

Lutheran Church of the Resurrection
Sunday, December 24, 2017
The Nativity of Our Lord – 6:00, 8:00 & 10:00 PM
Festival Service of Carols, Communion and Candlelight



AS WE GATHER

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. God comes to us in human flesh--in Christ's body and blood--so that we may be bearers of divine light to all the world.

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PRELUDE	6:00 8:00 & 10:00	Medley of Carols Organ Prelude	Voices of Faith Jim Brown, Organist
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GREETING AND WELCOME

CANDLE LIGHTING CEREMONY FOR ADVENT

"God is Near"
Choral Introit

RESPONSIVE LITANY

The Angel's Message: Welcome

Tonight we gather with joyful hearts to receive God's greatest gift.

Joy to the world, the Lord has come!

Tonight we hear again the good news that was given for all people.

Joy to the world, the Lord has come!

Tonight we join in steadfast wonder at God's amazing love.

Joy to the world, the Lord has come!

Tonight we welcome the Savior whose birth has forever changed our lives.

Joy to the world, the Lord has come!

CANDLE LIGHTING

Tonight we light all the candles. The first candle reminds that Jesus Christ is the gift of hope to a world in need. The second candle calls us to believe that just as God's wonder filled that first Christmas night, God still works miracles today. The third candle calls us to faithful acceptance of God's unfolding plan. The fourth candle calls us to embrace God's unchanging word. And tonight, we light the final candle, as we celebrate God's amazing love by welcoming the birth of our Savior.

Congregation:

God is Near

The musical score is written on four staves in a single system. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

Lis - ten to the an - gels, hear the mes - sage they bring;
tell - ing the news of a com - ing King; fill - ing the
world with_ hope and good cheer. Je - sus, Em -
man - u - el, _____ God is near. _____

(Please stand as you are able)

CAROL

Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful

ELW 283

Oh, come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him born the king of angels:

Refrain

Oh, come, let us adore him, oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, 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: **Refrain**

CHRISTMAS DIALOGUE AND GREETING

P The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

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

P Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

C We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

P For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

C In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

P May the grace and truth of Christ be with you.

C And also with you.

OPENING PRAYER

P 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.

C Amen

(Please be seated)

SPECIAL MUSIC	6:00 & 8:00	"Mary Did You Know"	Chancel Choir & Bryce Simmons
	10:00	"Who Would Send a Baby?"	Shirley Murray

FIRST READING ISAIAH 9:2-7

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.

HYMN

O Little Town Of Bethlehem

ELW 279

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.

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;
Oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

SECOND READING **Titus 2:11-14**

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.

(Please stand as you are able)

HYMN **Hark! The Herald Angels Sing** **ELW 270**

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

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 we no more may die,
Born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL **Luke 2:1-7**

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.

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
 The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
 The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
 The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,
 But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
 I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
 And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Luke 2:8-20

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.

Refrain

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;
 Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
 Behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. *Refrain*

Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born;
 And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

(Please be seated)

THE PRAYERS

- P Glory to God in the highest,
C **and peace to God's people on earth.**
- P Blessed are you, Prince of Peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.
C **Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.**
- P Blessed are you, Wonderful Counselor. You enlighten the heart with steadfast love.
C **Enliven your church that it might bear good tidings of great joy to all people.**
- P Blessed are you, Emmanuel. You promise to be with us even to the end of the age.
C **Open our eyes to see your presence in all who are hungry, lonely, or homeless.**
- P Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.
C **Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.**
- P Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.
C **Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bear your light to all the world.**

GIFTS OF OFFERING 6:00 "The Birthday of a King" Voices of Faith
8:00 & 10:00 Organ Offertory Jim Brown, Organist

(Please stand as you are able)

OFFERING HYMN

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!

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

- 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 thanks and praise.**

P God and Father of Jesus, on this holy night you give us your Son, the Lord of the universe and the savior of all people, as an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.

In the first moments of his life you showed us the greatness of your love.

Open us up to the mystery of a baby's love and enable us to recognize him in this plain-spoken word and simple meal.

On 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. Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P Lord, remember us in your Kingdom and teach us to pray:

THE 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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

(Please be seated)

(The ushers will direct you to one of the communion stations. Please take the communion wafer from the server and dip it into the chalice (the dark liquid is wine and the clear liquid is grape juice). Gluten free wafers and wine are available from the server in the center. If you prefer not to commune, but would like to receive a blessing, please cross your arms in front of you and one of the pastors will offer you a blessing.)

Your Little Ones, Dear Lord

ELW 286

- 1 Your little ones, dear Lord, are we, and come your lowly bed to see;
enlighten ev'ry soul and mind, that we the way to you may find.
- 2 With songs we hasten you to greet, and kiss the ground before your feet.
Oh, blessed hour, oh, sweetest night that gave you birth, our soul's delight.
- 3 Oh, draw us wholly to you, Lord, and to us all your grace accord;
true faith and love to us impart, that we may hold you in our heart.
- 4 Until at last we too proclaim, with all your saints, your glorious name;
in paradise our songs renew, and praise you as the angels do.

The First Noel

ELW 300

The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night. *Refrain*

And by the light of that same star three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went. *Refrain*

This star drew near to the northwest, o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
and there it did both stop and stay right over the place where Jesus lay. *Refrain*

Then entered in those wise men three, full rev'rently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. *Refrain*

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

ELW 282

- 1 It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.
- 2 Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heav'nly music floats o'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hov'ring wing,
and ever o'er its babel sounds the blessed angels sing.
- 3 And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow:
look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing;
oh, rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing!

4 For lo! The days are hast'ning on, by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.

I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve

ELW 271

1 I am so glad each Christmas Eve, the night of Jesus' birth!
Then like the sun the star shone forth, and angels sang on earth.

2 The little child in Bethlehem, he was a king indeed!
For he came down from heav'n above to help a world in need.

3 He dwells again in heaven's realm, the Son of God today;
and still he loves his little ones and hears them when they pray.

4 I am so glad each Christmas Eve! His praises then I sing;
he opens now for ev'ry child the palace of the king.

5 And so I love each Christmas Eve, and I love Jesus too;
and that he loves me ev'ry day I know so well is true.

(Please stand as you are able)

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

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

C **Amen**

THE GOSPEL OF THE INCARNATION & LIGHTING OF CANDLES John 1:1-14

(Following the pastor's lead, light your candle by turning on the switch on the bottom)

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. 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 light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the

world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He 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.

HYMN OF LIGHT

Silent Night, Holy Night!

ELW 281

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. (repeat a-capella)

BLESSING

P May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ Child. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

C **Amen**

(The candles are extinguished.)

SENDING HYMN

Joy to the World

ELW 267

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.

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

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace, Christ is born!

C **Thanks be to God. Hallelujah!**

POSTLUDE	6:00 8:00 & 10:00	“Once in Royal David’s City” Organ Postlude	Arr. M. Hayes Jim Brown, Organist
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*Thank you for worshiping with us tonight.
Please join us again!*

Lectors: Sharon Blomquist/Sally Loper/Anne Merino



WORSHIP AT RESURRECTION:

<i>Traditional Worship in Sanctuary</i>	<i>8:00 & 11:00 am</i>
<i>Contemporary Worship in Faith Center</i>	<i>9:30 am</i>
<i>Sunday School, all ages</i>	<i>9:30 am</i>



*You are
invited to*

*New Year's Eve Day Service
Sunday, December 31st*

(ONE WORSHIP SERVICE ONLY)

*At 11:00 a.m.
In the Church Sanctuary*