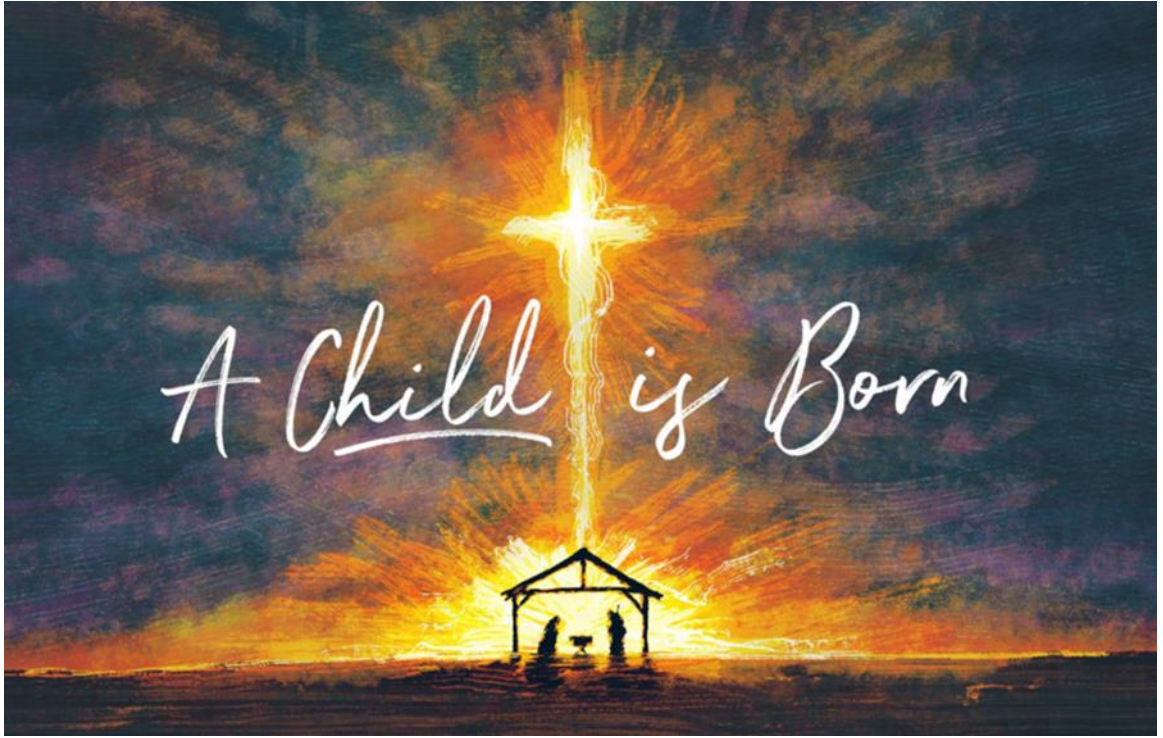


The Nativity of Our Lord
Christmas Eve



Candlelight Service

December 24, 2022 - 5:30 p.m.

During the Christmas season, the Lectionary readings invite us to reflect on the Incarnation of God: Jesus, God's Word made flesh. In the person of Christ, God enters human history and identifies with the human condition. Traditional colors of the season include white and gold, symbolizing joy in the light of day. The use of the color red on the Christmas Wreath symbolizes God's love.

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Welcome!

Christmas Eve
Pre-Service Concert

Adeste Fideles

by Renoud de Vilbac
Chris Bush, piano

Away in a Manger

19th century Carol by James Murray
Lexi and Lydia Markwart, vocal duet
Jeanette Markwart, piano

Coventry Carol

Traditional English Carol, arr. Carla Neil and Kristi Winick
Carla Neil, Hohner and Kristi Winick, piano

Away in a Manger/Silent Night

by Stilman/Gruber, arr. Gail Leven Pollock
Marcia Bowman, piano and Cindy Olson, organ

Free Improvisation on Away in a Manger

by Murray/Kirkpatrick, arr. Bob Oster
Bob Oster, piano

Pat-a-Pan

by Bernard De La Monnoye, arr. Nicole Chamberlain
Kim Domke and Cindy Olson, flute

Gesu Bambino

by Pietro A. Yon, arr. Bill Galliford
Chris Bush, piano and Cindy Olson, organ

Arise in body or spirit

**CELEBRATION OF LIGHT ON THE CHRISTMAS WREATH
THE CHRIST CANDLE & CHRISTMAS GOOD NEWS**

- Ⓟ The angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people. To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.”
- Ⓢ **And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, goodwill to all people.”**



CAROL of WORSHIP

O Come, All Ye Faithful
Stanzas 1 & 2

ELW 283



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 The 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



Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!



GREETING and CHRISTMAS LITANY

- A** You seek a child, who is rare and wonderful, who is beautiful, pure and loving.
C **Show us where he lies. We know that Jesus is here with us on Earth.**
- P** Christ is the Righteous One, the celebration of salvation, God's chosen One, who came to be among us.
C **We travel through life looking for the Prince of Peace.**
- A** Our God, the Lord Almighty, shows us gentle loving kindness in ways that are mysterious to us.
C **We are given a baby, but this child is indeed the Mighty God.**
- P** The grace of our Savior Jesus Christ, Word made flesh, born of Mary, be with you all.
C **And also with you.**

CAROL of PRAISE

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

ELW 270



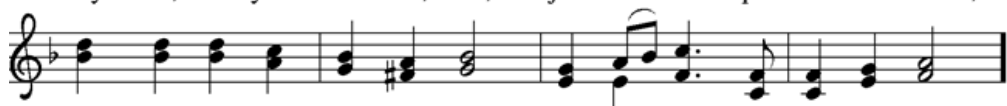
1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king;



peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

Ⓟ
To

us a child is born.

Ⓞ To us a son is given.



Ⓐ Tonight Christ appears.

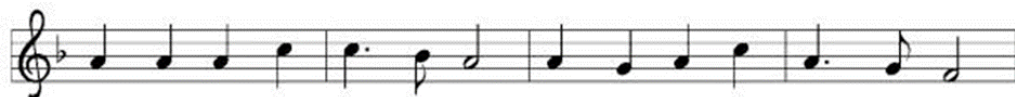
Ⓞ Tonight salvation comes.

Ⓟ Tonight we proclaim together.

Ⓞ "Glory to God in the highest. Peace to God's people on earth!"



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi-lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



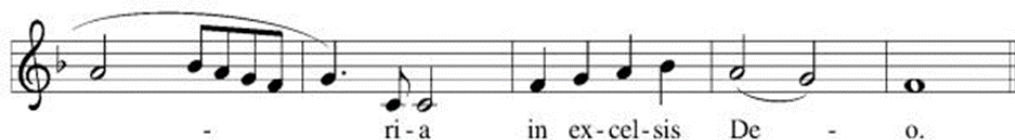
Refrain

Glo

ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo



ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Christmas Prayer

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



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.

📖 Word of God. Word of life.

🙏 Thanks be to God.



I Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the
Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;
hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to
you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.



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 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.

📖 Word of God. Word of life.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

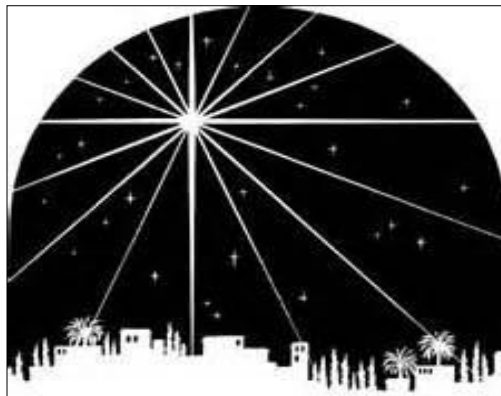
Je - sus, Je - sus, oh, what a won - der - ful child.

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!



Gospel Reading

John 1:1-14

The prologue to the Gospel of John describes Jesus as the Word of God made flesh, the one who reveals God to be “full of grace and truth.”

☞ The Nativity Gospel according to John.

☞ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²Jesus was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without Christ not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in Jesus was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the

☞ The Nativity Gospel of our Lord.

☞ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰Jesus was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹Christ came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Je - sus, Je - sus, oh, what a won - der - ful child.

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!

Children's Time

Message

Silence for reflection



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
 Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

A Pondering the mystery of the Word made flesh, let us bring before the throne of God our prayer on behalf of the church, the world, and all people in need.

A brief silence.

A The shepherds sing, “Jesus Christ is born!” Let your church throughout the world proclaim this good news, over the hills and everywhere. Unite the voices of all your faithful people in songs of praise and rejoicing. God of our salvation,

C **thank you for hearing us.**

A Heaven and nature sing, “Joy to the world!” Give respite to flocks, fields, and those who tend them. Come near to us in the beauty of nighttime, the shining of the stars, and the hush of a world at rest. May our wonder at your creation rouse our care for all the earth. God of our salvation,

C **thank you for hearing us.**

A The angels sing, “Peace on earth!” Come quickly to still the strife of this world. Hush the noise of war and violence in places of unrest. Inspire leaders of nations to seek lasting peace and sustainable provision for all in their care. God of our salvation,

C **thank you for hearing us.**

A Mary sings melodies of comfort to her newborn child. Bring rest and reassurance to those facing struggles this night. Shelter travelers and those without homes. Console those who lie awake due to pain or anxiety. Heal those who are sick or hurting. God of our salvation,

C **thank you for hearing us.**

A Love sings through the sound of a new baby’s cry. Bless new parents and expectant parents. Comfort those who long for children, especially those running out of hope or options. Surround families of every shape and size with your love and care. God of our salvation,

C **thank you for hearing us.**

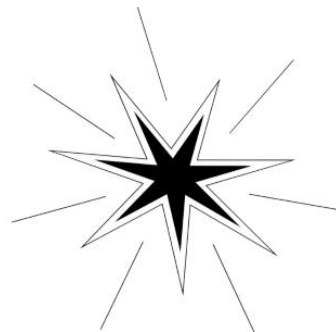
Here other intercessions may be offered.

A The heavenly chorus sings, “Glory to God in the highest!” We give you thanks for all the saints who have proclaimed your glory in word and deed. Let us join them this night in joyful praise around your eternal throne. God of our salvation,

C **thank you for hearing us.**

P Confident that you establish righteousness and justice in the world, we commend to you all for whom we pray, through your Son and our redeemer, Jesus Christ.

☐ Amen.



PEACE

☐ The peace of the newborn Christ be with you always.

☑ And also with you.



Offering of Gifts and Music

Thankful

by Sager, Foster, and Page
Sung by Cindy Olson, Marcia Bowman on piano



1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
 2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor . . . earth sus - tain;
 3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
 heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;
 If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;



snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed
 if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;



in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
 the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.
 yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

- 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.**

Lord's Prayer

- P** Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- C** **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.**





1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.



Candlelight Service

- Ⓟ The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
- Ⓢ **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**
- Ⓐ Those who dwell in the land of deep darkness – on them light shined.
- Ⓢ **We have seen Christ's light, the light from God is Jesus.**
- Ⓟ For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.
- Ⓢ **In Jesus is life, and the life is the light of all the world.**



Carol of Fulfillment

Silent Night

ELW 281

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,

Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
 heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your

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

Descant

arrangement Donna Buehl

sung by Cindy Olson

- A** Jesus said, “I am the light of the world...”
- C** **Those who follow me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life.”**
- P** For in Christ is life, and that life is the light of all.
- C** **We have seen Christ’s glory, glory as of the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.**
- A** So let your light shine before all, that they may see the good that you do, and give glory to your Father in heaven. Jesus Christ is the light of the world!
- C** **We lift high the light of Christ.** (*Please lift your candle*)
- P** As we lift the light of Christ, the world is indeed filled with God’s light.
- C** **Amen!**

Blessing

- P** 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**

Refrain

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;

go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

- 1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
- 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
- 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;

be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho-rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

Refrain

Dismissal

- P Glory to God in the highest!
- C Peace to God's people on earth!
- A Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.
- T Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Hallelujah Chorus from "The Messiah"

Handel/Setchell

*Marcia Bowman, piano
Cindy Olson, organ*

Away in a Manger

by Murray/Spillman, arr. James D. Kimball
Grace Notes



Assisting Minister – Chris Bush

Lector – Anna Scheck

Minister of Music – Cindy Olson

Musicians – Chris Bush, Kim Domke, Carla Neil, Anna Scheck, Ethan Scheck, Laura Scheck, Carol and Jack Vos, Kristi Winick, Grace Notes – COVID 19 Bell Choir Members: Kim Domke, Leona Frost, Joan Heffelbower, Samantha McClive, Vickie McKellar, Lisa Pohl and Anita Shaw

Pastor – Ken Scheck

We thank all of those who helped put this worship service together to God's glory. Have a blessed and merry CHRISTMAS!

Stewardship Information

Attendance: 55	Views: 210	Weekly Giving: \$3,105.00	Budget Amount: \$4,163.28
Renew: \$2,177.00	Surplus	Social Activities: \$40.00	Miscellaneous: \$40.00
ELCA Youth Gathering: \$84.50		Food Pantry: \$40.00	Outreach: \$230.00

WELCOME TO CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE. We hope that you can feel the presence of God in your midst.

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY AT 10 AM. We will have our Christmas and Epiphany Lesson and Carols worship service. Start out the New Year with worship!

We have raised the funds for our Replace, Repair, Renew Campaign. THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTNERSHIP! Look for Council's next phase of fundraising, as we are facing a deficit. Thanks for your generosity and support as we further the mission of Jesus Christ.

The nursery is available during tonight's worship service. Aurora Collins is the Nursery Attendant. She would love to have some little ones visit her. Please spread the word that Grace provides childcare during this worship service.

Adult Forum continues to study the Psalms in the Gathering Area. We will begin again on January 8th at 9:30 am. Hope to see you there!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY THAT IS SHARED WITH GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH THROUGH YOUR contributions to the MINISTRY OF JESUS CHRIST. As the year comes to a close, we would like to remind you that anything that is received beyond January 1, 2023, must be declared by the church for 2023.

Christmas Family Adoptions. Thank you for all your help in providing for 5 families in need this year.

The GIVING TREE remains up until January 5, 2023. We thank you for helping with all of these projects.

Devotionals from the Community Outreach Committee **are available in the Gathering Area.**

Look for the Noisy Offering Bowl. It returns this January. We will begin collecting coins for Barry County Cares the second Sunday of each month.