

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT

December 24, 2018

11:00 pm



AS WE GATHER

Light has become synonymous with Christmas. Lights on houses. Lights on Christmas trees. Lights in luminaries that brighten walkways. Yet, all these lights are little more than sentimental decoration if we do not recognize the greater light that shined at Christmas. Isaiah reminds us, “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light” (Isaiah 9:2). God shines light in darkness. Tonight, we rejoice in Jesus, the light of the world, who gives deeper meaning to all other Christmas lights.

PRE-SERVICE

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!**

Pastor: The people who walked in darkness
People: **have seen a great light;**

Pastor: those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
People: **on them has light shined.**

Pastor: O little town of Bethlehem,
People: **How still we see thee lie!**

Pastor: Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
People: **The silent stars go by;**

Pastor: Yet in thy dark streets shineth
People: **The everlasting light.**

Pastor: The hopes and fears of all the years
People: **Are met in thee tonight. Amen.**



CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Titus 2:11-14*

Pastor: “For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age.” As we gather together this Christmas Eve, let us 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: Today we celebrate “the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who 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.” Because of this Savior born for us, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

(Please Be Seated)

+ WORD +

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**

“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**

“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**

(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.

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!**

GOSPEL SONG “What a Glorious Night” Polythress/West/Wood

**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 **CHORUS****

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

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
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(Please Stand)



HOLY GOSPEL Luke 2: 1-14 *(The birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.)*
The congregation is invited to read the words in bold

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. 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. 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)

SONG OF THE DAY “Mary Did You Know” *Green/Lowery*

**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

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SERMON

(Please Stand)



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.

(Please Be Seated)



GATHERING OF OFFERINGS “Baby Boy”

J. Smallbone/L. Smallbone/Mosley

**If you told me all about your sorrows I'd tell you 'bout a cure
If you told me you can't fight the battle There's a baby boy who won the war
The war was won by a baby boy**

**CHORUS: Alleluia we can sing it Alleluia heaven's ringing Alleluia
Endless hope relentless joy Started with a baby boy**

**Oh before that silent night No savior and no Jesus Christ
The world cried out so desperately And a baby boy was the reply
Yes heaven's reply was a baby boy CHORUS**

**See the King is coming down And He's here without a crown
The baby boy without a bed Giving life back to the dead
Hear the angels shout it out As the people come and bow
Unexpected majesty Alleluia what a King CHORUS X2**

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(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*

**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!**

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.

HYMN VERSE “Now Sing We, Now Rejoice” *LSB 386, v. 4*

**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!**

(Please Be Seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS/SONGS “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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“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.**

“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. 200 years later we sing these same words with guitar this Christmas Eve.

(The lights are fully 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.

HYMN "Silent Night, Holy Night"

LSB 363

**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! 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.**

*(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)

CLOSING PRAYER

LSB 364:3

Pastor: 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.

People: 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.

Numbers 6:24-26

People: Amen.

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

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

ACOLYTES: Volunteers

ALTAR GUILD: Sharon Agne

ELDERS: Randy Agne, Joe Benda,

READER: Brad Muhlke

USHERS: Paul Brock, Sr., Paul Brock, Jr., Roger Jensen



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 & Pearline 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

