

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2022



https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/1890/5365/articles/the-nativity-scene_1400x.progressive.jpg?v=1599271630

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF?

December 24, 2022 3 & 5 pm

PRESERVICE MUSIC

“Christmas Joy” (arr. Raney)

3 pm “Go Tell It on the Mountain” (arr. Raney) Flute & Piano

“Christmas Angels” (arr. Raney) Four Hand Piano

“Still, Still, Still” (arr. Davis) Flute & Harpsichord

“What Child is This?” (arr. Janzer) Flute & Organ

5 pm “Go Tell It on the Mountain” & “Joy to the World” JuBELLation Choir

368 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**

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**

Text: tr. The Crown of Jesus, 1862, Part 2, London, alt.; French

Text: Public domain

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

G Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

G But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(Silence for reflection on God’s Word and for self-examination.)

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

G Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

G Amen.

SOLO “O Holy Night” (Adam, arr. Lanier)

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

G And also with you.

P Let us pray. O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

361 O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

sts. 1, 4

- 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.
- 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!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–93

Text: Public domain

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 7:10–14

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹“Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹²But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” ¹³And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

1 John 4:7–16

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. ¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM 3 pm “Christmas Sanctus” (Dengler) Choir

SPECIAL MUSIC 5 pm “Christmas Lullaby” JuBELLation Choir

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18–25

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph,

being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to You, O Christ.

370 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?
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.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The babe, the son of Mary!
- 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.
Raise, raise the song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
The babe, the son of Mary!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98

Text: Public domain

SERMON “What are you afraid of?” Matthew 1:18-25

CREED Sung to the tune of “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen”

We all believe in one true God, the Father of great might,
Who formed all things on earth below and in the heavens’ height.
In love He promised fallen man a rescue from sin’s night.
Now praise we our God, the Three-In-One, Three-In-One,
Now praise we our God, the Three-In One!

We trust in Jesus Christ, His Son, the babe of Bethlehem!
He died to free us from all sin and rose to life again.

He rules at God the Fathers' side, the Lord of earth and heav'n.
Now praise we our God, the Three-In-One, Three-In-One,
Now praise we our God, the Three-In One!

We now confess the Holy Ghost, Who fills with saving grace,
Shows faith within the hearts of men that we may see God's face.
He keeps us safe within His care till heav'n that blessed place.
Now praise we our God, the Three-In-One, Three-In-One,
Now praise we our God, the Three-In One!

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

After each petition, please respond with the following:

P let us pray to the Lord,

C **Lord, have mercy.**

At the end of the prayer:

C **Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

(The pastor takes the light from the Christ candle and gives it to the acolyte and ushers. They pass the light on to the congregation. Lights are dimmed.)

Pastor: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,

People: **the light no darkness can overcome.** *John 1:5*

Pastor: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. *Isaiah 9:2*

People: **The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not overcome it.** *John 1:5*

Pastor: Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. *Isaiah 9:2b*

People: **We have seen His glory, glory of the only Son from the Father.** *John 1:14b*

Pastor: For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given. *Isaiah 9:6*

People: **In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.** *John 1:4*

CHOIR 3 pm "This Peaceful Night" (Price & Besig)

SOLO 5 pm "Silent Night (Heavenly Peace)" (Bergthold/Cash)

363 SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT

sts. 1–3, verse 1 in German

1 *Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht! Alles schlaft, einsam wacht Nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar, Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh, Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh.*

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! Shepherd 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.

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537 BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR

4 Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man!

Glory and honor, Praise, adoration Now and forevermore be Thine!

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LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER

- P** Let us pray. O God, our heavenly Father, give us grace to keep this festival of the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ, with pure faith and holy love, that while we join our voices with the voices of those who sang, “Glory to God in the highest,” we also join our voices with those of the shepherds and all others who spread abroad the Gospel of Your peace and good will toward all people; through Jesus Christ, the babe of Bethlehem and our loving Savior.
- C** Amen.

BENEDICTION

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
- C** Amen.

387 JOY TO THE WORLD

- 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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POSTLUDE “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” (arr. Denton)

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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