

A CHILD
HAS BEEN
BORN FOR US,
A SON IS GIVEN
TO US;
AUTHORITY RESTS
UPON HIM AND
HE IS NAMED
JESUS

I S A I A H 9 : 6



are to give Him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.” [Luke 1:26f]

*Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains
Glo – ria in excelsis Deo;
Glo – ria in excelsis Deo;*

P: An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph 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. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.” [Mt. 1:20f]

*Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav’nly song?
Glo – ria in excelsis Deo;
Glo – ria in excelsis Deo;*

P: The angel said to the shepherds, “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.” [Luke 2:10]

*Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the new-born king.
Glo – ria in excelsis Deo;
Glo – ria in excelsis Deo;*

THE 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!**

P: And the government shall be upon His shoulder.

C: **And His name shall be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace,**

THE INTROIT

Pastor Birner & Fritz Timm

THE CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

P: On this Christmas Eve, we come together to offer our worship to the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ.

C: **We hear this night of the birth of the Son of God, Emmanuel, God with us.**

P: We confess this night that we are not always willing to receive Him or follow Him. Instead we give in to the temptation to live our own lives apart from Him.

C: **O God, forgive us for not leaving room in our lives for You. Forgive us for focusing only on ourselves.**

P: We confess our misguided ways.

C: **God forgive us for our disobedience to Your Word.**

P: We confess our selfish ways.

C: **God forgive us for our failure to love one another.**

P: We confess our faithless ways.

C: **God forgive us for our failure to believe and trust Your promises.**

~ A Moment of Silence for Self-Examination ~

P: Jesus came into the world to save us from our sins, failures and misguided ways.

C: **Gracious and merciful God forgive us our sins; and by the power of Your Holy Spirit, help us to believe Your Word, trust Your promises and live for You and You alone.**

P: God almighty has had mercy on you and sent Jesus into this world to be born of human flesh, suffer and die for your sins, rise from the grave and live and reign for all eternity as your Savior. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, and by the command of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

*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.*

*No more let sins 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*

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 7:10-14

R: The Prophet Isaiah foretold the virgin birth of Immanuel—
God with us.

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, “Ask the LORD your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.” But Ahaz said, “I will not ask; I will not put the LORD to the test.” Then

Isaiah said, "Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of men? Will you try the patience of my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel."

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

*Let the earth now praise the Lord,
Who has truly kept His Word
And at last to us did send
Christ, the sinner's help and friend.*

*What the fathers most desired,
What the prophets' heart inspired,
What they longed for many-a year,
Stands fulfilled in glory here.*

THE NEW TESTAMENT READING:

1 John 2:28-3:2

R: We are children of God and heirs of salvation.

And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming. If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of him.

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL:

LUKE 2:1-5

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

*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.*

THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL

LUKE 2:6-7

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

*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.*

THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL

LUKE 2:8-9

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

*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.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel!*

THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL

LUKE 2:10-14

And the angel said unto them, 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. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

*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;
Oh, come, let us adore him; Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, 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!"
Oh, come, let us adore him; Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL

LUKE 2:15-20

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a

manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

P: The Christmas Gospel. This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God! Praise to You O Christ!**

DUET “O Holy Night” Julia Wenndt & Katie Devore

THE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE Pastor Birner

THE OFFERING Handbell Choir

THE PRAYERS

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

~ A brief silence ~

P: For the increase of peace among the nations, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Christ the Lord, bring peace on earth.**

P: For the spread of the joyful news that the Savior has come, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Christ the Lord, bring joy to the world.**

P: For the poor and those who find neither welcome nor acceptance, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Christ the Lord, bring help to the poor.**

P: For the renewal of the whole church, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Christ the Lord, bring renewal to your Church.**

- P: For the true Light of Christmas to shine on us all, let us pray to the Lord.
- C: **Christ the Lord, enlighten us with your light and your truth.**

~ Special Prayer Requests Made Here ~

- P: Rejoicing in the birth of Christ we commend all for whom we pray into God's merciful hands.
- 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 SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

- P: Let us pray.
- C: **We offer with joy and thanksgiving what You have first given us—ourselves, our time, our possessions, signs of Your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of Him who was born to make of Himself an offering for our sins, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**
- P: The Lord be with you.
- C: **And also with you.**
- P: Lift up your hearts.
- C: **We lift them up to the Lord.**
- P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**
- P: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places, offer thanks and praise to You, O Lord, holy Father, through Jesus Christ our Lord. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh You have opened the eyes

of faith to a new and radiant vision of Your glory; that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

*A great and mighty wonder,
A full and holy cure
The virgin bears the Infant.
With virgin honor pure!
Repeat the hymn again:
"To God on high be glory.
And peace on earth to men!"*

*The Word becomes incarnate.
And yet remains on high.
And cherubim sing anthems.
To shepherds from the sky.
Repeat the hymn again:
"To God on high be glory.
And peace on earth to men!"*

*Since all He comes to ransom,
by all be He adored.
The Infant born in Beth'lem,
the Savior and the Lord
Repeat the hymn again:
"To God on high be glory.
And peace on earth to men!"*

P: On the night when he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it and gave it to the disciples saying: "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my

blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

For as often as we drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death, until He comes.

C: Christ was born. Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Therefore, gracious Father, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And, believing the witness of His birth, life, death and resurrection, we await His coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: Almighty God, send now, we pray, Your Holy Spirit, the spirit of our Lord and of His Church, that we who receive the Lord’s body and blood may live to the praise of Your glory and receive our inheritance with all Your saints in light.

C: Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

At King of Kings, we welcome at Holy Communion all baptized Christians who believe that Jesus Christ is present in this Sacrament and that forgiveness of sins is given in it. Children who have not yet been instructed to receive Holy Communion and those who are not yet baptized are invited to come forward to receive a blessing. Please see the Pastor if you have further questions.

Distribution and Hymns

Special Music by the Handbell Choir

“What Child is This”

*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?
This, this is Christ the king,*

*Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary!*

*Why lies He in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,
The cross be home for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The babe, the son of Mary!*

*So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;
Come, peasant king, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
The babe, the son of Mary!*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P: Let us pray: Almighty God, You made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true light.
- C: **Grant that we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and on the last day wake to the brightness of His glory;**
- P: Through Your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, now and forever.
- C: **Amen.**

CANDLE LIGHTING

CAUTION!

Please be very careful with the candles.

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

SCRIPTURE VERSES

(Read during candle lighting.)

- P: The prophet Isaiah wrote, “The people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.” [Mt 4:16]
- P: The devout man, Simeon, moved by the Spirit took Jesus into his arms and said, “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. My eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” [Lk 2:31-32]
- P: St. John the Evangelist begins his Gospel saying, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.” [Jn 1:1-5]

*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.*

THE BENEDICTION

- P: When Jesus spoke to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” [Jn 8:12]
- C: **Again, Jesus said to His disciples, “You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden.”**
- P: Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. [Mt 5:14-16]
- C: **The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord make his face to shine upon us and be gracious to us. The Lord lift up his countenance upon us and give us peace. Amen.**

THE POSTLUDE

*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

