

The Nativity of Our Lord
Christmas Eve
Candle light service

December 24, 2016 7:00 pm



On a long winter evening we gather to proclaim the coming of the light. Isaiah announces that the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Paul reminds us that the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. In the familiar account of Christ's birth, the evening sky is bright with the heavenly host singing, "Glory to God in the highest." Amid our broken world we proclaim that the prince of peace is born among us.

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Pre- Service Music (see insert)

Welcome/Worship Instructions

Proclamation of the Birth of Jesus

Stand as you are able.

Gathering Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ELW 283 (red book)

Organ arrangement by Sir David V Willcocks

Greeting

☐ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

☑ **And also with you.**

Hymn of Praise

Angels We Have Heard on High

ELW 289

vs 1 & 2

Prayer of the Day

☐ 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 you Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Sit

Special Music

Shines the Light by Lee & Susan Naus Dengler

Grace Choir

Carla Neil, violin; Kim Domke, flute; Chris Bush, piano

First Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!

☐ A reading from **Isaiah**.

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. 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.

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

- ☐ God, we thank you for your Word,
- ☑ the story of your grace.

Psalm Song

Choir to sing 1st verse, Congregation joins on verses 2-4

Unison C G F G Am C

1 Sing, sing, sing to the Lord, sing ev - ery land your
 2 Great, great, great is the Lord, great and most wor - thy
 3 Bring, bring, bring to the Lord, bring to his name the
 4 Joy, joy, joy in the heavens. Joy for the life of

Gsus G C G Am E

own new song: sing ev - ery day that he saves!
 of our love, great a - bove all oth - er gods.
 wor - ship due. Bring your best gift to his throne:
 sea and earth. Joy in the field and the wood!

Am Csus C B^b Dsus Dm F E/G[#]

Let all the na - tions hear of his glo - ry, vic - to - ries, won - ders,
 They are but noth - ings, God is all glo - rious, splen - did, maj - es - tic,
 God is all ho - ly, trem - ble be - fore him: clothed in his beau - ty,
 Wel - come his king - dom, praise his sal - va - tion; now he is com - ing,

Dm7 Gsus G C G F G
 tell them the sto - ry, prais - ing the Lord with heart and tongue,
 strong, and vic - to - rious, mak - er of earth and heaven a - bove,
 come to a - dore him. Tell what the Lord has done for you,
 Lord of cre - a - tion, judg - ing the peo - ples with his truth,

 Am C F G C
 prais - ing the Lord with heart and tongue.
 mak - er of earth and heaven a - bove.
 tell what the Lord has done for you.
 judg - ing the peo - ples with his truth.

Second Reading

Titus 2:11-14

The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity. Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior's final appearance.

A A reading from **Titus**.

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

L God, we thank you for your Word,

C the story of your grace.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Holy Child within the Manger

WOV 638 (blue book)

Gospel Reading

Luke 2:1-20

📖 The Holy Gospel, according to Luke.

🔊 **Glory to you, O Lord.**

God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. ⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" ¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

📖 The Gospel of the Lord.

🔊 **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sit

Message

Silence for reflection

All children and youth, as well as the young at heart and playful spirits, are invited to come forward to make music and dance during the Hymn. Please choose one instrument to play or one scarf to use for waving and dancing.

Song of the Day *To Shepherds As They Watched by Night* Sung to tune of **ELW 384**

1. *To shepherds as they watched by night appeared a host of angels bright;
Behold the tender Babe, they said, in yonder lowly manger laid.*
2. *At Bethlehem, in David's town, as Micah did of old make known;
'Tis Jesus Christ, your Lord and King, who does to all salvation bring.*
3. *Oh, then rejoice that through His Son God is with sinners now at one;
Made like yourselves of flesh and blood, Your brother is the eternal God.*
4. *What harm can sin and death then do? The true God now abides with you.
Let hell and Satan rage and chafe, Christ is your Brother--you are safe.*
5. *Not one He will or can forsake who Him his confidence doth make.
Let all his wiles the Tempter try, You may his utmost powers defy.*
6. *You shall and must at last prevail; God's own you are, you cannot fail.
To God forever sing your praise with joy and patience all your days.*

Nicene Creed

A We confess our faith as one body in Christ Jesus:

C We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Kneel or sit as able.

Prayers

A Rejoicing in the good news of Christ's birth and dwelling in hope, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

A Holy God, from you comes all grace and righteousness. Bind your church together during this Christmas season, that we bear witness to the truth of the gospel throughout the world. Strengthen the faith of our bishops and congregations and all the servants of your church. Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Holy God, all creation reveals your splendor and majesty. Guide us in caring for the earth and all it contains, and bring about favorable weather during this time of travel. Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Holy God, in the midst of chaos, your Son was born for us. Instill in politicians, military leaders, and civil servants a desire for justice and peace. Protect the lives of those who serve in the military, especially Myrina Clements, Kayla Pohl, Joshua Wright, Tim Krewson and Tyler Van Houten. Lord in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Holy God, you care for your children in this and every place. Grant relief to those in fear, shelter to the homeless, community to the isolated, joy to expectant parents, relief to those who yearn for children, and healing to the sick. Comfort all in need in body, mind, or spirit, especially *Steve Kaiser, Rick Palmer, Victoria Steadman, John Burdick, Elsie Merrow, Dave Hills, Jennifer Andersen, Bonnie Ehredt, Oliver Cheeseman, Debra Wood and George Ulrich Jr.* Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Holy God, protect those who travel, comfort those who are alone, accompany those who celebrate, and make your presence known among those who gather around word and sacrament. Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Be attentive, gracious God, to the individual petitions we lift to you in loud voice or in the silence of our hearts.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Holy God, your Son became incarnate to provide salvation for all. Lead us by the example of the faithful departed as we await the blessed hope of the life to come. Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Hear the prayers of your people, glorious God, for the sake of the one who took on our nature and form to redeem the whole world, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

Stand as you are able

Sharing the Peace of God

P The peace of Christ be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

(We share the peace of Christ with one another.)

Sit

Offering of Gifts and Music

The offering is received as the table is prepared.

Carol of the Bells by Mykola D Leontovych

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day by John Marks

Kristi Winick & Carla Neil, piano

Stand as you are able.

Offering Song

In The Bleak Midwinter

ELW 294 (red book)

Offering Prayer

A Let us pray . . . God with us: You came as a baby to a manger.

C **You slept on straw and greeted shepherds. You come again in bread and wine. Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things. And then, through these gifts, help us to bless the lives of others in the strength of your holy name. Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give God our thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven we praise your name.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Je-sus, Je-sus, oh, what a wonderful child." It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff for the vocal line and a bass clef staff for the piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The piano part features a steady accompaniment with chords and a melodic line in the right hand.

Je - sus, Je - sus, so ho - ly, meek, and

mild; new life, new hope the child will bring.

Lis-ten to the an - gels sing: "Glo - ry, glo - ry,

glo - ry," let the heav - ens ring!

Eucharistic Prayer

☞ Holy God, Creator of all and Source of life, at the birth of time your word brought light into the world.

☞ **In the fullness of time, you sent your Word, born of Mary, to shine in our darkness and to make us your daughters and sons.**

☞ In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; He broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

☞ **Remembering, therefore, his birth and life among us, his death and resurrection, we await his coming again when all things will be restored in him.**

☞ By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup, that, held and nourished by you, we may live as your children, shining with the light of your Son.

☞ **Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

☞ Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

☞ **Our Father in heaven, holy be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

☞ Joy to the world! The Lord is come. Let every heart receive the Savior.

Sit

Sharing the Meal

The usher(s) will release you from the pew. Left side and right side will process forward simultaneously forming two lines, to receive holy communion. Let the usher know if would like to receive communion in the pew.

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Vocal Solo

Oh, Holy Night *composer Adolphe Adam*

Away in a Manger

The First Noel

Of the Father's Love Begotten

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

ELW 276 (red book)

Julian Kratochvil

ELW 278

ELW 300

ELW 295

ELW 282

Stand

Prayer after Communion

A On this day, O God, you gave us Christ the Son to save us.

C As you sent the one foretold, send us now with good news for all people. Let the gladness of this feast have no end as we share with others the joy that fills us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Blessing

P May Christ, who by his incarnation has filled us with grace and truth, give you peace this Christmas and always. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

Sending Song

Silent Night

ELW 281 (red book)

vs 1 sung in German

Congregation then sings vs 1-3

Dismissal

A Glory to God in the highest!

C Peace to God's people on earth!

A Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

C Thanks be to God.