



Christmas Eve  
December 24, 2021  
4 & 8 p.m.

St. Bartholomew Lutheran Church  
Brillion, WI

## Welcome

### Theme Verse

- P** Our theme verse for today is, “And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn” (Luke 2:7).

### Lighting of the Advent Wreath

#### 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 blessed 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.

### Invocation & Call to Worship

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

**C** Amen.

**P** The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**C** For unto us a Son is given.

**P** To us a Son is born.

**C** And the government shall be upon his shoulder.

**P** And his name shall be called—

**C** Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God.

**P** Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**C** Let us worship the newborn King!

### **Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising**

*LSB 375 vs. 1-2, 4-6*

- 1 Come, your hearts and voices raising, Christ the Lord with gladness praising;  
Loudly sing His love amazing, Worthy folk of Christendom.
- 2 Christ, from heav'n to us descending And in love our race befriending;  
In our need His help extending, Saved us from the wily foe.
- 4 From the bondage that oppressed us, From sin's fetters that possessed us,  
From the grief that sore distressed us, We, the captives, now are free.
- 5 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.
- 6 Gracious Child, we pray, O hear us, From Your lowly manger cheer us,  
Gently lead us and be near us Till we join Your choir above.

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### **Confession & Forgiveness**

**P** Heavenly Father, through Your Son Jesus, You invite us to lay our great fears down  
and enter into Your great joy.

**C** But instead we often fasten on to our fears.

**P** We wallow in our worries.

**C** We drown in our depression.

**P** We suffer in our sin.

**C** We forfeit Your forgiveness.

**P** We get lost in our grudges.

**C** We refuse Your joy. Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

**P** With great love and mercy the angel says, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good  
news of great joy that will be for all the people" (Luke 2:10). On the cross, Jesus  
carried your sin and shame and rising again He defeated every enemy. "For unto you  
is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11).

**C** Let us worship the newborn King!

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth, we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 9:6–7*

<sup>6</sup>For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup>Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

(4 p.m.) Choir Anthem - “By Candlelight”

(8 p.m.) Solo - “Adore”

*Jessica Krueger*

## Epistle

*Philippians 3:20–21*

<sup>20</sup>But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup>who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Gospel Acclamation

**P** Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

**C** When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son. Hallelujah!

## Holy Gospel

*Luke 2:1-20 (KJV)*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

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 Judea, 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.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

### Mini Message

#### From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

*LSB 358 vs. 1-6, 13*

- 1 “From heav’n above to earth I come To bear good news to ev’ry home;  
Glad tidings of great joy I bring, Whereof I now will say and sing:
- 2 “To you this night is born a child Of Mary, chosen virgin mild;  
This little child of lowly birth Shall be the joy of all the earth.

- 3 “This is the Christ, our God Most High, Who hears your sad and bitter cry;  
He will Himself your Savior be From all your sins to set you free.
- 4 “He will on you the gifts bestow Prepared by God for all below,  
That in His kingdom, bright and fair, You may with us His glory share.
- 5 “These are the signs that you shall mark: The swaddling clothes and manger dark.  
There you will find the infant laid By whom the heav’ns and earth were made.”
- 6 How glad we’ll be to find it so! Then with the shepherds let us go  
To see what God for us has done In sending us His own dear Son.
- 13 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child, Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,  
A quiet chamber set apart For You to dwell within my heart.

## Sermon

## Offering & Rite of Friendship

**(4 p.m.) Choir Anthem** – “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”  
(Congregation joins on vs. 4-5)

- 4 Let the heights of heav’n, adore Him; Angel hosts, His praises sing.  
Pow’rs, dominions, bow before Him And extol our God and King;  
Let no tongue on earth be silent, Ev’ry voice in concert ring Evermore and evermore.
- Δ5 Christ, to You, with God the Father, And the Spirit, there shall be  
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving, And the shout of jubilee:  
Honor, glory, and dominion, And eternal victory Evermore and evermore!

## Christmas Eve Litany

- P** As we light our candles, we remember and worship our Savior, Jesus Christ, God’s light of love.
- C** “Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you” (Isaiah 60:1).
- P** “When Jesus spoke again 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’” (John 8:12).
- C** “For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth”

**(Ephesians 5:8-9).**

- P** “In the same way, let your light shine before people, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:16).

### **Candle Lighting Ceremony** *(The lights are dimmed.)*

*(The pastor takes the light from the “Christ Candle” to the ushers. They pass the light on to the congregation. **Tip only the unlighted candle.** Do not tip the lighted candle to avoid dripping the wax! Hold the candles straight up and the wax will not drip. You may recess with lighted candles during the singing of the recessional hymns, putting your candle out at the door and placing it in the receptacle provided.)*

### **(4 p.m.) Choir Anthem – “Peace, Peace”**

#### **Silent Night, Holy 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.

### **Prayer of the Church**

#### **Lord’s Prayer**

- 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.

**Benediction**

- P** May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the Magi, and the peace of the Christ Child. And may the Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forevermore!

**C** **Amen.**

**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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December 25	Christmas Day Worship w/Communion	9 a.m.
December 26	Worship	9 a.m.
December 31	New Year’s Eve Worship w/Communion	5 p.m.

Rev. Mark L. Krueger, Pastor

Jessica Krueger, Organist