



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

December 24, 2023
5:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.

"In Nomine Iesu"

SAINT PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

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AS WE GATHER: Our thoughts on Christmas Eve most often turn to the message of the Gospel shared through the singing of carols. This service for this evening is an adaptation of a Service of Lessons and Carols, made famous in Oxford, England many years ago. Both the readings and the hymns take us on a journey through the Nativity narrative, getting ready our hearts and minds to welcome our long-expected Savior.

*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;
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!*
(O Little Town of Bethlehem v. 4)

We are so happy to have you join us for worship this evening. We hope that this service of carols brings joy to your heart and fills you with the love of the Lord. We also hope that you will worship with us again soon.

Please let us know you worshipped with us tonight by filling out the registration card found in your pew rack. All are welcome to join us again!

Prelude

The Bell Calls Us to Worship

Entrance Hymn *“Now Sing We, Now Rejoice”* LSB #386

Invocation (*please stand*)

P In the name of the Father and of the (+) Son
 and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

Lighting of the Christ Candle

P Jesus Christ is the light of the world!

C **The light no darkness can overcome!**

P The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

C **The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness
 has not overcome it.**

P Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
 on them has a light shined.

C **We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and
 only Son who came from the Father.**

P For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

C **In him was life, and that life was the light of men.**

P Jesus spoke saying, “I am the light of the world;

C **He who follows me will not walk in darkness,
 but will have the light of life.”** (*John 8:12*)

P Tonight we light the Christ candle.

Saint John wrote: “In the beginning was the Word, and
The word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in
the beginning with God. All things were made through
him, and without him was not any thing made that was
made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men.
The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not
overcome it.” *John 1:1-5*

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, with joy we enter into the celebration of
Your Son’s incarnation for us and our salvation. Open our
minds to understand, our hearts to believe, and our

mouths to proclaim the glory of Him who took on our human flesh and blood in order to suffer and die in our place. Prepare our hearts to be fitting mangers to cradle Your Son that he may dwell in us and we in Him today and throughout all eternity; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

(be seated)

Choir Anthem (5:00 p.m.) *“There is A Child”* Price, Besig

Children’s Message

The Story of Christmas *Luke 1:26-38, Matthew 1:19-25*

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

³⁵ And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶ And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God.”

³⁸ And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from

her.

¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But 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. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All 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). ²⁴ When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵ but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Hymn *“O Little Town of Bethlehem”* LSB #361 vs 1, 2, 4

Luke 2:1-7

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

Hymn *“What Child Is This?”* LSB #370

Luke 2:8-15

⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And 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 among those with whom he is pleased!”

¹⁵ 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.”

Hymn *“Angels We Have Heard On High”* LSB #368

Luke 2:16-20

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

Hymn *“Go Tell It On The Mountain”* LSB #388

Message

Creed (*please stand*)

P: What child is this, who, laid to rest,
 on Mary’s lap is sleeping?

C: **This is Christ the King, the Father’s 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.

P: What do you believe about this child?

C: I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.

This is most certainly true.

(be seated)

Presentation of the Offering

Hymn *(to be sung during the presentation of the offering)*

"Where Shepherds Lately Knel't"

LSB #369

Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

All 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.

Benediction

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Word of God made flesh and born of Mary, be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Come, let us adore him!

C: **Come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

(Tune: *Oh, Come All Ye Faithful*)

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

Look with love upon you.

Be gracious and cause His face to shine with peace.

C: **Glory to the Father,**

Son and Holy Spirit!

The Savior close beside us,

God's love from harm to hide us,

The Spirit's pow'r to guide us, evermore!

Lighting of the Candles

*Ushers will light their candles from the Christ Candle and proceed into the congregation. They will light the candle of the people sitting by the aisle. They in turn will light those next to them, **tipping the unlit candle towards the lit one.***

Closing Hymn

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

LSB #363

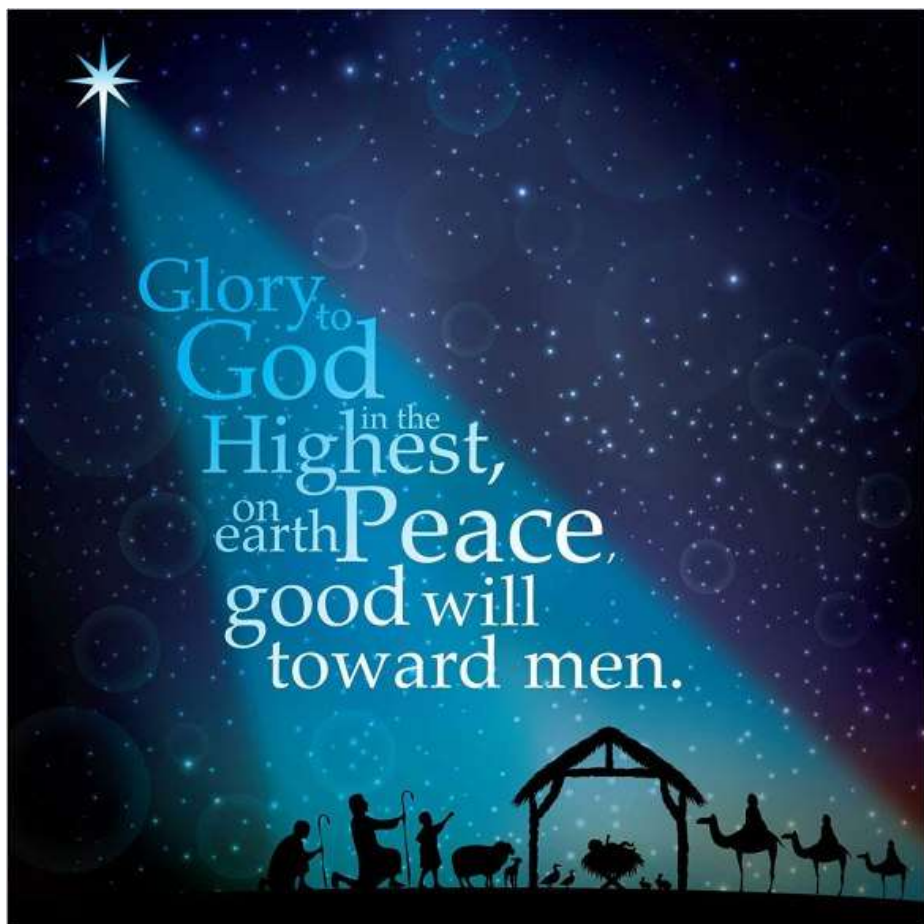
Silent Prayer

(be seated)

Postlude

“Soli Deo Gloria”

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*We wish you all a very blessed
Christmas.*