

+ **THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD** +

Christmas Eve / December 24, 2021 / 10:00 pm



SILENT
NIGHT

A Service of Lessons and Carols

The Service of Lessons and Carols focuses on God's plan of salvation by the birth and death of his Son Jesus Christ, the Light of the world. The white candle on the Advent wreath symbolizes Christ, the Light of the world.

OPENING HYMN

“A Great and Mighty Wonder” | CW 36

**1 A great and mighty wonder, A glorious mystery:
A virgin bears an infant Who veils his deity.**

Refrain:

Repeat the hymn again:

“To God on high be glory And peace on earth to men.”

**2 The Word becomes incarnate And yet remains on high,
And cherubim sing anthems To shepherds from the sky. (Refrain)**

**3 While thus they sing your monarch, Those bright angelic bands,
Rejoice, O vales and mountains, And oceans, clap your hands. (Refrain)**

**4 Since all he comes to ransom, By all be he adored,
The infant born in Bethl'em, The Savior and the Lord. (Refrain)**

**5 All idols then shall perish And Satan's lying cease,
And Christ shall raise his scepter, Decreeing endless peace. (Refrain)**

Text: Germanus, c. 634–734; tr. John M. Neale, 1818–66, alt.

PRAYER

M: Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known on earth the wonder of that Light, we may also behold him in all his glory in the life to come; 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.

FIRST LESSON

The First Gospel Promise | **Genesis 3:8-15**

HYMN

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten” | CW 35

Choir *Of the Father’s love begotten Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending he,
Of the things that are, that have been, And that future years shall see
Evermore and evermore.*

Women **Oh, that birth forever blessed When the virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, Bore the Savior of our race,
And the babe, the world’s Redeemer, First revealed his sacred face
Evermore and evermore.**

Men **This is he whom heav’n-taught singers Sang of old with one accord;
Whom the Scriptures of the prophets Promised in their faithful word.
Now he shines, the long-expected; Let creation praise its Lord
Evermore and evermore.**

All **Let the heights of heav’n adore him, Angel hosts his praises sing,
Pow’rs, dominions bow before him And extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent, Ev’ry voice in concert ring
Evermore and evermore.**

SECOND LESSON*The Promise Repeated to Abraham* | **Genesis 22:15-18****HYMN**

“O Jesus Christ, Your Manger Is” | CW 40

Choir *O Jesus Christ, Your manger is
My paradise where my soul is reclining.
For there, O Lord, We find the Word
Made flesh for us—your grace is brightly shining.*

All **He whom the sea And wind obey
Comes down to serve the sinner in great meekness.
Now God’s own Son With us is one
And joins us and our children in our weakness.**

**The world may hold Her wealth and gold;
But you, my heart, keep Christ as your true treasure.
To him hold fast Until at last
A crown is yours and honor in full measure.**

THIRD LESSON

Light in the Darkness | Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

HYMN

“Where Shepherds Lately Knelt” | CW 54

Duet *Where shepherds lately knelt and kept the angel’s word,
I come in half-belief, a pilgrim strangely stirred;
But there is room and welcome there for me,
But there is room and welcome there for me.*

*In that unlikely place I find him as they said:
Sweet newborn Babe, how frail! and in a manger bed,
A still, small voice to cry one day for me,
A still, small voice to cry one day for me.*

All **How should I not have known Isaiah would be there,
His prophecies fulfilled? With pounding heart I stare:
A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me,
A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me.**

**Can I, will I forget how Love was born, and burned
Its way into my heart unasked, unforced, unearned,
To die, to live, and not alone for me,
To die, to live, and not alone for me?**

FOURTH LESSON

Lowly Bethlehem is Honored | Micah 5:2-4

HYMN

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” | CW 66

Choir *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.*

Women **For Christ is born of Mary, And, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, The angels keep Their watch of wond’ring love.
O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing To God the King And peace to all the earth.**

Men How silently, how silently The wondrous gift is giv'n!
 So God imparts To human hearts The blessings of his heav'n.
 No ear may hear his coming, But in this world of sin
 Where meek souls will Receive him still, The dear Christ enters in.

All 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!

FIFTH LESSON

Mary Receives the News | **Luke 1:26-35, 38**

HYMN

“To Thee My Heart I Offer” | **CW 43**

To thee my heart I offer, O Christchild sweet and dear,
Upon thy love relying; Oh, be thou ever near!
Take thou my heart and give me thine, And let it be forever mine,
O Jesus, holy, undefiled, My Savior meek and mild.

What brought thee to the manger, O Christchild, sweet and dear?
Thy love for me, a stranger—Oh, be thou ever near!
O Lord, how great is this thy love That reaches down from heav'n above,
Thy love for us, by sin defiled, That made thee, God, a child!

Let me be thine forever, O Christ child sweet and dear.
Uphold me with thy mercy; Oh, be thou ever near!
From thee I gladly all receive, And what is mine to thee I give;
My heart, my soul, and all I own—Let these be thine alone.

SIXTH LESSON

The Record of Jesus' Birth | **Luke 2:1-7**

ANTHEM

“Love Has Come” | **CW:H 364** (Choir)

*1 Love has come, a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies,
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love!
Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love!
Glory to God on high!*

*2 Love is born! Come share in the wonder.
Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of his mother;
what is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love!
Love is the name she whispers.
Love! Love!
Jesus, Immanuel.*

*3 Love has come and never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love!
Love is the gift of Christmas.
Love! Love!
Praise to you, God on high!*

SEVENTH LESSON

Shepherds Hear and Spread the News | **Luke 2:8-20**

HYMN

“On Christmas Night All Christians Sing” | **CW 52**

**On Christmas night all Christians sing
To hear the news the angels bring;
On Christmas night all Christians sing
To hear the news the angels bring,
News of great joy, news of great mirth,
News of our merciful King’s birth.**

**When sin departs before your grace,
Then life and health come in its place.
When sin departs before your grace,
Then life and health come in its place.
Angels and saints with joy may sing
All for to see the newborn King.**

**From out of darkness we have light
Which made the angels sing this night.
From out of darkness we have light
Which made the angels sing this night:
“Glory to God and peace to men
Now and forevermore, Amen.”**

EIGHTH LESSON

Christmas Peace for Everyone | **Matthew 2:1-12**

HYMN

“Peace Came to Earth “ | **CWS 707**

Choir *Peace came to earth at last that chosen night
When angels clove the sky with song and light
And God embodied love and sheathed his might—
Who could but gasp: Immanuel! Who could but sing: Immanuel!*

All **And who could be the same for having held
The infant in their arms and later felt
The wounded hands and side, all doubts dispelled—
Who could but sigh: Immanuel! Who could but shout: Immanuel!**

**You show the Father none has ever seen,
In flesh and blood you bore our griefs and pain,
In bread and wine you visit us again—
Who could but see: Immanuel! Who could but thrill: Immanuel!**

**How else could I have known you, O my God!
How else could I have loved you, O my God!
How else could I embrace you, O my God!
Who could but pray: Immanuel! Who could but praise: Immanuel!**

NINTH LESSON

The Mystery of the Incarnation | **John 1:1-14**

ANTHEM

“Gentle Mary Gentle Mary” | *Duet*

- 1 *Gentle Mary laid her child Lowly in a manger;
There he lay, the undefiled, To the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place—Can he be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race Who have found his favor.*
- 2 *Angels sang about his birth; Wise men sought and found him.
Heaven’s star shone brightly forth, Glory all around them.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, Heard the angels singing.
All the plains were lit that night; All the hills were ringing.*
- 3 *Gentle Mary laid her child Lowly in a manger;
He is still the undefiled, But no more a stranger.
Son of God, of humble birth, Beautiful the story;
Praise his name in all the earth, Hail the King of glory!*
Text: Joseph S. Cook, 1859–1933.

OFFERING

“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” - 2 Corinthians 9:7

You may place your offering in the basket by the door following the service.

CHRISTMAS EVE PRAYER

LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

M: Now to him who is the Light of the world, be honor and glory forever. People of God, go now with the power of Christ and extend the radiance of his light into our dark world. And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

HYMN

“Silent Night! Holy Night” | CW 60

- 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: Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792–1848, abr.; tr. John F. Young, 1820–85.

SOLI DEO GLORIA
Glory to God Alone

The Altar flowers are given to God's Glory by
Bill & Cheryl Hartwig in loving memory of special relatives.

SERVING AT WORSHIP

Presiding Minister
Pastor Michael Woldt

Keyboard
Tanya Anderson

Choir
Patty & Jenny Backus
Dave & Jeanie Martin
Doris Koeller
Grace Loeffler
Marilyn Schneider
Leah Wank

Guitar
Pastor Michael Woldt

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Join Us for Worship!



Christmas Day Festival Services

December 25, 7:45 and 9:30 am.

Regular Sunday Worship

December 26, 7:45 and 10:15 am.

*No Fellowship hour or Bible Study.

New Year's Eve Services

December 31, 3:45 & 6:30 pm.

with Holy Communion

New Year's Day Service

January 1, 9:30 am.

Regular Sunday Worship

January 2, 7:45 - 10:15 am.

with Holy Communion

*No Fellowship hour or Bible Study





David's Star Evangelical Lutheran Church
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