

*The Nativity of Our Lord
Christmas Eve*



*Candlelight Service
December 24, 2023 7:00pm*

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 gold on the Christmas Wreath symbolizes God's purity and life for all.

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Christmas Eve Concert

See Insert

Welcome/Worship Instructions

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

ELW 283 (red book)



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

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

ELW 276

Infant holy, infant lowly,
for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging, angels singing,
bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child is Lord of all!

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping
vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story,
tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the child was born for you!
Christ the child was born for you!

- P** To us a child is born.
C **To us a son is given.**
- A** Tonight Christ appears.
C **Tonight salvation comes.**
- P** Tonight we proclaim together.
C **“Glory to God in the highest. Peace to God's people on earth!”**



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

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn king.
Gloria in excelsis Deo;
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

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.



Grace Singers

Noel Peace Cannon

by Ruth Elaine Schram

Sit

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.

Love Has Come

ELW 292

**Love has come — a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
Hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory 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 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 Word of God. Word of life.

G **Thanks be to God.**

Arise in body or spirit

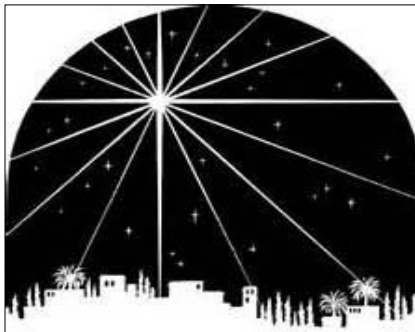
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Holy Child within a Manger

Stanzas 1&2

WOV 638

(blue book)



Gospel Reading

Luke 2:1-20

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.

☞ The Nativity Gospel according to Luke.

☞ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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 Nativity Gospel of our Lord.

☞ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sit

CAROL of BIRTH

Holy Child Within a Manger

Stanza 3

WOV 638

Children's Time

All children (including infants) and youth who desire to come forward for the children's sermon are welcomed and encouraged to do so. Parents/caregivers are welcome to accompany their child during the children's message. There may be a time of dance and celebration that is offered.

Message

Silence for reflection

Carol of the Day

On Christmas Night

ELW 274



Kneel or sit as you are able for prayer

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.

After each petition

A God of our salvation,
C **thank you for hearing us.**

The prayers conclude

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.**

Sit



*The choir is presenting **Child of the Poor** which includes **What Child is This** at the direction of the choir director, the congregation will be invited to arise in body or spirit, and sing “What Child is This” with the choir.*

Offering of Gifts and Music

Everyone at worship is encouraged to fill out a Participation card and place it in the offering plate tonight.

Grace Singers

Child of the Poor

by Scott Soper

Offertory

What Child is This?

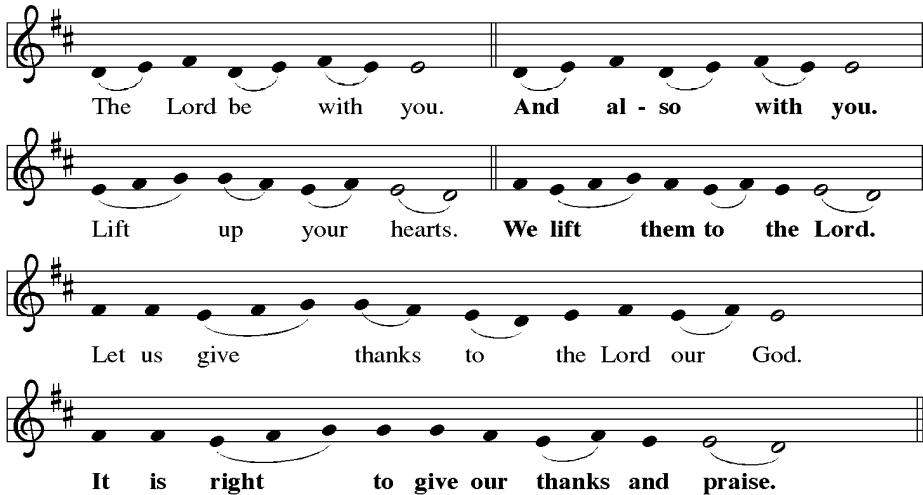
ELW 296

**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!**

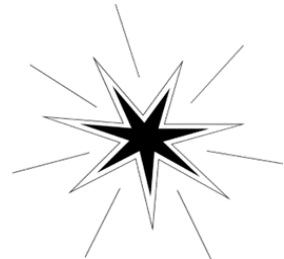
OFFERTORY PRAYER

- Ⓐ Let us pray....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 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



Ⓔ 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 the church on earth, all creation and the host of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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!

Table 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.
Come, and give us life.**

- ☐ In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
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.
Come, and give us life.**
- ☐ 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.
- ☑ **Come and give us life. 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

P Joy to the world! The Lord is come.

G Thanks be to God.

Sit

Sharing the Meal



Believing in the Real Presence of Christ, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America practices Eucharistic Hospitality. Admission to the Sacrament is by invitation of the Lord, presented through the Church to those who are baptized. Those who do not wish to receive the Sacrament may come forward with their arms crossed and receive a blessing.

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 you would like to receive communion in the pew.

Go Tell It on the Mountain

The First Noel

In the Bleak Midwinter

ELW 290

ELW 300

ELW 294



Arise in body or spirit.

Prayer after Communion

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

G 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.



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.**



- 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!**

*Please **extinguish** your candle after a time of reflection and ponder the gift that is given us by our good and gracious God.*

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**

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive its 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.**

**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.**

Dismissal

☐ Glory to God in the highest!

☑ Peace to God's people on earth!

☐ Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

☑ Thanks be to God.



Christmas Eve

Prelude

Christmas Eve Concert, 2023

Of the Father's Love Begotten

13th Century Plainsong

Cindy Olson, organ

Carla Neil and Kristi Winick, piano

Carol Medley: Were You There on that Christmas Night & O Come, Little Children

by L. Geyer/C. Von Schmid

Kristi Winick, piano

O Holy Night

by Adolphe Adam

Lydia Markwart, vocals

Jeanette Markwart, piano

Winterscapes

by Dennis J. Burnside

Carla Neil, piano

Mary Had a Baby

by N. Price/D. Besig

Vickey Argo, vocals

Cindy Olson, piano

Do You Hear What I Hear?

by Gloria Shayne Baker

Carla Neil and Kristi Winick, piano

Mary, Did You Know?

by B. Green/M. Lowry

Ethan and Kelsey Scheck, vocals

Ethan Scheck, guitar

Stewardship Information

Please use this QR
Code to access
online giving.



Attendance: 51

Views: 262

Weekly Giving: \$5,704.92

Budget Amount: \$4,366.17

Helping Hands Fund Pasties: \$100.00

Outreach Giving Tree: \$50.00

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

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.

The Congregational Care Committee will be meeting On Monday, January 15 at 3:00 p.m.

On New Year's Eve will have a combined morning service at 10 am on December 31st.

Giving Tree. The Giving Tree in the Gathering Area is up. This year we will be gathering items of donation to the **Alpha Women's Center** and **Family Promise of Barry County**. Tags with suggested donations will be hanging on the tree for you take with you as a reminder. Please do not wrap these donations so the organizations can easily identify each donation. **Donations can be received through January 7th.**

Giving Envelopes and Numbers Giving envelopes are available in your mailboxes. If you requested "no envelopes" over the summer and now need them, please let Brenda know and she will give you some. Some people will be keeping their current numbers, but many will get new numbers for 2024. We will be sure to keep you updated as we get closer to the new year. It will be helpful to write your name on the outside of your envelope during the month of JANUARY in case there are changes we need to make. Thank you.

Women of Faith normally meets Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m. They will begin again in the new year on January 9th. All ladies are welcome.

Book Study entitled Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist. The next study session is **January 28th at 9:30.**

Assisting Minister – Anna Scheck

Lector – Jack Vos

Minister of Music – Cindy Olson

Pastor – Ken Scheck