

CHRISTMAS EVE
DECEMBER 24, 2020

Christmas Eve

- SERVICE -



HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

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CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Prelude

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT HYMN

Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful

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:
Oh, come, let us adore him, oh, come let us adore him
Oh, 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)

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:
Oh, come, let us adore him, oh, come let us adore him
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

CHRISTMAS DIALOG AND GREETING

P: The people who walked in the 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 of the Father.

P: For to us a child is born, to us a child 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray the prayer of the day together,

C: Almighty God, you have 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

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness-- on them light has shined. You 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. For 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. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For 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. His 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.

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

HYMN

O Little Town Of Bethlehem

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 street shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wonder'ring love.

O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!

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

¹¹The 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: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

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!"

Refrain:

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

Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace! Hail the son 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.

Refrain:

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

GOSPEL READING*Luke 2:1-7*

¹In 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.

HYMN*Away in a Manger*

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
 The little LORD Jesus laid down his sweet head;

The stars in the 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 til morning is nigh.

GOSPEL READING

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.

HYMN

Go Tell It On the Mountain

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hill 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:

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

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

Refrain:

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

SERMON

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: The bread of God comes down from heaven and gives life to the world. Come, eat and live.

C: Thanks be to God.

Holy Communion is a gift of God's Grace which offers forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. All who believe in Jesus Christ are invited to receive his body and blood in the bread and wine of this meal. You may have a little bread and some wine or grape juice ready. Following the words of institution as I repeat the words "*The Body of Christ*

broken and given for you", you may consume the bread. Then I will take the cup saying, "The Blood of Christ shed for you", then we all drink.

OFFERING– Thank you for your gifts that help continue the ministries at Holy Cross. You may use our Tithely link or you may mail your offerings to:

**Holy Cross Lutheran Church
48 Carnation Drive
Mountain Home, AR 72653
ATTN: Steve Kampen**



TITHE.LY

Our direct giving link:

<https://tithe.ly/give?c=558114>

OFFERTORY HYMN

What Child Is This?

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!

THE GOSPEL OF THE INCARNATION

John 1:1-14

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.

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 on 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 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.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES: Pastor will light a candle from the large center candle which symbolizes Christ, the Light of the world of whom John's gospel speaks. If there are others present and you are lighting for someone else please remember the lighted candle is never tilted, but is always held upright when giving light to another. Parents please carefully watch if your child has a lighted candle. If you don't have candles or for safety, consider using flashlights.

HYMN OF LIGHT

Silent Night, Holy Night

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

The candles are gently extinguished

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.

HYMN

Joy to the World

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.

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 of his love

DISMISSAL BLESSING

P: Go in peace. Your light has come.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: Have a safe and merry Christmas and blessings upon blessings in the 2021 year.