



FOR

unto us a

Child is
born,

unto us a *Son*

is given; and the government
will be upon *His* shoulder. And

His name will be called

Wonderful

MIGHTY

GOD

Counselor,

Everlasting. Father

PRINCE OF PEACE

ISAIAH

9:6

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24, 2019

7:30 PM

PRESERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME

INVOCATION

P: In the name of God the Father, God the Son † and God 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]

*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!*

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]**

*Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
O sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God, glory in the highest!
O come, let us adore Him!
O come, let us adore Him!
O come, let us adore Him
Christ, the Lord!*

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: 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, Jesus, our Savior.**

P: We confess this night that we are not always willing to receive Him, worship 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 faithfully as Your beloved children.**

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 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.

ANTHEM “My Heart Your Bethlehem” Chancel Choir

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.

*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 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.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

LSB 374

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

Angels sang about His birth,
Wise Men sought and found Him;
Heaven's star shone brightly forth
Glory all around Him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight,
Heard the angels singing;
All the plains were lit that night,
All the hills were ringing.*

*Gentle Mary laid her child
Lowly in a manger;
He is still the undefiled
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!*

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,

P: He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil;

C: 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,

P: And serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness, even as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.

C: This is most certainly true.

OFFERING

Sarah & Gina Dickson

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.

*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

