



Quiet Christmas Eve Service 2022  
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***

*Tonight, we gather around the hymn "O Come, O Come Emmanuel". This hymn is a song of people in darkness longing for God's light. It is not calling us to rejoice in the worldly form of the word, but calling our spirits and souls to reflect the true hope and joy that only God can give.*

**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; on those who live in a land of deep shadow, a light has shone. For the yoke that was weighing upon them, and the burden upon their shoulders, you have broken in pieces, O God, our Redeemer.*

*Let us pray:*

*God of mercy,*

**hear our prayer in this Advent season for ourselves and for our families who live with painful thoughts and memories.**

**We ask for strength for today, courage for tomorrow and peace for the past. We ask these things in the name of your Christ, who shares our life in joy and sorrow, death and new birth, despair and promise. Amen.**

**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 Wisdom from on high,  
embracing all things far and nigh;  
in strength and beauty come and stay;  
teach us your will and guide our way.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

## A LITURGY OF REMEMBRANCE

### *Lighting of Four Advent Candles*

#### *First Candle:*

*...Please take a moment to remember those who have died. I invite you to name them, aloud or in the silence of your hearts....*

**Lord, each of us takes our loved one by the hand and leads them to you, the God of love, Here we present them to you. Accept our love and thanksgiving as we entrust them to your loving care. We want our loved ones to be free at home with you. We ask that you save a place for us beside them. We ask that you fill us with motivation and energy in the days ahead when we feel like giving up; remind us often of our true homeland when we are caught up in the desolation of the journey. Help us to find joy in the people, events and the beauty of nature which surrounds us.**

**Thank you for the gift each of these people has been in our lives. We want to believe that we will celebrate the treasure of love with them again, when we are all in your presence forever. May this truth sustain us in the days to come. Take our sad and aching hearts and comfort us. Comfort us, for we only feel hollowness and emptiness. God of sorrowing, draw near! Amen.**

**O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
our spirits by thine advent here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

*Second Candle:*

...Please take a moment to remember the losses. I invite you to name them, aloud or in the silence of your hearts....

**God of mystery, we turn our hearts to you. We come before you in need of peace, grateful for the mystery of life and ever keenly aware of your promises of guidance and protection. We want to place our trust in you, but our hearts grow fearful and anxious. We forget so easily that you will be with us in all that we experience. Teach us to be patient with the transformation of our lives and to be open to the changes which we are now going through. Amen.**

**O come, thou Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heavenly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice!**

**Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

*Third Candle:*

...Your words to us are clear: "Do not fear, I go before you."

**God of our depths, we cry out to you to be our guide. Help us to have a strong sense of inner direction and grant that we may have the reassurance of knowing that we are on the right path. Take our lives and use them according to your will. Take all that is lost in us and bring it home with you. Amen.**

**O come, O come, great Lord of might,  
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times once gave the law  
in cloud and majesty and awe.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice!**

**Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

*Fourth Candle:*

... *promises us a place and time of no more pain and suffering.*

**O God whose spirit is known by those whose hearts are thankful, and who makes cheerfulness a companion of strength, lift up our hearts, we pray, to a joyous confidence**

**in your care. Guide us when we cannot see the way. Teach us to know that a shadow is only a shadow, because the light of eternal goodness shines behind the object of our fears. Where there is love in life, teach us to find it; help us to trust it and enable us to grow in the power of love. So may our lives bring comfort and encouragement to others. We ask it, in the name of Jesus Christ whose life is our light. Amen.**

**O come, O Branch of Jesse, free  
your own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell your people save,  
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**SCRIPTURE 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.

*The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

**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**     *“How We Remember at Christmastime”*

O come, O King of nations, come,  
O Cornerstone that binds in one:  
refresh the hearts that long for you;  
restore the broken, make us new.

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

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.

### **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,*

**we soon will 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**

## **HYMN**

*"Silent Night"*

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**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!**



*You are invited to join us as we celebrate the Christmas Season and beyond.*

### **What's next at OSL?**

Saturday, December 24 – *“Something New This Christmas” Christmas Eve Worship services with Holy Communion and Candlelight at 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm*

Sunday, December 25 – *“Happy Birthday, Jesus!”* Worship at 9:30 am  
*A service of celebration as we wish Jesus ‘Happy Birthday’ once again. Come in your pj’s or Christmas sweaters or whatever you wish to wear to this birthday party.*

Sunday, January 1 – *Christmas continues into the New Year as we gather for worship at 9:30 am for a service filled with Christmas songs and readings.*