

Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church
Christmas Eve Service -The Nativity of our Lord
December 24, 2020



LSB Divine Service One pg. 151

Opening Hymn: It Came upon the Midnight Clear

LSB 366

- 1 It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to all,
From heav'n's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

- 2 Still through the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heav'nly music floats
O'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hov'ring wing,
And ever o'er its babel sounds
The blessèd angels sing.

- 3 All you, beneath your heavy load,
By care and guilt bent low,
Who toil along a dreary way
With painful steps and slow:
Look up, for golden is the hour,
Come swiftly on the wing,
The Prince was born to bring you peace;
Of Him the angels sing.

- 4 For lo, the days have come to pass
By prophets seen of old,
When down into the circling years
Came Christ as was foretold.
His word of peace shall to the earth
God's ancient promise bring,

And all who take this gift will hear
The song the angels sing.

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All may kneel or stand

Pastor (P): In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation (C): Amen.

P: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

C: The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

P: On those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

C: We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son who came from the Father.

P: For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

C: In Him was life, and that life was the light of men.

Stand or Kneel for Silent Confession

P: O almighty God, merciful Father,

Q: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your punishment now and forever. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Q: AMEN.

P: When all was still, and it was midnight,

C: Your Almighty Word, O Lord, descended from Your 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: He is to be feared above all gods.

P: Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;

C: Let the sea resound; let the fields be jubilant, and all the trees of the forest will sing for joy. GLORY BE TO THE FATHER AND TO THE + SON AND TO THE HOLY SPIRIT, AS IT WAS IN THE BEGINNING IS NOW AND WILL BE FOREVER. AMEN.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with your spirit.

P: Let us pray together:

C: O God, because You once caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light, grant that we who have known the mystery of that Light here on earth may come to the full measure of its joys in heaven; though Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 9:2-7 NIV

(700 years before Jesus' birth Isaiah prophesies of the Savior to be born.)

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.

EPISTLE READING Titus 2:11-14 NIV

(In Christ, God's grace is made available to all people to call them from sin and death and receive true life in Jesus.)

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.

Hymn: Angels We Have Heard on High

LSB 368

1 Angels we have heard on high,
 Sweetly singing o'er the plains,

And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains.

ref 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?

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

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GOSPEL READING Luke 2:1-20 KJV

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. 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.

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. 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 Saviour, 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. 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.

Hymn: O Little Town of Bethlehem

LSB 361

- 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 For Christ is born of Mary,
And, gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king
And peace to all the earth!

- 3 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.

- 4 O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel!

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SERMON

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I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by Whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, Whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, + and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen

Offerings will be received at the back of church

Spoken Responsively

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

D: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times... we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Hymn: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

LSB 380

1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

ref Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,

Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel!

3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.

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PRAYERS CONCLUDING WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: Take eat; this is My + Body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me. In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them saying: Drink of it all of you; this is My + blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.

P: The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **Amen.**

SING THE AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God You take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God You take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God You take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.

We believe with the words of Christ from 1 Corinthians 11 that Jesus is truly present with His body & blood under the bread and wine of His supper. As a congregation of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, it is our practice to commune only those current confirmed members of our confessional fellowship. For those not communing, you may still go to receive a candle and gather in our candlelight circle for our closing hymn. To learn more about the Lord's Supper or to be instructed, please contact the Pastor.

Distribution Hymns:

Joy to the World

LSB 387

- 1 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.

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

- 3 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.

- 4 He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

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Away in a Manger

LSB 364

- 1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the [bright] sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

- 2 The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

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After Communion the pastor will dismiss the communicants with the blessing

P: And now may this true body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, strengthen and preserve you in the true faith to life everlasting. Amen. Depart in peace.

Q: **Amen.**

P: Let us pray: Lord God, Heavenly Father, as Your Son assumed true flesh and blood, for us and for our salvation and was born in flesh at Bethlehem, so we give You thanks that You have fed our hungry hearts on the same body and blood of the Savior which lay in Bethlehem's manger and hung on Calvary's cross. Grant joy to our hearts at this celebration of Jesus' birth and as we have received Your gifts, make us strong to confess Your Name before the world, striving to serve others with Your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Q: **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

As the lights are dimmed and the sanctuary is lit with only candlelight we sing our closing hymn Silent Night.

Closing Hymn: Silent Night LSB #363

1 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.

2 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!

3 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.

*Extinguish your candle

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST !

***May God richly bless and keep you as you celebrate the
Savior's birth.***

*After the closing hymn and while you are exiting the sanctuary, please place the candles
back in the candle boxes located by the entrance doors.

In Our Prayers

Health concerns:

Joyce Wolfe	Dan Brackett	Debra Hughes
Kim Noe	Missy Montgomery	Theresa Clark
Tom England	Walter Walker	Fern Harding
Arlene Hazlett	Janalee Gutierrez	Guy Hood
Rose Morris	Bev Donley	William Burkhardt
Louis Linnenburger	Anita Reinertsen	Esther Donley
Mina Montgomery	Beulah Meadows	

Allie Clark (family member of Theresa Clark)- fighting cancer
Lorren- upcoming back surgery
Glenn - Lori Kugler's brother
Donna Vilardi- Arlene Hazlett's sister battling leukemia

Others:

Pastor Sommerer's family, at the passing of his father
Lisa Corps- fostering a little girl
Pastor Meeker, Deaconess Lorna and the Kenya Mission
Sgt Daniel Colombo deployed to Iraq
SPC Douglas Havens- stationed at Fort Drum, NY
Cpl Kaleb Karssen- stationed at Camp Pendleton, CA
Our nation, our world, our leaders, our neighbors
Our healthcare workers: Tom, Mark, Jared, Gabby, Evelyn, Diane, Kathy, Shelly, Deb,
Lori, Becca

After Divine Service on Christmas morning the office will be closed until Dec. 28th. Pastor's family will be traveling out of town until Dec. 30th. Leah will be in the office the week of Dec. 28th. In an emergency call the office or your elder and we will contact the person covering.

Upcoming Worship Schedule:

Friday, December 25	10:00 am Christmas Day Service
Sunday, December 27	8:00 am Worship Service
	10:30 am Worship Service
Thursday, December 31	5:30 pm Divine Service