



Christmas Eve Service 2017
Communion and Candlelight Service
Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Pastor Deb Grismer

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME

HYMN

"O Come All Ye Faithful"

#283

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him, born the king of angels;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O 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!
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

OPENING DIALOGUE

We gather on the eve of Christmas to relive the story of our Savior's birth and celebrate the gift of life that we receive through Christ. Hear then the Word of the Lord: "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;

On those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy;

They rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.

The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this. "O come, let us adore him."

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,

sing all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God in the highest;

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

GREETING

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

And also with you.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS *Based on 1 John 1:5-9*

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you.

God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness,

We lie and do not live out the truth.

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light,

We have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

If we claim to be without sin,

We deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins,

He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection

God's light is present in this world. Present in the Christ child, born to lead us out of darkness. Present in the star, in all that guides us to love. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore

declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

PRAYER OF THE DAY

On this holy night, we welcome with joy the light of your life among us, Baby Jesus.

Thank you for being the light of our lives every day. Shatter the darkness of sin and death. Break through the shadows of sadness. Reveal the warmth of your love. Let your brilliance shine through each one of us tonight that we may show the world the power of your bright presence in and around us wherever we are. Help us to always glow with your greatness and shimmer with your grace that more may come to your Light and be blessed by you. Amen.

HYMN *“O 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.**

**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.**

AN UNREHEARSED CHRISTMAS SKIT (4:00 service)

HYMN *“Away in a Manger”* **#277**

**Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep in the hay.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray;
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:1-20

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went

to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, 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, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

SERMON “*From See the Lights to Be the Light*”

HYMN

“What Child Is This”

#296

**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!**

Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
the cross be borne for me, for you;
hail, hail the Word made flesh,
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!

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

O Light of the World, Shine through us, we pray.

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

The world turns from darkness to light with the birth of Jesus Christ.

We receive his gifts of forgiveness and grace.

He is the beginning and the end. He is the promised one of old.

Jesus is the light to all the nations.

To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

In him was life, and the life is the light of all people.

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

(To avoid dripping the wax, please do not tilt the lighted candle.

Hold it upright when giving the light to another.)

HYMN

“Silent Night”

#281

**Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright round you
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.

BLESSING

HYMN – “*Hark, the Herald Angels Sing*” #270 VS 1 & 3

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 Sun 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!"

DISMISSAL

Glory to the newborn king. Christ is with you, go in peace. Let your light shine as you serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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