

# Our Savior's Lutheran Church

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**Christmas Eve 2020**

*In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.*

## **GATHERING MUSIC**

### **WELCOME**

#### **OPENING HYMN**

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

ELW 283

- |   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| 1 | O come, all ye faithful,<br>joyful and triumphant!<br>O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;<br>come and behold him,<br>born the king of angels: | 3 | Sing, choirs of angels,<br>sing in exultation,<br>sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!<br>Glory to God<br>in the highest: <i>Refrain</i> |
|---|--|---|--|

#### *Refrain*

- |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| 2 | The highest, most holy,<br>light of light eternal,<br>born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;<br>Son of the Father<br>now in flesh appearing! <i>Refrain</i> | 4 | Yea, Lord, we greet thee,<br>born this happy morning;<br>Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!<br>Word of the Father,<br>now in flesh appearing: <i>Refrain</i> |
|---|---|---|--|

## **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH AND CHRIST CANDLE**

**God our Savior, nothing is impossible for you. Prepare our hearts to rejoice in your glorious birth. Amen**

## **BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P Blessed be God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever.

**C Amen.**

P Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

P Loving and forgiving God,  
C **we confess that we are held captive by sin. In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger; we have not loved our neighbor; we have not been Christ to one another. Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin. Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.**

P People of God, hear this glad news: by God's endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free— free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God's love, ✠ comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

C **Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the rightness 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**

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE AND SONG *Away In the Manger*

1 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.

### SCRIPTURES

**Old Testament Reading** Isaiah 9:2-7

P The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God**

**New Testament Reading** Titus 2:11-14

P The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* ELW 270 (Verse 1)

1 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!"

**Gospel Reading**

Luke 2:1-20

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke the second chapter.

**C Glory to you O Lord.**

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.****HYMN***O Little Town of Bethlehem*

ELW 279 (Verse 1)

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.

**SERMON****HYMN OF THE DAY***Go Tell It on the Mountain*

ELW 290

Refrain

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

2 The shepherds feared and trembled  
 when, lo, above the earth  
 rang out the angel chorus  
 that hailed our Savior's birth. Refrain

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

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

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
 creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
 born of the virgin Mary,  
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** (see end of bulletin)

**PEACE**

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**C** **And also with you.**

**CHOIR ANTHEM** *No Golden Carriage*

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY SONG** *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* ELW 296 (Verse 1)

1 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;  
ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**P** Generous God:  
**C** **you came to us as one unknown, bringing joy and salvation to the earth.  
Nourish us at your banquet table, that with all who welcome your birth we  
may proclaim your peace, revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**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 our thanks and praise.**  
**P** *It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

**SONG***Angels We Have Heard on High*

ELW 289 (Verse 1)

- 1 Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.

*Refrain:* Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION****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.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Love has come: God's love for all people. Come and eat, for Christ invites you.

**POST COMMUNION BLESSING****PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P We give you thanks, gracious God, that you have once again fed us from your very self with the body and blood of Christ. Through this mystery, send us forth to proclaim your promise to a world in need, through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**C Amen**

**THE CANDLE LIGHTING CEREMONY****A READING FROM GENESIS AND JOHN****HYMN OF LIGHT***Silent Night, Holy Night!*

ELW 281

- 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 your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord at your birth, Jesus, Lord at your birth.

## BLESSING

P Almighty God, who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary, proclaimed joy through the angels, sent the shepherds with good news, and led the magi by a star, bless you this day † through the Word made flesh.

C **Amen**

## SENDING SONG

*Joy to the World*

ELW 267

- |   |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|
| 1 | Joy to the world, the Lord is come!<br>Let earth receive her king;<br>let ev'ry heart prepare him room<br>and heav'n and nature sing,<br>and heav'n and nature sing,<br>and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.      | 3 | No more let sin and sorrow grow<br>nor thorns infest the ground;<br>he comes to make his blessings flow<br>far as the curse is found,<br>far as the curse is found,<br>far as, far as the curse is found. |
| 2 | Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!<br>Let all their songs employ,<br>while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains<br>repeat the sounding joy,<br>repeat the sounding joy,<br>repeat, repeat the sounding joy. | 4 | He rules the world with truth and grace<br>and makes the nations prove<br>the glories of his righteousness<br>and wonders of his love,<br>and wonders of his love,<br>and wonders, wonders of his love.   |

## DISMISSAL

P Christ is born! Share the gift of Jesus. C **Thanks be to God.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need. (*A brief silence.*)

The shepherds sing, "Jesus Christ is born!" Let your church throughout the world proclaim this good news, over the hills and everywhere. Unite the voices of all your faithful people in songs of praise and rejoicing. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Heaven and nature sing, "Joy to the world!" Give respite to flocks, fields, and those who tend them. Come near to us in the beauty of nighttime, the shining of the stars, and the hush of a world at rest. May our wonder at your creation rouse our care for all the earth. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

The angels sing, "Peace on earth!" Come quickly to still the strife of this world. Hush the noise of war and violence in places of unrest. Inspire leaders of nations to seek lasting peace and sustainable provision for all in their care. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Mary sings melodies of comfort to her newborn child. Bring rest and reassurance to those facing struggles this night. Shelter travelers and those without homes. Console those who lie awake due to pain or anxiety. Heal those who are sick or hurting (*especially*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Love sings through the sound of a new baby's cry. Bless new parents and expectant parents. Comfort those who long for children, especially those running out of hope or options. Surround families of every shape and size with your love and care. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

The heavenly chorus sings, "Glory to God in the highest!" We give you thanks for all the saints who have proclaimed your glory in word and deed. Let us join them this night in joyful praise around your eternal throne. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

**"CALLED TO WORSHIP, SENT FORTH TO SERVE"**

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<b>Lector</b>	Cindy Knapp	
<b>Recording Technician</b>	Dick Rewalt	

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