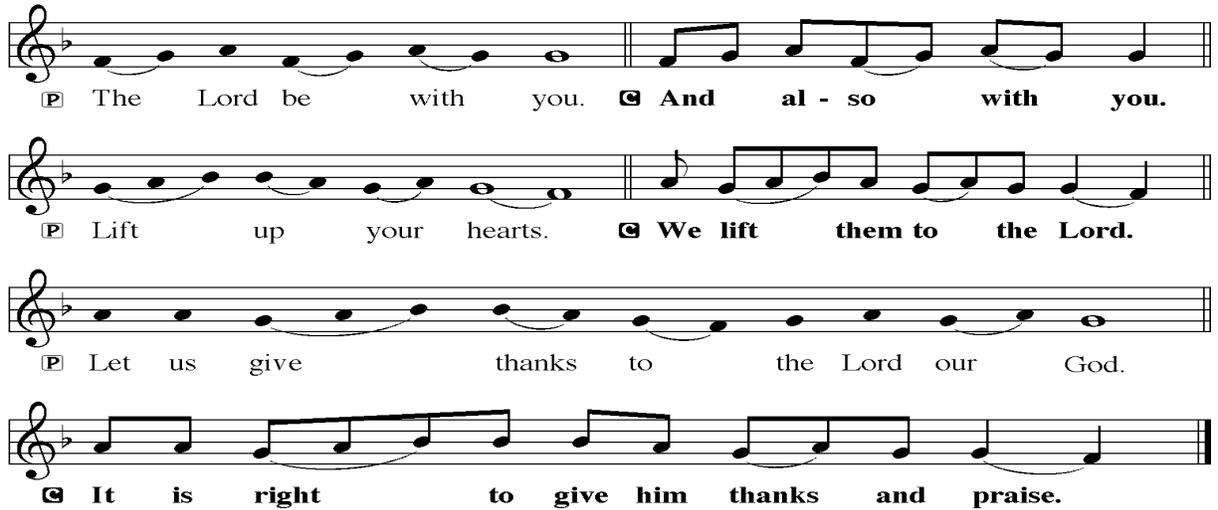
OFFERING

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Good and loving God,

we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be a blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



☐ The Lord be with you. ☑ And al - so with you.

☐ Lift up your hearts. ☑ We lift them to the Lord.

☐ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

☑ It is right to give him thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

COMMUNION (Please share in taking the Sacrament of Holy Communion in your home. Use whatever you have available for the hosts (such as wine or grape juice and bread or crackers) and remember that we Lutherans believe in Communion in one kind, so if you only have bread or crackers that is sufficient to partake in the Sacrament of Holy Communion.)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Great and gracious God, we thank you that in this holy meal the true Light has come to dwell in us. As we return into the world your love, may we take to all people the good news of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.
Amen.

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!

GOSPEL READING John 1:1-5

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world;

the light no darkness can overcome.

Let your light scatter the darkness,

and shine within your people here.

Please light a candle and join in singing.

HYMN**"Silent Night"****LBW 65**

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 your holy face,
 with the dawn of redeeming grace,
 Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
 Jesus, Lord at your birth.

SENDING**BLESSING**

May God, known to us by God's Son, bless you.
 May Christ, born of Mary and in a manger, bless you.
 May the Holy Spirit, power of the Most High, bless you.

Amen.

Extinguish candles

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let every 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.

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

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.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God.