



THE LORD HAS COME

LET *Earth*
Receive
HER *King*





Quiet Christmas Eve Service 2021
Communion and Candlelight Service

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Pastor Deb Grismer



And 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. Luke 2:7

PRELUDE

GATHERING HYMN *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
O Sun of justice, now draw near
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadow put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather for worship in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

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

For unto us a Son is given.

To us a Son is born.

And the government shall be upon his shoulder.

And his name shall be called—

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God.

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Let us worship the newborn King!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, you make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light.

Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth, we may also come to the fullness of his joys in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 9:6-7

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

SCRIPTURE READING

Philippians 3:20-21

But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

SERMON *"The Lord Is Come"*

HYMN *Oh, Little Town of Bethlehem* #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.**

**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!**

**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.**

**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!**

APOSTLES CREED

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

**On the third day he rose again; He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

He will come again 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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Let us confess our sins to God and seek God's forgiveness.

Almighty God,

**on this Christmas Eve we celebrate the birth of Jesus our
Lord and Light. Yet so often we turn from the light of your
love to walk in darkness. We sin against you daily in our
thoughts, words and actions. In this season of light and love,
we often become unkind and impatient with others. We
become too busy with our own plans and activities to rejoice
in your plan for our salvation revealed on this holy night.
Forgive us for the sake of Jesus, our Lord and our Light.**

God in mercy sent his Son to be our Savior. On this night we celebrate the Light born among us to banish the darkness of sin from our lives. As a called and ordained minister and by God's authority, I declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Prayer

Lighting of the Center Candle - John 1:1-5

The Empty Chair

Lighting of the First Candle – Remembrance

Lighting of the Second Candle – Losses

Lighting of the Third Candle – Courage

Lighting of the Fourth Candle – Supporters

Focusing on the Center Candle – Jesus, Our Hope

Lighting of Our Candles

HYMN

“Silent Night”

#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.**

PRAYER

Almighty God, You made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true light. As we have been invaded by light, let us shine our lights in the world. As we have been found, let us seek out the lost. As we have been set free, let us set the captives free. May your light bring hope and healing to our world. Amen.

BENEDICTION

May the Lord Jesus Christ grant you peace and renew your strength for the years ahead!

DISMISSAL

“Into this Silent Night” by Ann Weems

*Into this silent night
as we make our weary way
we know not where,
just when the night becomes its darkest
and we cannot see our path,
just then
is when the angels rush in,
their hands full of stars.*

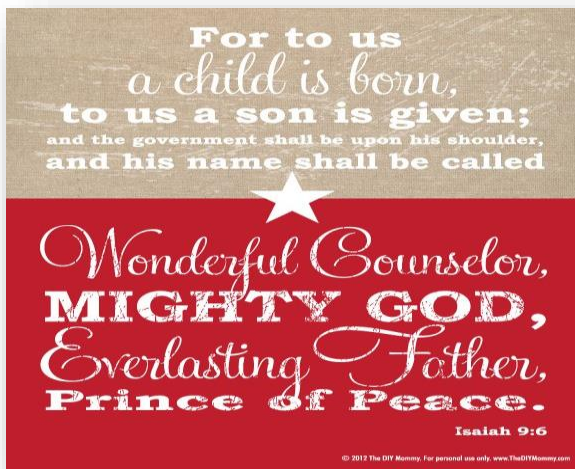
Go in peace.

Thanks be to God!

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*We invite, encourage, educate and empower
all people to follow God and serve others.*



Christmas is not over. Christmas Season has just begun. Please join us as we celebrate the Christmas Season and beyond.

What's next at OSL?

Sunday, December 26 – “*Let Earth Receive Her King*”
A Belated Christmas Day worship service at 9:30 am followed by potluck. We will also be wishing Pastor Deb Godspeed during worship as she begins her sabbatical on December 27.

Sunday, January 2 – “*Christmas Season Continues*”
A worship service filled with Christmas hymns and readings at 9:30 am. Fellowship will follow the service.

Sunday, January 9 – “*Baptism of Our Lord*”
We will remember our baptisms as we celebrate Jesus' baptism. Holy Communion will be a part of the service as well. Fellowship will follow.

A Reminder

Pastor Deb will be on sabbatical December 27, 2021 – February 27, 2022. Pastor Duane Neugebauer will provide worship leadership and pastoral care as needed. Please contact him to schedule a visit or in case of a pastoral emergency. He can be reached at 303-489-9313.