

December 24, 2017
Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Eve
5:00 pm & 7:30 pm

INTRODUCTION

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.

PRELUDE

"Sing With Joy, Glad Voices Lift"

Hermann Schroeder

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Birthday of a King"

Neidlinger

Sharmyn Thompson, soprano

*GATHERING CAROL

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

ELW 283

Phil Heeler, trumpet

**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

**O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!**

**The highest, most holy,
light of light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father
now in flesh appearing! *Refrain***

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

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*

***PROCLAMATION OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST**

Ⓟ *Many ages after God created the heavens and the earth,
when man and woman were formed in God's own image;
long after the great flood, when God set the rainbow
in the clouds as a sign of the covenant;
twenty-one centuries from the time of Abraham and Sarah;
thirteen centuries after Moses led God's people to freedom;
eleven centuries from the time of Ruth and the judges;
a thousand years from the anointing of David as king;
in the sixty-fifth week as Daniel's prophecy takes note;
in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad;
the seven hundred and fifty-second year
from the founding of the city of Rome;
the forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus;
in the sixth age of the world, all earth being at peace,
Jesus Christ, eternal God, Son of the eternal Father,
willing to hallow the world by his coming in mercy,
was born of the virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judea.
Today is the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ,
God made flesh.*

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

ANTHEM

"Breath of Heaven" (5:00 pm)
Kaitlin Sutton, soprano

Eaton/Grant

"O Little Town of Bethlehem" (7:30 pm) arr. Craig Courtney
Chancel Choir
Deon Jensen, soprano saxophone

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:2–7

℣ *The first reading for this Christmas Eve is from the book of Isaiah, the ninth chapter.*

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!**

SPECIAL MUSIC (7:30 pm)

Nicholas Pierce, guitar

SECOND READING

Titus 2:11–14

℣ *The second reading is from the book of Titus, the second chapter.*

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!**

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** (Tune: "I Wonder As I Wander")

📖 *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 Messia-h, the Lord.*

👤 *Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia*

👏 **Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia**

GOSPEL

Luke 2:1–20

📖 *The holy gospel according to _____.*

👏 **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 gospel of the Lord.*

👏 **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SPECIAL MUSIC (7:30 pm)

“Sweet Little Jesus Boy”

David Newman, tenor

Robert MacGimsey

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Kris Langdon

CHRISTMAS SERMON

“Savior and Lord”

Rev. Roger Lenander

CAROL

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of ev'ry nation,
joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,
born a child, and yet a king;
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

SPECIAL MUSIC (7:30 PM)

“Gesù Bambino”

Karen Jensen, soprano

arr. Mark Hayes

***CHRISTMAS CREED**

**☒ We believe in God,
the one who comes before us and goes behind us,
creating life and opportunities to love and care for the world.
We believe in Jesus Christ
who walks with us into real life each day.
He is God, yet human like us
and experienced all life’s joys
and pains and challenges like we do.
But his love is so great
that not sin nor suffering
nor even death could stop it.
Today the love of Jesus lives
and continues to bring new life to the world.
We believe in the Holy Spirit
who comes like the wind and blows in and through us**

to bring God's power and light to all the world.
 The Spirit breathes life into us,
 the body of Christ we call the church,
 and enables us to follow the way of Christ.
 We believe in God,
 who goes before and behind, with, in and through us,
 bringing hope and life and newness to the world. Amen!

***RESPONSIVE PRAYER**

- P** *It is you, loving God, who lights our path with truth.*
- C** **Your Word, Jesus, is truth.**
- P** *In his light, draw all to the manger*
- C** **to gather in wonder with the shepherds.**
- P** *In his light, draw all to the manger*
- C** **to kneel in reverence with the wise ones.**
- P** *In his light, draw all to the manger*
- C** **to sing for joy with the angels.**
- P** *In the brightness of his life*
- C** **cast away the darkness of injustice, poverty, and hunger in the world.**
- P** *It is you, loving God, who meets us on our way.*
- C** **In the light of Jesus, show the world the way of life. Amen!**

OFFERING

“Still, Still, Still” (5:00 PM) Hall Jacklin
“Who Is On The Lord’s Side?” (7:30 PM) Dinka Prayer Song

***OFFERING PRAYER**

- P** *God with us:*
- C** **You came as a baby to a manger. 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!**

SPECIAL MUSIC

“O, Holy Night” (5:00 pm) Adolphe Adam
 Aaron Schmidt, baritone
“O, Holy Night” (7:30 pm) Adolphe Adam
 Jim Pallone, tenor

***PREFACE** *(Tune: “O Come, All Ye Faithful”)*

- P** *The Lord be with you.*
- C** **And with you, His servant.**
- P** *O, come; let us lift our hearts unto the Lord.*
- C** **With hearts uplifted
 thanks to God we render;**

**with joy we come before you.
In gratefulness implore you.
With thankful hearts adore You evermore!**

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

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. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (Tune: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing)**

C **Holy, holy, holy Lord!
God of hosts, by all adored!
Heav'n and earth cannot contain
all the glory of Your name!
Hail, hosanna, God most high!
Blest is He who now draws nigh!
In the name of God the King!
Hallelujahs glad we sing;
Hail, hosanna! Praises due,
Be forever, Lord, to You!**

***EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

P *Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.
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.
Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:*

C **Christ has died.**

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

- P** *With this bread and cup
we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.*

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

- P** *Holy God, we long for your Spirit.
Come among us.
Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.*

C **Come, Holy Spirit.**

- P** *All praise and glory are yours,
Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High,
one God, now and forever.*

C **Amen!**

***LORD'S PRAYER** (*Tune: It Came Upon A Midnight Clear*)

- C** **Our Father, Lord on heaven's high throne,
most holy be Your name.
Your kingdom come, Your will be done
on earth - in heaven the same.
Give us this day the food we need;
forgiven may we be.
Into temptation do not lead,
from evil set us free.**
- Yours is the kingdom, unto You
in grateful love we bow;
And Yours the pow'r, Lord, let us
view Your mighty presence now.
The glory Yours, Your praise be sung
by angel hosts and all.
In Ev'ry Land, by ev'ry tongue
forevermore! Amen!**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Lullaby”

John Ness Beck

David Bezona, tenor

***BLESSING**

☞ *The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.*

☞ **Amen!**

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION** (*Tune: I Heard the Bells*)

☞ **Oh, thank the Lord, whose goodness sure
and steadfast love forever endure!
Our eyes have seen, our ears have heard,
and we have tasted of God’s word.**

**Lord, let us show the world Your light;
let us declare Your glory bright,
Proclaim Your death until You come
to take Your ransomed servants home.**

**Glory to God, the Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit, Three in One!
Oh, thank the Lord, whose goodness sure
and steadfast love forever endure!**

***LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

“Silent Night”

ELW 281

The first verse will be sung in German by Sharmyn Thompson

GERMAN

**Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
Alles schläft, einsam wacht
nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,
schlaf in himmlischer Ruh.**

ENGLISH

**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.

***BENEDICTION** (*Tune: O Come, All Ye Faithful*)

☐ *The Lord bless and keep you,
look with love upon you,
be gracious, and cause His face to shine with peace!*

☑ **Glory to the Father,
Son, and Holy Spirit!
The Savior close beside us,
God's love from harm to hide us,
the Spirit's power to guide us evermore!**

***SENDING CAROL**

"Joy to the World"
Phil Heeler, Trumpet
Jim Bunge, violin

ELW 267

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.

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.

No more let sin and sorrow 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.

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.

***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!**

POSTLUDE

"Joy to the World"

Gordon Young