



FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN,  
UNTO US A SON IS GIVEN;  
AND THE GOVERNMENT SHALL  
BE UPON HIS SHOULDER, AND HIS  
NAME WILL BE CALLED *WONDERFUL*  
*COUNSELOR, MIGHTY GOD,*  
*EVERLASTING FATHER,*  
*PRINCE OF PEACE."*

ISAIAH 9:6

# DECEMBER 24, 2023 | *CHRISTMAS EVE*

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## WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT CHRIST THE KING EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Please stand.*

### **OPENING HYMN**

*Joy to the World*

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come.<br>Let earth receive her King;<br>Let every heart prepare Him room;<br>And heaven and nature sing;  | 2. Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns;<br>Let men their songs employ;<br>While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,<br>Repeat the sounding joy. |
| 3. No more let sins and sorrows grow<br>Nor thorns infest the ground<br>He comes to make His blessings known<br>Far as the curse is found. | 4. He rules the world with truth and grace,<br>And makes the nations prove<br>The glories of His righteousness,<br>And wonders of His love.             |

### **INVOCATION**

M: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost

C: (sung) Amen.

### **CONFESSION OF SINS**

M: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto Thee that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against Thee by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Thine infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Thy grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: O most merciful God, who hast given Thine only begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins and by Thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Thee and of Thy will, and true obedience to Thy Word, to the end that by Thy grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## *HYMN*

1. God loves me dearly,  
Grants me salvation,  
God loves me dearly,  
Loves even me.

2. I was in slav'ry  
Sin, death, and darkness;  
God's love was working  
To make me free. (Refrain)

Refrain:  
Therefore I'll say again  
God loves me dearly,  
God loves me dearly,  
Loves even me.

4. Jesus, my Savior,  
Himself did offer;  
Jesus, my Savior,  
Paid all I owed. (Refrain)

## *God Loves Me Dearly*

3. He sent forth Jesus,  
My dear Redeemer,  
He sent forth Jesus  
And set me free. (Refrain)

5. Now I will praise you,  
O love eternal;  
Now I will praise you  
All my life long. (Refrain)

M: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, hath had mercy upon us and hath given His Only Son to die for us and for His sake forgiveth us all our sins. To them that believe on His Name He giveth power to become the sons of God and hath promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this Lord, unto us all.

## **CHOIR (women)**

## *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*

## *HYMN*

## *Let Us All with Gladsome Voice*

1. Let us all with gladsome voice  
Praise the God of Heaven,  
Who, to bid our hearts rejoice,  
His own Son hath given.  
  
3. We are rich, for He was poor;  
Is not this a wonder?  
Therefore praise God evermore  
Here on earth and yonder.

2. To this vale of tears He comes,  
Here to serve in sadness,  
That with Him in heav'n's fair homes  
We may reign in gladness,  
  
4. O Lord Christ, our Savior dear,  
Be Thou ever near us.  
Grant us now a glad new year.  
Amen, Jesus, hear us! Amen.

## **CHOIR**

## *Glory to God the Angels Sing*

## **FIRST READING: Genesis 1:1-3a**

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup>Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. <sup>3</sup>And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

## A Christmas Invitation (HYMN)

*Angels, From the Realms of Glory*

C: (SING) Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;

Once you sang creation's story; now proclaim Messiah's birth.

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

M: Fear not! For behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people.

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

C: (SING) Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night, God-With-Us is now residing, yonder shines the infant's light.

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

## DUET (Jeannette Diestler/Paul Koch)

*O Holy Night*

## PRAYER OF CHRISTMAS EVE

C: O God, with Your glory You once filled the night,

And now we behold in Christ Jesus the light.

May His presence brighten each pathway we take

Until in His glory at last we awake.

## SECOND READING: Numbers 24:17 and Genesis 49:10

<sup>17</sup> "I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near. A star will come out of Jacob; a scepter will rise out of Israel. He will crush the foreheads of Moab, the skulls<sup>[a]</sup> of<sup>[b]</sup> all the people of Sheth.<sup>[c]</sup> <sup>10</sup> The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet,<sup>[a]</sup> until he to whom it belongs<sup>[b]</sup> shall come and the obedience of the nations shall be his.

## A Prophets' Carol

*The People Who in Darkness Sat*

1. The people who in darkness sat  
A glorious light have seen;  
The light has shined on them who long  
In shades of death have been,  
In shades of death have been.
3. His name shall be the Prince of Peace,  
The Everlasting Lord,  
The Wonderful, the Counselor,  
The God by all adored,  
The God by all adored.

2. To us a Child of hope is born  
To us a Son is given,  
And on His shoulder ever rests,  
All pow'r in earth and heaven,  
All pow'r in earth and heaven.

### THIRD READING: ISAIAH 9:2,6,7

<sup>2</sup>The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. <sup>6</sup>For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup>Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.



#### Angel's Carol

#### *Behold a Branch is Growing*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Behold, a branch is growing<br>Of loveliest form and grace.<br>As prophets sang, foreknowing,<br>It springs from Jesse's race<br>And bears one little flow'r<br>In midst of coldest winter,<br>At deepest midnight hour. | 2. Isaiah t'was foretold it<br>In words of promise sure,<br>With Mary we behold it,<br>A virgin meek and pure.<br>Through God's eternal will<br>This child to her is given<br>At midnight calm and still. |
|---|---|

### FOURTH READING: Micah 5:2, Luke 1:30-33

<sup>2</sup>"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans<sup>[a]</sup> of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."

<sup>30</sup>But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup>and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

## The Virgin's Carol

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

1. O Little town of Bethlehem, how still we see Thee lie!  
Above Thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by;  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in Thee tonight.
2. How silently, how silently the Wondrous Gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heav'n.  
No ear may hear His coming; but, in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.

### FIFTH READING: MATTHEW 1:18-23

<sup>18</sup> This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about<sup>[a]</sup>: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet<sup>[b]</sup> did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus,<sup>[c]</sup> because he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"<sup>[d]</sup> (which means "God with us").

## CHOIR

*Still, Still, Still*

### SIXTH READING: LUKE 2:1-7

<sup>1</sup> In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. <sup>2</sup> (This was the first census that took place while<sup>[a]</sup> Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup> And everyone went to their own town to register. <sup>4</sup> So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. <sup>5</sup> He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup> and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

## The Hymn of Praise

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

1. Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King!  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled.”  
Joyful, all your nations, rise;  
Join the triumph of the skies.  
With angelic hosts proclaim,  
Christ is born in Bethlehem!  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King!”
2. Hail the heavenly Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings,  
Ris’n with healing in His wings.  
Mild He leaves His throne on high;  
Born that we no more may die,  
Born to raise each child of earth,  
Born to give us second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King!”

## SEVENTH READING: LUKE 2:8-11

<sup>8</sup> And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.

## The Shepherd’s Carol

*The First Noel*

1. The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter’s night that was so deep.

**Refrain:** Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel!

2. They look-ed up and saw a star, shining in the east beyond them far;  
And to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.

**Refrain:** Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel!

## OFFERING

## ***HYMN***

## *Angels We Have Heard on High*

1 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!

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
which inspire your heav'nly song?

[Refrain]

3 Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing  
Come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King!

[Refrain]

M: Let us now join in speaking the following verse which tells us what affect this joyous news will have in our lives and in our mission efforts.

**C: Now let the good tidings of great joy be heard:  
Fulfilled in Christ's birth is the prophets' sure word,  
As each land and nation is told of this birth,  
The dawn of salvation brings light to the earth.**

## ***Our Joyful Response***

## *O, Come All Ye Faithful*

Oh come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
Oh come ye, Oh come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come, and behold Him, born the King of angels!

Refrain:

Oh come, let us adore Him;

Oh come, let us adore Him;

Oh come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

2 To Thee, then, Oh Jesus, this day of thy birth  
Be glory and honor through heaven and earth,  
True Godhead incarnate, omnipotent Word!

[Refrain]

## THE PRAYERS

### *HYMN*

### *What Child Is This?*

1 What Child is this, who, laid to rest,  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
While shepherds watch are keeping?

#### [Chorus]

This, this is Christ, the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

2 Why lies He in such mean estate,  
Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading [Chorus]

3 So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,  
Come peasant, king to own Him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

*The ushers shall proceed down the aisle lighting the candles  
of those seated on the center aisle. Once your candle is lit, the person sitting next to you  
will tip their candle to your lit candle. Candles will remain lit until after the Blessing.*

### *Sharing the Brightness*

### *Silent Night*

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,  
Heavenly 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.

## SILENT PRAYER

## THE BLESSING

May He who by His Incarnation brought us forgiveness, life, and salvation, grant you the fullness of the inward peace of redemption and goodwill; and may the blessings of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. Amen

*The candles may now be extinguished. We will sing our recessional hymn.*

*The candles may be placed in the box in the entry way.*

## ***HYMN***

## ***I Am So Glad when Christmas Comes***

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. I am so glad when Christmas comes,<br>The night of Jesus' birth,<br>When Bethlehem's star shone as the sun,<br>And angels sang on earth. | 2. The Little Child of Bethlehem,<br>He is a king indeed!<br>For He came down from heav'n above<br>To help a world in need.            |
| 3. He lives again in heaven's realm,<br>The Son of God today;<br>And still He loves His little ones<br>And hears them when they pray.       | 4. I, too, shall sing my Savior's praise,<br>My joy, my crown, my Lord;<br>For He has made me His own child,<br>By water and the Word. |

## ***ANNOUNCEMENTS***

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**THANK YOU** to the choir and our organist for all of the special music that was heard this evening!

**AFTER EXTINGUISHING YOUR CANDLES**, please place them in the empty boxes as you leave.

**WE INVITE YOU** to our full **Christmas Festival Service** tomorrow morning at **9:00 a.m.** *Worship Christ the newborn King!*

## **CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE**

- Christmas Day Festival Service—Monday, Dec. 25, at 9:00 a.m.
- New Year's Eve Service - Sunday, Dec. 31, at 5:30 pm

**GUESTS AND VISITORS** – Thank you for joining us tonight. Please sign the Guest Book before you leave.

**PARENTS' ROOM** – A Parents' Room is at the rear of the sanctuary if you need to temporarily calm a child, but we are caring, loving and happy to hear your child/children. From the Parents' Room you can still see, hear, and participate in the worship service.

**LIVESTREAM VOLUNTEERS** – The sign-up sheet for January and February 2024. Please sign up for a Sunday(s) you are available. Thank you!

**PASTOR TRENT SAARI** – At our call meeting, voting members selected Pastor Saari of Western Koshkonong Lutheran Church, Cottage Grove, WI. Please keep Pastor Saari and his family in your prayers as he considers this Divine Call. Pastor Saari would like to hear from you. Email: [pastorsaari@hotmail.com](mailto:pastorsaari@hotmail.com) OR Cell: 608-208-3188

**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS** – Thank you to all who donated Christmas poinsettias to beautify our sanctuary as we celebrate the birth of our Savior!

Dennis and Lila Barlament  
Jay and Jill Brown  
Brian and Julie Busse  
Donna Carter  
Dave and Jeanette Diestler  
Sharon and John Dunbar  
Sue Engberg  
Sandra Gillaume  
Charles and Barbara Hartwig  
Phil and Janet Heuser – In Memory of Janet and  
Sandra's Mom and in memory of Phil's Mom  
Allen and Janice Johnson  
Ardis Junco  
Marilyn Lietzke  
Joe Massie  
Rick and Barb Schnese  
Peter and Terri Tilkens  
Sandra VanderHeyden  
Sue Wallenfang

*Have a Blessed, Merry Christmas!*

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**OUR MISSION:** Christ the King Ev. Lutheran Church **gives all praise and thanks to the Triune God** for His grace received through Word and Sacrament **by sharing the saving Gospel of Christ** with the people of this community and the world.



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