

**CHRISTMAS EVE
CAROL FESTIVAL
DECEMBER 24, 2021 4:00PM & 6:00PM**

REV. MATTHEW CLARK
Senior Pastor

REV. MATTHEW KOBS
Assistant Pastor

GABE MAICHEL
Director of Music

PAMELA FOX
Office Manager

VICAR JOHN GURUNG
Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology

GAGAN GURUNG
Nepali Evangelist

CHRIS & KATHY THIES
Youth Ministry

CRAIG MATTES
Communications Coordinator

GEORGE LLUKA
Maintenance Technician

BARBARA HARTUNG
Parish Nurse

CLAUDIA SEIFERT
Parish Librarian



LOVED BY CHRIST
SHARING CHRIST'S LOVE

Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
Word of Life Lutheran School

WEEKEND WORSHIP TIMES

5:00 pm Saturday Worship

8:15 am Sunday Worship

9:45 am Sunday School and Bible Class

11:00 am Sunday Worship (Contemporary Music)

CHRISTMAS EVE

Carol Festival

December 24, 2021

4:00PM & 6:00PM

AS WE GATHER

The shepherds had a sudden awakening when angelic light dispelled the darkness of night. God was entering human history in Bethlehem then, but for centuries He had been shedding light on His plans. This evening we thank God that His grace has dawned within us, giving us believing hearts to joyfully celebrate His birth. We not only recall what God has done in the past, but also we shine the light of Christ to spread God's love to one another. And then we go out into a world where many people still walk in darkness. What joy there will be when they see the Light!

PRELUDE 4:00 PM CLIMB TO THE TOP OF THE HIGHEST MOUNTAIN
6:00 PM JOY TO THE WORLD

ASCENSION CHOIR
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

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

C Amen.

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

C Open wide the door to our heavenly home.

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

C Make safe the way that leads us home on high.

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P 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!

C Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

(If you would like private confession and absolution, please call the office at (314) 832-5600 to make an appointment with Pastor Clark)

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

C 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*

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C 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.

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. *John 20:19–23*

C Amen.

(or)

A In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. *John 1:12, Philipians 1:6*

C Amen.

(Please Be Seated)

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

¹⁰ Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹ "Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." ¹² But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test." ¹³ And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ 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

² 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. ³ 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. ⁴ 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. ⁵ For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶ 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. ⁷ 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

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

C **glory to God in the highest!**

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

C **glory to God in the highest!**

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

C **glory to God in the highest!**

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

C **glory to God in the highest!**

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

C **glory to God in the highest!**

P 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:

C **glory to God in the highest! Amen.**

(Please Be Seated)

LESSON Matthew 1:18-23

¹⁸ 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. 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).

**Gentle Mary laid her child
Lowly in a manger;
There He lay, the Undefined,
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 Undefined
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

¹ 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.

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

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 fear. ¹⁰ 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. 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!"

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 gladsome 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.*)

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." 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.

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

P Let us confess our faith together:

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.

(Please Be Seated)

SERMON HYMN: SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT

LSB 363

SERMON

(Please Stand)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *Isaiah 9:6*

P Father, with joy and wonder we gather around the manger on this night as we recall how great is Your love for us, sending Your Son into our world wrapped in our flesh as a tiny child to forgive our sins. O come let us adore Him,

C **Christ, the Lord.**

P Jesus, on this night we recall how great is Your love for us. You gave up heaven to live on earth as one of us, and one with us, to forgive our sin. O come let us adore Him,

C **Christ, the Lord.**

P Holy Spirit, on this night we recall how great is Your love for us, gathering us together through the waters of Baptism and nourishing our faith through the Word and by the body and blood of Jesus for the forgiveness of our sin. O come let us adore Him,

C **Christ, the Lord.**

P Renewing Lord, let the Good News of Christmas inspire a renewing of hope, faith, joy, wonder, and witness in our hearts, our homes, in this congregation, and in the Church throughout the world. Lord, in Your mercy, O come let us adore Him,

C **Christ, the Lord.**

P Comforting Lord, we lift up all those who lack joy this Christmastime due to afflictions spiritually, mentally, and physically. We lift up those who request our prayers, [*especially* . . .], and those we name in our hearts [*time for silent prayer*]. Grant that the hope and promise found in a Savior born for them will give peace in times of trial. O come let us adore Him,

C **Christ, the Lord.**

(Special Petitions)

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through the Savior born for us, Jesus Christ, our Lord. O come let us adore Him,

C **Christ, the Lord. Amen.**

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

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

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.**

**ANTHEM 4:00 PM ON CHRISTMAS NIGHT
6:00 PM FROM HEAVEN ABOVE TO EARTH I COME**

*ASCENSION CHOIR
BELL CHOIR*

CLOSING PRAYER

LSB 364, v. 3

(Spoken)

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

C **Close by me forever and love me, I pray.**

P Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,

C **And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.**

C **Amen.**

BENEDICTION *Luke 2:10-11*

P Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy

C **that will be for all the people.**

P For unto you is born this day in the city of David

C **a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.**

P 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*

C **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

Organ

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WORSHIP NOTES

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: Gabe Maichel, organist; 4:00 Ascension Choir, 6:00 Bell Choir
ACOLYTES: 4:00 Volunteers; 6:00 Volunteers
READERS: 4:00 Lisa Holderle, 6:00 Rich Seifert
USHERS: 4:00 Volunteers; 6:00 Volunteers

POINSETTIAS AND CHRISTMAS GREENS ARE GIVEN BY:



Randy & Sharon Agne Heavenly Father we ask be near us, Lord Jesus. We ask you to stay close by us forever and in thanksgiving for the blessing of our church family, our family and friends

Joe & Bonita Benda to the glory of God and for the blessing of grandchildren

Diane Broughton & Ed Shimamoto-Christmas blessings to our family

Jim & Cheryl Chambers to our Lord and Savior

Pastor Matt, Lisa, Noah & Anna Clark in thanksgiving for the Ascension staff, WOL faculty, and our church family

Kathy Driskill to the glory of God for His many blessings!

Sherry Elliott in loving memory of my parents, Amos & Alice Trout

The Fox Family with thankfulness for all God's gifts

The Jones Family with thanks for the beautiful Christmas decorations for Erica's wedding

Roberta Kern in loving memory of Joseph J. Dietrich Sr., missed and loved beyond words

Debra Meyer in memory of Art & Shirley Kuecker and Dave & Florence Meyer

The Nickolotsky Family in loving memory of Craig, our son, brother and uncle

Jack & Jan Pendleton being thankful for our Savior, Jesus and in memory of Jim Pendleton

The Pfaffs to the glory of God

Doug & Ruth Pritchard in memory of our parents

Cathy & Vic Salini-May God continue to bless this congregation richly!

Vernon & Debbie Schmidt for a multitude of blessings received

