

“Good News from Bethlehem”



+ CHRISTMAS EVE +
Candlelight Vespers & Children's Program
Friday, 24 December A+D 2021 • 7:00 P.M.



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Lutheran Service Book, Vespers, pg. 229

PRELUDE

Stand

OPENING HYMN

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" LSB 379

1 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: *Refrain*

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

2 Highest, most holy,
Light of Light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;
Son of the Father
Now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

3 Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
In the highest: *Refrain*

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*

Text: Public domain

P O Lord, open my lips,
C and my mouth will declare Your praise.

P Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

C make haste to help me, O Lord.

C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
Praise to You, O Christ. Alleluia.

PSALMODY

PSALM

Psalm 110:1–4; antiphon: v. 2a

P The LORD sends forth from Zion

C your mighty scepter.

P The LORD says to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand,

C until I make your enemies your footstool.”

P The LORD sends forth from Zion your mighty scepter.

C Rule in the midst of your enemies!

P Your people will offer themselves freely on the day of your power, in holy garments;

C from the womb of the morning, the dew of your youth will be yours.

P The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind,

C “You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.”

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P The LORD sends forth from Zion

C your mighty scepter.

Sit

OFFICE HYMN

"Once in Royal David's City" LSB 376

- 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.
- 3 For He is our childhood's pattern,
Day by day like us He grew;
He was little, weak, and helpless,

Tears and smiles like us He knew;
And He feels for all our sadness,
And He shares in all our gladness.

4 And our eyes at last shall see Him,
Through His own redeeming love;
For that child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heav'n above;
And He leads His children on
To the place where He is gone.

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!

Text: Public domain

READINGS

READING

Isaiah 7:10–14

P A reading from Isaiah, chapter 7.

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹“Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹²But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” ¹³And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

READING

1 John 4:7–16

P A reading from 1 John, chapter 4.

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in

him, and he in God. ¹⁶So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18–25

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).

²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit



"GOOD NEWS FROM BETHLEHEM"

OPENING

Pearl, Cloe

HYMN

"O Little Town of Bethlehem" LSB 361 sts. 1, 4

- 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.
- 4 O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel!

Text: Public domain

PART 1

Pearl, Miles, Joanna, Katie, Riley, Gabi, Eli, Cloe

HYMN

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" LSB 380

- 1 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 the angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!" *Refrain*

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

- 2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail the incarnate Deity!

Pleased as Man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel! *Refrain*

- 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. *Refrain*

Text: Public domain

PART 2

Cloe, Riley, Eli, Miles, Katie, Pearl

HYMN

"What Child Is This" LSB 370

PART 3

Pearl, Miles, Joanna, Katie, Riley, Eli, Gabi, Cloe

CHILDREN'S SONG

"Away in a Manger"

PART 4

Pearl, Eli, Cloe

HYMN

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" LSB 393

Children:

- 1 *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!*

Congregation:

- 2 **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!**

Text: Public domain

PART 5

Eli, Katie, Riley, Cloe, Pearl, All Children

HYMN

"Angels We Have Heard on High" LSB 368

- 1 Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains. *Refrain*

Refrain Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

- 2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly song? *Refrain*

- 3 Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. *Refrain*

Text: Public domain

SERMON

"No God...No Love; Know God...Know Love" 1 John 4:7-16

OFFERING

"Étude Op. 25 No. 1," Frédéric Chopin



Stand

KYRIE

LSB 233

C Lord, have mercy;
 Christ, have mercy;
 Lord, have mercy.

LORD'S PRAYER

C 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.

P The Lord be with you.

C And with your spirit.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

COLLECT FOR PEACE

P O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The candles are now lit for the singing of "Silent Night, Holy Night." The pastor will light his candle from the Christ candle in the center of the Advent wreath and then light the

*candles of the ushers. The ushers will pass down the center aisle to light the candle of the person seated at the end of each pew. Worshipers then light their candles from the person seated next to them. **Please tip the *unlit* candles into the lit candles to avoid dripping wax on the pews and carpet.***

CANDLELIGHT HYMN

"Silent Night, Holy Night" LSB 363

- 1 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.

- 2 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!

- 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.

Text: Public domain

BENEDICAMUS

LSB 234

- P** Let us bless the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

LSB 234

- P** The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C** Amen.

The candles are extinguished.

HYMN TO DEPART

"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.
- 4 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.

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POSTLUDE



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Vespers from Lutheran Service Book

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+ SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE +

<i>Elder:</i>	Jim Reed
<i>Organ:</i>	Don Hoaglund
<i>Saxophone:</i>	Rob Kuehl
<i>Piano:</i>	Rob Calderwood

THANK YOU TO OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL MINISTRY TEAM of Erin Forsberg, Carol Lundy, and Kristi Pickering for their work in producing this year's Christmas program. Your service is greatly appreciated!