

CHRISTMAS EVE – CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Friday – December 24, 2021 – 7:00 pm. Worship

*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

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† Call to Worship †

Prelude

Hymn # 377 “On Christmas Night All Christians Sing”



1 On Christ-mas night all Chris - tians sing To hear the news the
2 Then why should men on earth be so sad, Since our Re - deem - er
3 When sin de - parts be - fore His grace, Then life and health come
4 All out of dark-ness we have light, Which made the an - gels



an - gels bring, On Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing To
made us glad, Then why should men on earth be so sad, Since
in its place, When sin de - parts be - fore His grace, Then
sing this night, All out of dark-ness we have light, Which



hear the news the an - gels bring, News of great joy, news of great
our Re - deem - er made us glad, When from our sin He set us
life and health come in its place; An - gels and men with joy may
made the an - gels sing this night: “Glo - ry to God and peace to



mirth, News of our mer - ci - ful King's birth.
free, All for to gain our lib - er - ty?
sing, All for to see the new - born King,
men Now and for - ev - er - more. A - men.”

Tune and text: Public domain

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.

Amen 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”

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is
sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While
shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is
Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text & Tune: Public domain

† The Word †

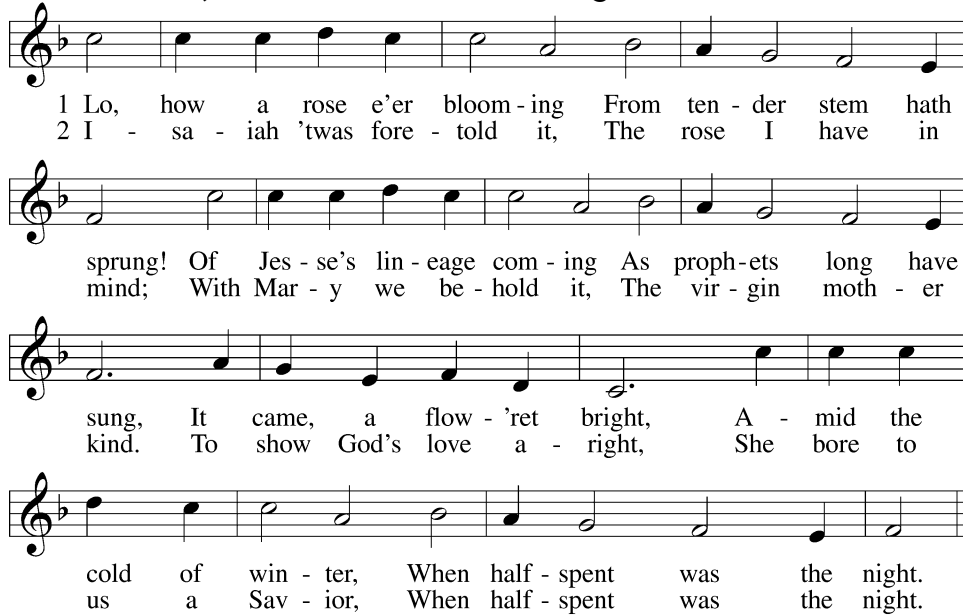
Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹“Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹²But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” ¹³And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Hymn # 359:1-2 "Lo, How a Rose is 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
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
sung, It came, a flow - 'ret bright, A - mid the
kind. To show God's love a - right, She bore to
cold of win - ter, When half - spent was the night.
us a Sav - ior, When half - spent was the night.

Text & Tune: Public domain

Epistle: 1 John 4:7-16

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Hymn # 359:3 "Lo, How a Rose is E'er Blooming"



3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der With sweet - ness fills the
air, Dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor The dark - ness ev - 'ry -
where. True man, yet ver - y God, From sin and
death He saves us And light - ens ev - 'ry load.

Text & Tune: Public domain

Stand

Holy Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

Luke 2:1-20

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



G Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel”

(which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



G Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Hymn # 359:4 “Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”

4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, Who felt our hu - man
 woe; O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry, Who dost our weak - ness
 know: Bring us at length we pray To the bright
 courts of heav - en, And to the end - less day.

Text & Tune: Public domain

Sermon “In the Fullness of Time - WAIT! (...What?)”

Galatians 4:4-5

Hymn # 361:4 “O’ Little Town of Bethlehem”

4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;

Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;
 O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text and tune: Public domain

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
 Holy Spirit, one God, now and eternally.

the

C Amen

† 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.



C A - men.

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

2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,
Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;
Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,
O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

Distribution

Stand

Thanksgiving

LSB 200

- 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

(Please remain standing. Tip only UNLIT candles; once yours is lit, keep it upright & steady.)

Hymn # 364 "Away In A Manger"



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask Thee to stay



The lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet head.
But lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing He makes.
Close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.



The stars in the sky — looked down where He lay,
I love Thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,
Bless all the dear chil - dren in Thy ten - der care,



The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
And stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
And take us to heav - en to live with Thee there.

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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

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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Cover: Picture of Church looking from the east

