



For
Unto us
A child
is born,

and the government
will be on his shoulders

And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor,

Mighty God
Everlasting Father
Prince of Peace

Isaiah
9:6

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24, 2018

7:30 PM

PRESERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son ☩ and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: Unto us a Child is born!

C: **Unto us a Son is given!** [Is 9:6]

P: When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son,

C: **Born of woman, born under the law,**

P: To redeem those who were under the law. [Gal 4:4]

C: **Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because He has come and He has redeemed His people.** [Lk 1:68]

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.

P: When all was still, and it was midnight

C: **Your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the royal throne.**

P: Sing to the Lord a new song;

- C: Sing to the Lord, all the earth.
P: Sing to the Lord, praise His name;
C: Proclaim His salvation day after day.
P: Declare His glory among the nations,
C: His marvelous deeds among all peoples.
P: For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;
C: Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; [Ps 96:1-4, 11]

*Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

- P: Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God and Mary's son,
C: You were born into our world to save us from sin and death.
P: You came to preach, heal and comfort, to forgive and encourage. You were born to die on the cross.
C: You brought the light of life to those walking in darkness, and the joy of salvation to those doomed to death.
P: Be born in our hearts again this holy night.
C: Help us hear and believe the mystery of Your birth.
P: Watch over our dear ones near and far, that with them and all the saints in heaven and on earth we may treasure Your love and rejoice in Your salvation.
C: Amen

THE CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

- P: [Jesus said], "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." [John 8:12]
- C: **Whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what He has done has been done through God.**" [John 3:19-21]
- P: "Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the darkness.
- C: **Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble.**" [1 John 2:9-10]
- P: If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.
- C: **If we confess our sins, [God] is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.**" [1 John 1:5-9]
- P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C: **Most merciful God, I confess that I am by nature sinful and unclean.**
- P: I have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed,
- C: **By what I have done and by what I have left undone.**
- P: I have not loved You with my whole heart;
- C: **I have not loved my neighbor as myself.**
- P: I have fled from the light.
- C: **I have hidden in the darkness.**
- P: I am a sinner.
- C: **I justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment.**
- P: For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on me.
- C: **Forgive me, renew me, and lead me, so that I may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy Name.**

- P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to be born for you, to be your Savior. Jesus died for you and for His sake God forgives you all your sins. God Himself calls you out of darkness and into His marvelous light. As a called and ordained servant of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C: Amen.

CAROL

*Come, your hearts and voices raising,
Christ the Lord with gladness praising;
Loudly sing His love amazing,
Worthy folk of Christendom.*

*Christ, from heaven to us descending
And in love our race befriending;
In our need his help extending,
Saved us from the wiley foe.*

*Oh, the joy beyond expressing
When by faith we grasp this blessing,
And to You we come confessing
That Your love has set us free.*

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as men rejoice when dividing the plunder. For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment

rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire.

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. Of the increase 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.

CAROL

*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:
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 man is now residing;
Yonder shines the Infant Light;
Come and worship, come and worship;
worship Christ, the newborn King.*

*Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations;
Ye have seen His natal star;
Come and worship, come and worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King.*

THE NEW TESTAMENT READING:

Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

CAROL

“Still is the Night”

Chancel Choir

THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register.

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. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

CAROL

*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!*

REFRAIN:

*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;
O sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God, glory in the highest! REFRAIN:*

*Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n:
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! REFRAIN:*

SERMON

Pastor Paul Birner

CONFESSION OF FAITH (explanation to second article of Creed in the small Catechism)

P: I believe in Jesus Christ. What does this mean?

C: I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be his own, and live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness, even as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

OFFERING

“Coventry Carol”

Jackie Kinunen

OFFERTORY

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

LORD’S PRAYER

CANDLE LIGHTING

(Tip only unlighted candles to receive the flame from those already lit. Please do not tip burning candles)

JOHN 1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light. The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

CLOSING HYMN

*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.*

BENEDICTION

- P: In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. And God said, “Let there be light!” [Gen 1:1, 3]
- C: **Jesus Christ is the Light of the world, in Him there is no darkness at all.** [1 Jn 1:5]
- P: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light, those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them the light has shined. [Is 9:2]
- C: **Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.** [Is 60:1]
- P: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world; the light no darkness can overcome. [Jn 8:12, Jn 1:5]
- C: **Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.** [Mt 5:16]
- P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace. [Num 6:24]
- C: **Amen.**

Please carefully extinguish your candles at this time.

Merry
Christmas

Welcome to King of Kings Lutheran Church.

We thank you for joining us this evening.

Christmas is a time of remembrances — surely the most precious of memories. We all have images to treasure: the smell of a crackling fire...the warm glow of being with loved ones...the wonder of fresh snow with Christmas lights shining through in a myriad of colors...the shared joy of Christmas worship...and songs – all the wonderful hymns and carols of Christmas! Best of all is the remembrance of one special birthday!

Christmas is a celebration for all time because God loved us enough to send His Son!

We Wish You a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!



Would you like to keep up with activities or find out more about what we believe, teach, and confess?

Connect with us online!

WWW.King-of-Kings.org

