

# CHRISTMAS EVE

Carol Festival December 24, 2018 4:00 pm & 6:00 pm



## AS WE GATHER

“Fear not.” Nearly two thousand years ago, an angel of the Lord speaks these two simple words to shepherds on a dark night outside the little town of Bethlehem. However, this is not the first time an angelic messenger has spoken this profound imperative. “Fear not” is the angel Gabriel’s message to Mary when it was announced that she would bear the Savior. “Fear not” are the angel’s words to Joseph when he was instructed to not be afraid to take Mary as his wife. “Fear not” will be the comfort spoken to the women at the empty tomb of Easter. But “fear not” are words for your ears too. Whatever anxieties, heartaches, or fears you have this night, hear the message of the angel for you: “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:10–11).

**PRELUDE 4:00 PM** “On Christmas Night All Christians Sing”

*Ascension Choir*

**6:00 PM** “On Christmas Night All Christians Sing”

*Bell Choir*

## RINGING OF THE BELLS



**WELCOME**

*(Please Stand)*

**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: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: Come, Lord Jesus, come and fulfill the longing of Your people.

People: **Open wide the door to our heavenly home.**

Pastor: Come, Lord Jesus, come and break down every barrier of sin and death.

People: **Make safe the way that leads us home on high.**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray. 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!

People: **Amen.**



## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

LSB 151

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:8-9**

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Pastor: 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. [John 20:19-23]

People: **Amen.**

*(Please Be Seated)*



## LESSON Isaiah 7:10-14 (A virgin shall conceive and bear a son)

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

**RESPONSE** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

LSB 357, v. 1 & 7

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.**

**Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel!  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

**O come, Desire of nations, bind In one the hearts of all mankind;  
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease, And be Thyself our King of Peace. Refrain**



**LESSON** Isaiah 9:2-7

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. <sup>3</sup>You 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. <sup>4</sup>For 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. <sup>5</sup>For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup>For 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. <sup>7</sup>Of 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.

**HYMN** “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” *LSB 384, v. 1 & 3*

**Of the Father’s love begotten Ere the worlds began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending He,  
Of the things that are, that have been, And that future years shall see  
Evermore and evermore.**

**This is He whom seers in old time Chanted of with one accord,  
Whom the voices of prophet’s Promised in their faithful word.  
Now He shines, the long expected; Let creation praise its Lord  
Evermore and evermore.**

*(Please Stand)*

**LITANY**

**Pastor:** Jesus, Son of the living God, splendor of the Father, Light eternal, King of glory, Sun of Justice, Son of Mary:

**People:** **glory to God in the highest!**

**Pastor:** Jesus, wonderful, counselor, mighty Lord, everlasting God, the Prince of Peace:

**People:** **glory to God in the highest!**

**Pastor:** Jesus, most powerful, most gracious, most patient, most gentle, most loving, the pure in heart:

**People:** **glory to God in the highest!**

**Pastor:** Jesus, the God of peace, the source of all life, the pattern of holiness, friend and refuge for all who trust in Him:

**People:** **glory to God in the highest!**

**Pastor:** Jesus, lover of the poor, gift of God, Good Shepherd, Light of Light, Wisdom from on high, the way, the truth, and the life:

**People:** **glory to God in the highest!**

Pastor: Jesus, joy of the angels, King of the patriarchs, leader of the apostles, teacher of the disciples, strength of the martyrs, Light eternal shining in testimony to the truth, the crowning glory of the saints, and our blessed Redeemer:

People: **glory to God in the highest! Amen.**

*(Please Be Seated)*



**LESSON** Matthew 1:18-23

<sup>18</sup> Now 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. <sup>19</sup> And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> 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. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: <sup>23</sup> "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel"(which means, God with us).

**RESPONSE** "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

*LSB 374, v. 1 & 3*

**Gentle Mary laid her child Lowly in a manger;  
There He lay, the Undeiled, To the world a stranger.  
Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Savior?  
Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His favor.**

**Gentle Mary laid her child Lowly in a manger;  
He is still the Undeiled But no more a stranger.  
Son of God of humble birth, Beautiful the story;  
Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glory!**



**LESSON** Luke 2:1-7

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

**RESPONSE** "Away In the 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.**



**LESSON** Luke 2:8-14

<sup>8</sup> And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. <sup>10</sup> And 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. <sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

**RESPONSE** "Angels We Have Heard On High"

*LSB 368, v. 1 & 2*

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

**Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the glad some tidings be Which inspire your heav'nly song?  
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.**



**LESSON** Luke 2:15-20 (*Fear not I bring you good news.*)

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

**RESPONSE** "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!"  
Hark! The herald angels sing. "Glory to the new-born 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.  
Hark! The herald angels sing. "Glory to the new-born King!"**

*(Please Stand)*



**APOSTLES' CREED**

*LSB 159*

Pastor: Let us confess our faith together:

**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)*

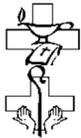
**SERMON HYMN** "Silent Night, Holy Night"

*LSB 363*

**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.**

**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.**



**SERMON**

**GATHERING OF OFFERINGS**

**4:00 PM**

"Once in Royal David's City"

*Ascension Choir*

**6:00 PM**

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

*Bell Choir*

*(Please Stand)*

**OFFERTORY** "Of the Father's Love Begotten"

*LSB 384, v. 3*

**Christ, to Thee, with God the Father, And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee  
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving And unending praises be,  
Honor, glory, and dominion, And eternal victory  
Evermore and evermore. Amen.**



**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**     *Isaiah 9:6*

Pastor: This Christmas Eve, we come before our Lord in prayer rejoicing that “for to us a child is born, to us a son is given.”

To us a Child is born, to us a Son is given! Lord, as we hear the angels’ words, “Fear not,” let us take their admonishment to heart. In the face of fears and anxiety, grant us peace in the Savior born for us. O come, let us adore Him,

**People: Christ the Lord!**

Pastor: To us a Child is born, to us a Son is given! Lord, during this season of celebration, cheer those who are lonely or mark this season with a painful grief. Give them the true joy that comes from the Savior born for us. O come, let us adore Him,

**People: Christ the Lord!**

Pastor: To us a Child is born, to us a Son is given! Lord, You chose Mary and Joseph to care for Your Son. Bless all those with whom You have given the vocation of mother or father, grandmother or grandfather that they care for the children entrusted into their care, sharing with them the Savior born for us. O come, let us adore Him,

**People: Christ the Lord!**

Pastor: To us a Child is born, to us a Son is given! Lord, continue to watch over those who suffer in body and spirit. Grant them healing and restoration from their afflictions according to Your gracious will, [*especially . . .*]. Give them peace in their affliction through the Savior born for us. O come, let us adore Him,

**People: Christ the Lord!**

*(Special Petitions)*

Pastor: “For 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.”

**People: Amen.**

**LORD'S PRAYER** (*Matthew 6:9-13*)

*LSB 162*

Pastor: Bidden by our Lord, let us pray as He has taught us:

**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.**

**CLOSING PRAYER** *LSB 364, v. 3*

Pastor: Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay

**People: Close by me forever and love me, I pray.**

Pastor: Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,

**People: And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.**

**All: Amen.**



**BENEDICTION** *Luke 2:10-11*

Pastor: Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy  
People: **that will be for all the people.**

Pastor: For unto you is born this day in the city of David  
People: **a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.**

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.  
People: **Amen.**

*Numbers 6:24–26*

**RECESSIONAL HYMN** “Joy to the World” *LSB 387*

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

**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**

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## **WORSHIP NOTES**

**MINISTRY OF MUSIC:** 4:00 & 6:00 Gabe Maichel, organist; Ascension Choir;  
Bell Choir

**ACOLYTES:** 4:00 Volunteers; 6:00 Volunteers

**READERS:** 4:00 Lisa Holderle; 6:00 Rich Seifert

**USHERS:** 4:00 Gene Bockelmann, Nathan Decker, Mark Shaffer  
6:00 Gary Freer, Dave Jones, Carlos Lopez



**POINSETTIAS AND CHRISTMAS GREENS ARE GIVEN BY:**

*Carl Anderson in loving memory of Linda Anderson, R.N., wife, mother, grandmother, child of God*

*The Benda Family in loving memory of Charlie Benda and to the glory of God*

*Diane Broughton & Ed Shimamoto Christmas blessings to our families and friends*

*Jim & Cheryl Chambers glory to God!*

*Betty Clark in loving memory of my husband, Dennis Clark*

*Pastor Matt and Lisa Clark in thanksgiving for the ministry of Ascension and Word of Life*

*Don & Eileen Cognata for blessing received*

*John & Charlene Cook thanks be to God for health, happiness, and love*

*Cindy, Sarah & Sean Cooney in loving memory of Robert J. Cooney*

*Larry & Pearlina Degenhardt to the glory of Christ Jesus*

*Kathleen Driskill to the glory of God and in memory of Ralph and Audrey Simon*

*Jane Fryar in thanksgiving to God for His gift of our Savior*

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

*Clarence & Carol Goetsch the Lord's Blessing for health and good friends*

*Arlene Headrick in memory of my loving husband, Paul Headrick*

*Patrick Hill to the glory of God*

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

*Roberta Kern & Tyler Kern in loving memory of Joseph J. Dietrich Sr., Love you and miss you. Always in our hearts.*

*James & Kathy Komorech with thanksgiving for blessings received*

*Carlos & Marla Lopez thankful for health and blessings received*

*Bill & Marlene Maxfield in honor of Sharon & Randy Agne for all they do for God's people*

*Jean Mueller in loving memory of husband, Lew Mueller*

*Terry & Nancy Nickolotsky in loving memory of son, Craig*

*Jack & Jan Pendleton with joyfulness at Jesus' birth*

*The Pfaff family to the glory of God*

*Pat Pfitzinger with thanks for many blessings*

*Jim Preston Jr. & Tracey Wing for blessings received*

*Doug & Ruth Pritchard in memory of parents at Christmas*

*Vernon & Debbie Schmidt thankful for all blessings and our grandchild*

*The Seifert Family for blessings received and in memory of loved ones*

*The Thies family for blessings received*

*Peggy Triska in memory of Shirley Triska and her love of Christmas and family*

*Darleen Wiederhold in loving memory of Gene Wiederhold*

*Jack & Cindy Winter for blessings received – especially our Savior*

