

CHRISTMAS EVE – CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Thursday – December 24, 2020 – 7:00 pm. Worship

The Sensations of Christmas:

Part 4: The Fragrance of Christmas

*On this Christmas Eve
We Meditate on How Our God Has Come into our World
to Heal Our Separation.*



Come, Rose of Sharon, and fill our souls with the fragrance of Life and Salvation!

Friends in Christ Lutheran Church

1338 Clay St., Morris, Illinois 60450

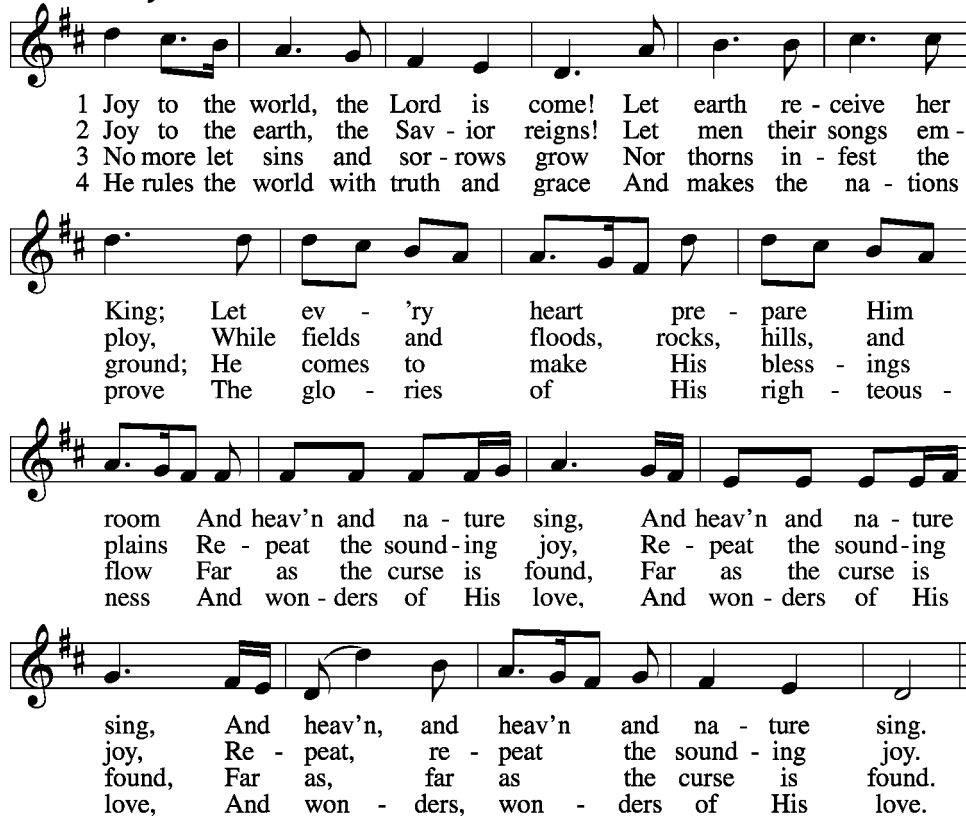
Website: www.ficlc.org E-Mail: office@ficlc.org

Office: (815) 941-1255 Pastor Mark Willig



† Call to Worship †

Hymn # 387 “Joy to the World”



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions

King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him
 ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 ground; He comes to make His bless - ings
 prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -

room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
 plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
 flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
 ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His

sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

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Invocation

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Exhortation

P Arise and shine for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

C Darkness enshrouded all the world and all the people. But now the Lord has risen upon us.

Confession of Sins

LSB 151

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Heavenly Father, we come as sinners. We have not loved You with our whole heart, and we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. And yet You have sent Your Son Jesus, to be born, to be one of us; and to carry our sins. Call us once again to the cross, to see the fullness of Your mercy in Jesus. Remind us of the forgiveness He earned and of the victory of the empty tomb. Renew us in faith, lead us in Your ways, and build Your kingdom among us through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Absolution

LSB 151 [John 20:19–23]

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Collect for Christmas Eve

P Let us pray.

All O God, because You once caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light, grant that we who have known the mystery of that Light here on earth may come to the full measure of its joys in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Hymn # 370:1 "What Child Is This"



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† The Word †

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

v. 3 * "Delight" is from the noun 'scent' The verb 'to smell a pleasing odor came to mean 'to delight in'.

¹There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

²And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

³And his delight* shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,

⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

⁶The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,
and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,
and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;
and a little child shall lead them.

⁷The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra,
and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.

⁹They shall not hurt or destroy
in all my holy mountain;

for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Hymn # 370:2 "What Child Is This"



2 Why lies He in such mean es-tate Where ox and ass are
feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The
si - lent Word is plead - ing. 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 Mar-y!

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Epistle: Galatians 4:4-7

⁴But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Hymn # 370:3 "What Child Is This"



3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to
own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let
lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the
song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar-y!

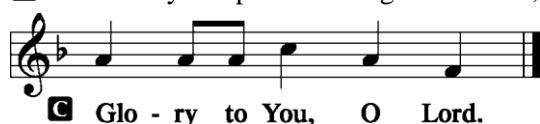
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Stand

Holy Gospel: Luke 2:1-20 (ESV alt.)

Luke 2:1-20

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And 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, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And 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.

Special Music “No Room”

Holy Gospel (continued)

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace, *good will to men!*”

Hymn # 368:1 “Angels We Have Heard on High”

1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
Refrain
Glo - - - - ri - a
in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - -
- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

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Holy Gospel (continued)

¹⁵When 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.” ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn # 359 "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing From ten - der stem hath
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, The rose I have in
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der With sweet - ness fills the
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, Who felt our hu - man

sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing As proph - ets long have
 mind; With Mar - y we be - hold it, The vir - gin moth - er
 air, Dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor The dark - ness ev - 'ry -
 woe; O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry, Who dost our weak - ness

sung, It came, a flow - 'ret bright, A - mid the
 kind. To show God's love a - right, She bore to
 where. True man, yet ver - y God, From sin and
 know: Bring us at length we pray To the bright

cold of win - ter, When half - spent was the night.
 us a Sav - ior, When half - spent was the night.
 death He saves us And light - ens ev - 'ry load.
 courts of heav - en, And to the end - less day.

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Sermon "The Fragrance of Christmas" Luke 2:6-7

Stand

Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

Sit

Prayer of the Church

Responses:

P Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

Final Petition:

P Hear us Immanuel, Lord Jesus Christ, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and eternally.

† Service of the Sacrament †

Hymn # 379:1 “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le - hem;
Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:
O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,
O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

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P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen.

Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Hymn # 379:3 “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
Glo - ry to God — In — the — high - est:
O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,
O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

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Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In the beginning You created all things by Your Word; and in the fullness of time Your Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth.

Let Your Word made flesh dwell richly among us that, faithfully eating His body and drinking His blood, we may receive the fullness of Your grace and truth in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer

LSB 162 Matthew 6:9–13

C 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.

The Words of Our Lord *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: *“Take, eat; this is My ~~✠~~body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”*

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: *“Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ~~✠~~blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”*

Pax Domini

LSB 163 John 20:19

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.



Hymn # 379:2 “O Come, All Ye Faithful”



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Distribution

- A** O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,
C and His mercy endures forever.

Post-Communion Collect

- A** Let us pray.
O God the Father, fount and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

† The Service of Light †

- P** Jesus Christ is the Light of the world.
C **He is the Light of my life.**
P “Arise, shine, for your Light is come.”
C **Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.**
- P** This night did God become a child.
C **Alleluia!**
P As we kneel before Your manger, Lord Jesus, assure us of Your continuing love and support
C **and let us experience a new birth of hope in our lives.**
- P** This night did God become a child.
C **Alleluia!**
P As we kneel before Your manger, Lord Jesus, cause us to be more genuine in our worship, our work, and our witness
C **and let us experience a new birth of faith in our lives.**
- P** This night did God become a child.
C **Alleluia!**
P As we kneel before Your manger, Lord Jesus, restore within us the joy of Your salvation
C **and let us experience a new birth of joy in our lives.**
- P** This night did God become a child.
C **Alleluia!**
P As we kneel before Your manger, Lord Jesus, amaze us with Your presence, power, and promises each day
C **and let us experience a new birth of wonder in our lives.**
- P** This night did God become a child.
C **Alleluia!**
P As we kneel before Your manger, Lord Jesus, teach us to share our blessings and our love with others as freely as You have shared with us
C **and let us experience a new birth of gratitude in our lives.**
- P** This night did God become a child.
C **Alleluia!**
P As we kneel before Your manger, Lord Jesus, challenge us to let Your light shine through our sharing, our service, and our support of others
C **and let us experience a new birth of witness in our lives.**
- P** This night did God become a child.
C **Alleluia!**
P Hear our prayer for peace among nations, reconciliation among families and neighbors, hope among the poor and lonely.
C **As You have brought the peace of heaven into our world so make us willing instruments of peace in our lives.**

- P** In Your name O Jesus, our Savior and Lord,
C Hear us as we pray. Amen.

The Candles are Lit

Hymn # 363 "Silent Night, Holy Night"

LSB 363 sts. 1-3



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright Round yon
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep-herds quake at the sight; Glo - ries
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light Ra - diant

vir - gin moth-er and child. Ho - ly In-fant, so ten-der and mild,
 stream from heav-en a - far, Heav'n-ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 beams from Thy ho - ly face With the dawn of re-deem - ing grace,

Sleep in heav - en - ly peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

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The Angel's Blessing

LSB 166

- P** "Fear not, . . . For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."
C Amen.

Acknowledgments

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Cover: Picture of Church looking from the east.

