

The Lutheran Church of the Atonement

12/24/2020 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Service of Light

379 O Come, All Ye Faithful

sts. 1, ref, 2-4



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
 2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come___ ye to Beth - le - hem;
 Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;
 Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
 Je - sus, to Thee___ be___ glo - ry giv'n!



Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:
 Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Glo - ry to God___ In___ the___ high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

Refrain



O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,

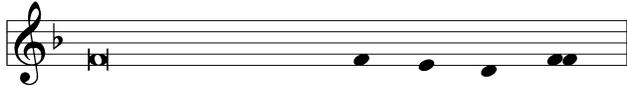


O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

Text and tune: Public domain

Stand Versicles

243



L Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,



C the light no darkness can o - ver - come.



L Stay with us, Lord, for it is eve - ning,

C and the day is almost o - ver.

L Let Your light scatter the dark - ness

C and il - lu - mine Your Church.

Phos Hilaron

LSB 244

L Joy - ous light of glo - ry:

C of the im - mor - tal Fa - ther; heav - en - ly, ho - ly,

bless - ed Je - sus Christ. We have come to the

set - ting of the sun, and we look to the eve - ning light.

We sing to God, the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it:

You are wor - thy of be - ing praised with pure voic - es for -

ev - er. O Son of God, O Giv - er of life:

the u - ni - verse pro - claims Your glo - ry.

Thanksgiving for Light

LSB 245

L Blessèd are You, O Lord our God, king of the u - ni - verse,

who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of

fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ;
 may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path;
 for You are mer - ci - ful, and You love Your whole cre - a - tion
 and we, Your creatures, glo - ri - fy You, Father, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it.
 A - men.

Sit

Christmas Eve Readings

The Message of the Psalmist

Psalm 96

- ¹Oh sing to the LORD a | new song; *
 sing to the LORD, | all the earth!
²Sing to the LORD, | bless his name; *
 tell of his salvation from | day to day.
³Declare his glory among the | nations, *
 his marvelous works among all the | peoples!
⁴For great is the LORD, and greatly | to be praised; *
 he is to be feared a- | bove all gods.
⁵For all the gods of the peoples are worthless |
 idols, *
 but the LORD made the | heavens.
⁶Splendor and majesty are be- | fore him; *
 strength and beauty are in his sanctu- | ary.
⁷Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the | peoples, *
 ascribe to the LORD glo- | ry and strength!
⁸Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due his name; *

- bring an offering, and come in- | to his courts!
⁹Worship the LORD in the splendor of | holiness; *
 tremble before him, | all the earth!
¹⁰Say among the nations, “The LORD reigns!
 Yes, the world is established; it shall nev- | er be
 moved; *
 he will judge the peoples with | equity.”
¹¹Let the heavens be glad, and let the | earth
 rejoice; *
 let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
¹²let the field exult, and every- | thing in it!
 Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy
¹³before the LORD, | for he comes, *
 for he comes to | judge the earth.
 He will judge the world in | righteousness, *
 and the peoples in his | faithfulness.

370 What Child Is This

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is
 2 Why lies He in such mean es-tate Where ox and ass are
 3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to
 sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While
 feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The
 own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let

shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is
si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall
lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the

Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;

Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text and tune: Public domain

The Message of the Law and the Prophets

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.

The Message of the Apostle John

1 John 4:7–16

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.
⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.
¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶ So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

The Gospel Message of the Apostle Luke

Luke 2:1–14

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.
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!”

Final Reading Response

LSB 247

- L In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.
C **But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.**

Christ is the Light That Gives Hope

- L Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.
C **See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples,**
L but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you.
C **Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. (Isaiah 60:1-3)**

366 It Came upon the Midnight Clear



- 1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, That glo-rious song of old,
2 Still through the clo-ven skies they come With peace-ful wings un-furled,
3 All you, be-neath your heav-y load, By care and guilt bent low,
4 For lo, the days have come to pass By proph-ets seen of old,



From an-gels bend-ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold:
And still their heav'n-ly mu-sic floats O'er all the wea-ry world.
Who toil a-long a drea-ry way With pain-ful steps and slow:
When down in-to the cir-cling years Came Christ as was fore-told.



“Peace on the earth, good-will to all, From heav'n's all-gra-cious king.”
A-bove its sad and low-ly plains They bend on hov-'ring wing,
Look up, for gold-en is the hour, Come swift-ly on the wing,
His word of peace shall to the earth God's an-cient prom-ise bring,



The world in sol-lemn still-ness lay To hear the an-gels sing.
And ev-er o'er its ba-bel sounds The bless-ed an-gels sing.
The Prince was born to bring you peace; Of Him the an-gels sing.
And all who take this gift will hear The song the an-gels sing.

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Stand

Christmas Eve Litany

p.288

- L O Lord,
C **have mercy.**
L O Christ,
C **have mercy.**
L O Lord,
C **have mercy.**
L O Christ,
C **hear us.**

- L God the Father in heaven,
C **have mercy.**
- L God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
C **have mercy.**
- L God the Holy Spirit,
C **have mercy.**
- L Be gracious to us.
C **Spare us, good Lord.**
- L Be gracious to us.
C **Help us, good Lord.**
- L From all sin, from all error, from all evil;
From the crafts and assaults of the devil; from sudden and evil death;
From pestilence and famine; from war and bloodshed; from sedition and from rebellion;
From lightning and tempest; from all calamity by fire and water; and from everlasting death:
C **Good Lord, deliver us.**
- L By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your holy nativity;
By Your baptism, fasting, and temptation; by Your agony and bloody sweat; by Your cross and passion; by Your precious death and burial;
By Your glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter:
C **Help us, good Lord.**
- L In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the day of judgment:
C **Help us, good Lord.**
- L We poor sinners implore You
C **to hear us, O Lord.**
- L To rule and govern Your holy Christian Church; to preserve all pastors and ministers of Your Church in the true knowledge and understanding of Your wholesome Word and to sustain them in holy living;
To put an end to all schisms and causes of offense; to bring into the way of truth all who have erred and are deceived;
To beat down Satan under our feet; to send faithful laborers into Your harvest; and to accompany Your Word with Your grace and Spirit:
C **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**
- L To raise those who fall and to strengthen those who stand; and to comfort and help the weakhearted and the distressed:
C **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**
- L To give to all peoples concord and peace; to preserve our land from discord and strife; to give our country Your protection in every time of need;
To direct and defend our [*president/queen/king*] and all in authority; to bless and protect our magistrates and all our people;
To watch over and help all who are in danger, necessity, and tribulation; to protect and guide all who travel;
To grant all women with child, and all mothers with infant children, increasing happiness in their blessings; to defend all orphans and widows and provide for them;
To strengthen and keep all sick persons and young children; to free those in bondage; and to have mercy on us all:
C **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**
- L To forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers and to turn their hearts; to give and preserve for our use the kindly fruits of the earth; and graciously to hear our prayers:
C **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**
- L Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
C **we implore You to hear us.**
- L Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
C **have mercy.**
- L Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
C **have mercy.**
- L Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
C **grant us Your peace.**
- L O Christ,
C **hear us.**

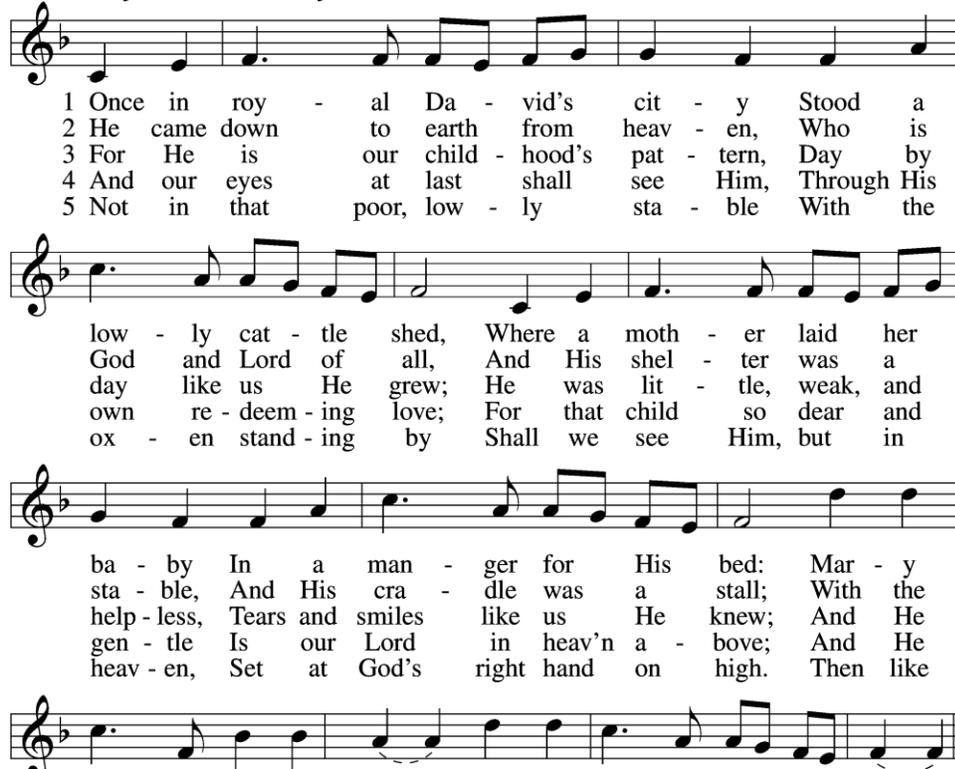
L O Lord,
 C **have mercy.**
 L O Christ,
 C **have mercy.**
 L O Lord,
 C **have mercy. Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

LSB 251

L Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:
 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.

The Lighting of the Christ Candle on the Advent Wreath 376 Once in Royal David's City



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y Stood a
 2 He came down to earth from heav - en, Who is
 3 For He is our child - hood's pat - tern, Day by
 4 And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His
 5 Not in that poor, low - ly sta - ble With the

low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a moth - er laid her
 God and Lord of all, And His shel - ter was a
 day like us He grew; He was lit - tle, weak, and
 own re - deem - ing love; For that child so dear and
 ox - en stand - ing by Shall we see Him, but in

ba - by In a man - ger for His bed: Mar - y
 sta - ble, And His cra - dle was a stall; With the
 help - less, Tears and smiles like us He knew; And He
 gen - tle Is our Lord in heav'n a - bove; And He
 heav - en, Set at God's right hand on high. Then like

was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
 poor and mean and low - ly Lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
 feels for all our sad - ness, And He shares in all our glad - ness.
 leads His chil - dren on To the place where He is gone.
 stars His chil - dren, crowned, All in white, His praise will sound!

Text and tune: Public domain

As the people sing, the Church Lights are dimmed, and our individual candles are lighted.

Stand

The Light of Christ in our Christian Lives Today

- L You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of Darkness and into His marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you receive mercy. (1 Peter 2:9-10)
Hosanna! Glory to God in the highest!
- C **and on Earth, peace to those on whom His favor rests.**

Benediction

- 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 T give you peace.
- C **Hosanna! Unto us The Child is born; unto us a Son is given. Hosanna, Hosanna, glory to God in the highest!**

363 Silent Night, Holy Night

sts. 1-3

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,
all is bright Round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
at the sight; Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
love's pure light Ra - diant beams from Thy ho - ly face
Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, Sleep in heav - en - ly
Heav'n - ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy
peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Tune and text: Public domain

At the end of the hymn, the congregation departs in silence in eager anticipation of the fullness of Christ revealed on Christmas Day.

Christmas Day service is at 10 AM with Holy Communion

Acknowledgments

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