

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT

December 24, 2017

11:00



AS WE GATHER

There are few nights which can rival Christmas Eve—the familiar carols, the sparkling lights of the tree, the family gatherings, and the precious story all combine to fill us with special joy and peace. The whole world pauses to celebrate. The only problem is that we easily forget what we are celebrating. The celebration itself becomes the focus instead of the good news of God come to earth in the flesh and blood of our humanity to redeem us sinners from our sin and death and to lead us home to our Father in heaven. Tonight, let us pause to read, sing, and give honest reflection to what makes this night different from all the rest!

PRE-SERVICE “Oh, What a Glorious Night” Sidewalk Prophets *Worship Team*

**The shepherds came to see the baby
Stood by His mother's side
Here laid the Savior inside a manger
Oh what a glorious night
Oh what a glorious night**

**CHORUS: I hear the angels singin' hallelujah
 Let the earth receive her King
 I know that love has come sing it out
 Jesus Christ is born
 (I heard that) Jesus Christ is born
 (Yeah yeah)**

**The shepherds wondered they couldn't hide it
They told ev'ryone in sight
All were amazed when they heard how God came
Down on the glorious night
God came down on this glorious night**

**Glorious glorious what a glorious night
Glorious glorious what a glorious night**

**All is calm now all is quiet
A star shining in the sky
Below in Bethlehem the King is sleeping
Oh what a glorious night
Oh what a glorious night**

RINGING OF THE BELLS



WELCOME

(Please Stand)

+ PREPARATION +

PROCESSIONAL HYMN “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

LSB 379

**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!**

**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!**

**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!**

**Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n!
Word 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!**



INVOCATION and OPENING PRAYER

Pastor: Christ is born in Bethlehem. Alleluia!

People: **O come, let us adore Him.**

Pastor: We sing with the angels.

People: **We rejoice with the shepherds.**

Pastor: We marvel with Mary.

People: **We glorify and praise God with the whole Christian Church.**

Pastor: Christ has shined His wondrous light into our darkness.

People: **We gather to worship the Word Incarnate.**

Pastor: Christ is born in Bethlehem. Alleluia!

People: **O come, let us adore Him.**

(Please Be Seated)

FESTIVE GLORIA – *The Songs of the Angels*

“Angels from the Realms of Glory”

LSB 367, v. 1 & 2

**Angels from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o’er all the earth.
Ye who sang creation’s story, Now proclaim Messiah’s birth.**

***Refrain:* Come and worship, come and worship; Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

**Shepherds in the field abiding, Watching o’er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing, Yonder shines the Infant Light. *Refrain***

Text: James Montgomery, 1771—1854, public domain

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

LSB 368, v. 1 & 3

**Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.**

***Refrain:* Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King. *Refrain***

Text: French, tr. *The Crown of Jesus, Part 2*, London, 1862, alt., public domain

Tune: GLORIA, French, public domain

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

LSB 380, v. 1 & 3

**Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host 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 man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth. *Refrain***

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt., public domain

(Please Stand)

“Angels from the Realms of Glory”

LSB 367, v. 5

**All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising To the eternal Three in One.**

***Refrain:* Come and worship, come and worship; Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

Text: *Salisbury Hymn Book*, Salisbury, 1857, alt., public domain

SALUTATION and COLLECT

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray. O God,

People: **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 on earth may come to the full measure of its joys in heaven;**

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

(Please Be Seated)



OLD TESTAMENT Isaiah 9:2–7 *(The prophet proclaims the birth of Him who sits on David's throne and who will be known as the Prince of Peace.)*

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. ³You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. ⁴For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**



EPISTLE Titus 2:11–14 *(The grace of God that has appeared for the salvation of all people.)*

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹²training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

(Please Stand)



HOLY GOSPEL Luke 2: 1-14 *(The birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.)*

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

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

² In 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. 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!”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.



APOSTLES' CREED

LSB 159

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.

(Please Be Seated)

HYMN OF THE DAY “On Christmas Night All Christians Sing”

LSB 377

*On Christmas night all Christians sing To hear the news the angels bring,
On Christmas night all Christians sing To hear the news the angels bring,
News of great joy, news of great mirth, News of our merciful King's birth.*

**Then why should men on earth be so sad, Since our Redeemer made us glad,
Then why should men on earth be so sad, Since our Redeemer made us glad,
When from our sin He set us free, All for to gain our liberty?**

**When sin departs before His grace, Then life and death come in its place,
When sin departs before His grace, Then life and death come in its place;
Angels and men with joy may sing, All for to see the newborn king.**

**All out of darkness we have light, Which made the angels sing this night,
All out of darkness we have light, Which made the angels sing this night:
“Glory to God and peace to men Now and forevermore. Amen.”**



SERMON

(Please Stand)



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. O blessed Lord and gift of God, open our eyes to behold, our minds to receive, and our hearts to believe the treasure of grace that is come to us in the birth of Your own Son in flesh and blood. Joy to the world,

People: The Lord is come!

Pastor: O merciful God, forgive our sins and especially the casual way we treat the precious gift of Your only Son. Strengthen our conviction and equip us with courage to do Your bidding, to share the Good News of Jesus, and proclaim His salvation to every people in every place. Joy to the world,

People: The Lord is come!

Pastor: O compassionate Lord, we are broken, wounded, and live in the shadow of death. Give healing to the sick, comfort to the sorrowful, peace to the dying that all who call upon Your name may be renewed in body and soul, sustained in the day of trouble, and kept by Your grace to eternal life. Joy to the world,

People: The Lord is come!

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

(Please Be Seated)



GATHERING OF OFFERINGS “Mary Did You Know”, v.1 *solo*

Mary did you know

That your baby boy Would one day walk on water

Mary did you know

That your baby boy Would save our sons and daughters

Did you know

That your baby boy Has come to make you new

This Child that you delivered Will soon deliver you

Mary did you know

That your baby boy Would give sight to the blind man

Mary did you know

That your baby boy Would calm a storm with His hand

Did you know

That your baby boy Has walked where angels trod

And when you kiss your little baby You've kissed the face of God

Oh Mary did you know

The blind will see The deaf will hear

The dead will live again

The lame will leap The dumb will speak

The praises of the Lamb

Oh Mary did you know
That your baby boy Is Lord of all creation
Mary did you know
That your baby boy Will one day rule the nations
Did you know
That your baby boy Is heaven's perfect Lamb
And the sleeping Child you're holding Is the great I Am
Oh Mary did you know

(Please Stand)



+ SACRAMENT +

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you. [*2 Timothy 4:22*]
People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts. [*Colossians 3:1*]
People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. [*Psalm 136*]
People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: 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 singing:

SANCTUS “Now Sing We, Now Rejoice”

LSB 386, v. 1 & 4

**Now sing we, now rejoice, Now raise to heav’n our voice;
He from whom joy streameth Poor in a manger lies;
Not so brightly beameth The sun in yonder skies.
Thou my Savior art! Thou my Savior art!**

**Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav’nly ground?
Where the angels singing With all His saints unite,
Sweetest praises bringing In heav’nly joy and light.
Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!**

WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

LORD’S PRAYER (*Matthew 6:9–13*)

LSB 162

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 PEACE OF THE LORD

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

(Please Be Seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMN/SONG “Away in a Manger”

LSB 364

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.**

“How Many Kings”

Martel/Germain

**Follow the star to a place unexpected
Would you believe after all we've projected
A child in a manger
Lowly and small the weakest of all
Unlikeliest hero wrapped in His mother's shawl
Just a child
Is this who we've waited for 'cause**

**CHORUS 1: How many kings stepped down from their thrones
 How many lords have abandoned their homes
 How many greats have become the least for me
 And how many gods have poured out their hearts
 To romance a world that is torn all apart
 How many fathers gave up their sons for me**

**Bringing out gifts for the newborn Savior
All that we have whether costly or meek
Because we believe
Gold for His honor and frankincense for His pleasure
And myrrh for the cross He'll suffer
Do you believe
Is this who we've waited for**

**Only one did that for me ooh
All for me ah ah ah
All for me all for you SING X 4**

CHORUS 2: **How many kings stepped down from their thrones**
How many lords have abandoned their homes
How many greats have become the least
How many gods have poured out their hearts
To romance a world that is torn all apart
How many fathers gave up their sons for me

Only one did that for me oh
All for me all for you

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“It Came upon the Midnight Clear”

LSB 366

**It came upon the midnight clear, That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth To touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to all, From heav’n’s all gracious king.”
The world in solemn stillness lay To hear the angels sing.**

**Still through the cloven skies they come With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heav’nly music floats O’er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains They bend on hov’ring wing,
And ever o’er its babel sounds The blessed angels sing.**

**All you, beneath your heavy load, By care and guilt bent low,
Who toil along a dreary way With painful steps and slow:
Look up, for golden is the hour, Come swiftly on the wing,
The Prince was born to bring you peace; Of Him the angels sing.**

**For lo, the days have come to pass By prophets seen of old,
When down into the circling years Came Christ as was foretold.
His word of peace shall to the earth God’s ancient promise bring,
And all who take this gift will hear The song the angels sing.**

(Please Remain Seated)

DISMISSAL

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

(The pastor takes the light from the Christ candle and gives it to the acolytes and ushers. They pass the light on to the congregation. Tip only the unlighted candle.)

On December 24, 1818 the carol “Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht! (Silent Night) was heard for the first time in a church in Oberndorf, Austria. The congregation at that midnight service in St. Nicholas Church sang to the accompaniment of guitar. Nearly 200 years later we sing these same words with guitar this Christmas Eve.

(The lights are dimmed)

Pastor: As the light of these candles illumine our faces, it symbolizes the Light of Christ, a child in the manger at Bethlehem, a Savior suffering our death on the cross, and soon to come from His throne on high as Judge of all. He is our Light here on earth and the eternal Light who enlightens heaven, where there is no need of candle or sun. Rejoice for the Light of the World has come, who transforms us with the brightness of His glory.

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.

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht! Alles schläft, einsam wacht
Nur das traute, hochheilige Paar. Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh, Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh.

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 Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.

*(Please extinguish candles and hold them upright until the wax is cooled.
Please place the candles in the box in the Narthex as you exit the church.)*

(Please Stand)



BENEDICTION

Pastor: The LORD bless you and keep you.
The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The LORD look upon you with favor and give you peace.
Numbers 6:24–26

People: Amen! Joy to the world the Lord is come! Amen!

RECESSIONAL HYMN “Joy To The World” LSB 387

**All: Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room
And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

**Men: Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**Women: No more let sin and sorrows grow Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.**

**All: He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love, And wonders of His love,
And wonders, and wonders of His love.**

POSTLUDE

WORSHIP NOTES

LITURGIST: Rev. Chris Agne

MUSIC MINISTRY: Gabe Maichel, organist & Worship Team Director;
Michael Arrigo, soloist, Worship Team

ACOLYTES: Volunteers

ALTAR GUILD: Pam & Melissa Fox

ELDERS: Joe Benda,

READER: Dianne Thies

USHERS: Rob Bremer, Jacob Bremer, Jonathan Gibbs, Jack Pendleton



POINSETTIAS AND CHRISTMAS GREENS ARE GIVEN BY:

Randy & Sharon Agne with praise to God from whom all blessings flow and for health & healing

Carl Anderson in loving memory of Linda Anderson, R.N., wife, mother and grandmother

Donna Arrigo to my mom for leading me to Jesus and to Christ Jesus for saving me

Joe & Bonita Benda to the glory of God and gifts received

Diane Broughton & Ed Shimamoto a blessed Christmas to our families

Jim & Cheryl Chambers to the glory of God!

Betty Clark in loving memory of my husband, Dennis

*Pastor Clark and family in thankfulness to God for the staff of Ascension Lutheran Church
and for the faculty of Word of Life Lutheran School*

Don & Eileen Cognata for blessing received

John & Charlene Cook we give thanks for family, friends and Ascension

Kathleen Driskill to our risen Savior and Ralph and Audrey Simon

The Fox Family for blessings received!

Evelyn Gibbs in loving memory of my parents, John & Ruth Good

Clarence & Carol Goetsch to the glory of God

The Hartung Family to the glory of God and the blessings received through Christ our Lord

The Jaenke Family for a healthy, prosperous 2018 for all

Jerry & Arleen Kassing in memory of our son, John and our parents

Roberta Kern & Tyler Kern in memory of Joseph J. Dietrich Sr., In Jesus' loving arms

*Robert & Lawanda Kieffer in memory of our parents Oscar & Esther Kieffer
and Henry & Anna Ruegge*

James & Kathy Komorech with thanksgiving for blessings received

Carlos & Marla Lopez with thanksgiving for His many blessings

*Donna Marohn in memory of mother, Edna Rushing, mother-in-law, Clara Marohn
and sister, Dorothy Hartmann*

Roy & Kathy Migneco with thankfulness for God's many blessings

The Moffat family in memory of Barbara Halliburton

Jean Mueller in memory of all my loved ones who are now celebrating Christmas with Jesus

Terry & Nancy Nickolotsky in loving memory of Craig, parents and grandparents

Jack & Jan Pendleton thankful for God's greatest gift, Jesus

The Pfaff family to the glory of God

Pat Pfitzinger with thanks for many blessings and for my family

Doug & Ruth Pritchard in memory of loved ones

Vernon & Debbie Schmidt for the blessing of Calvin and in memory of our parents in heaven

Carolyn Schwaninger with thanks and praise to God for 95 years of blessings

The Thies family to the glory of God!

Peggy Triska for the blessing of the gift of our Lord Jesus Christ, family, and friends

Darleen Wiederhold in loving memory of Gene Wiederhold

Jack & Cindy Winter in memory of Harold Todd who loved Christmas and his Savior





For
unto
you is
born this
day in the
city of David
a saviour, which
is Christ the Lord.

Luke
2:11

Blessings to All!

Your Ascension Staff

Pastor Clark

Jerry Kasson

Dale Maichel

Sherry Elliott

Jim Fox

Barbara Hartung

Kathy
Zies

Travis A. Freudenberg