



# Children's Christmas Eve Service

St. John Lutheran Church

December 24, 2018

7 p.m.

## PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

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; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## A NOTE REGARDING PHOTOGRAPHS

Because this church service is not a mere program or performance but an opportunity to worship and receive the Lord's Word to us, we kindly ask that no photographs or video be taken during the service. You are invited to take photographs after the service and/or ask the deacons for a DVD.

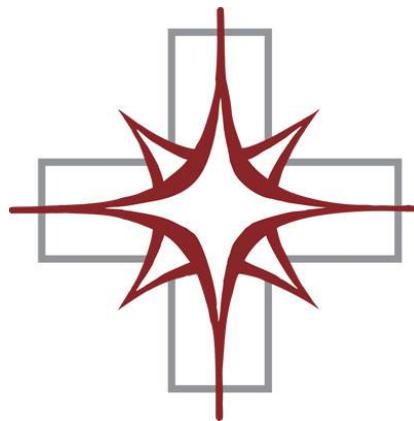
## PRESERVICE MUSIC

*Stand and turn to face the Processional Cross*

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN

*O, Come, Little Children*

- 1. Oh, come, little children, oh, come, one and all,  
To Bethlehem haste to the manger so small.  
God's Son for a gift has been sent you this night  
To be your Redeemer, your Joy and Delight.**
- 2. He's born in a stable for you and for me;  
Draw near by the bright, gleaming starlight to see,  
In swaddling clothes lying, so meek and so mild,  
And purer than angels, the heavenly Child.**
- 3. See Mary and Joseph, with love-beaming eyes,  
Are gazing upon the rude bed where He lies;  
The shepherds are kneeling, with hearts full of love,  
While angels sing loud alleluias above.**
- 4. Kneel down and adore Him with shepherds today,  
Sing out little voices and praise Him as they;  
Rejoice that a Savior from sin you can boast,  
And join in the song of the heavenly host.**



## OPENING VERSICLES

P O Lord, open my lips,  
C **and my mouth will declare Your praise.**  
P Make haste, O God, to deliver me;  
C **make haste to help me, O Lord.**

**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.**

## PSALMODY Psalm 96 (*antiphon: Psalm 96:1*)

*Antiphon sung by children* (LSB 808; stz. 1)

I O sing to the Lord, O sing God a new song. O sing to the  
Lord, O sing God a new song. O sing to the Lord, O  
sing God a new song. O sing to our God, O sing to our God.

Oh sing to the LORD a | new song;\*  
sing to the LORD, | all the earth!  
**Sing to the LORD, | bless his name;\***  
**tell of his salvation from | day to day.**  
Declare his glory among the | nations,\*  
his marvelous works among all the | peoples!  
**For great is the LORD, and greatly | to be praised;\***  
**he is to be feared a- | bove all gods.**  
Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the | peoples,\*  
ascribe to the LORD glo- | ry and strength!  
**Worship the LORD in the splendor of | holiness;\***  
**tremble before him, | all the earth!**  
He will judge the world in | righteousness,\*  
and the peoples in his | faithfulness.

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\***  
**and to the Holy | Spirit;**  
**as it was in the be- | ginning,\***  
**is now, and will be forever. | Amen. Antiphon**

*Sit*



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!  
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove  
 4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;  
 While mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won-d'ring love.  
 Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.  
 O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
 We hear the Christ-mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.  
 And prais - es sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!  
 O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

## + The Christmas Story +

### I. Jesus Is Promised

**Narrator 1:** In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. And God saw everything that He had made, and it was very good.

**Narrator 2:** And the Lord God told Adam, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden, but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."

**Narrator 3:** But the serpent, who was the devil, was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He tempted Eve to eat from the forbidden tree.

**Narrator 4:** And Eve took fruit from the forbidden tree, and she ate it. She also gave some to her husband, Adam, and he ate.

## Recitation

*In Eden's lovely garden,  
Where all things did begin,  
The devil won the vict'ry  
And led man into sin.*

**Narrator 5:** And the Lord God said to Adam, "Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" Adam said, "The woman you put here with me - she gave me some fruit from the tree and I ate it."

**Narrator 6:** Then the Lord God said to Eve, "What is this you have done?" Eve said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

**Narrator 7:** And right there in the Garden of Eden, God gave the first promise of a Savior. After our first parents had fallen into sin, God said to Satan, "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers. He will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

## Recitation

*In this promise of a Savior  
The cross of Christ we see,  
For Satan struck our Savior's heel  
On the cross of Calvary*

*The cross was in the promise -  
Our Savior bruised and dead;  
But by this payment for our sins  
Christ crushed the devil's head.*

## HYMN

*What Child Is This*

LSB 370



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is  
2 Why lies He in such mean es-tate Where ox and ass are



sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While  
feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is  
si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall



Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;  
pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;



Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

**Narrator 8:** God continued to promise the coming Savior throughout the days of the Old Testament. To Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, God promised, "Through your seed, all nations of the earth will be blessed."

**Narrator 9:** Through the prophet Isaiah, God promised the birth of our Redeemer, saying: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

**Narrator 10:** "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined."

**Narrator 11:** "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."

**Narrator 12:** Isaiah also prophesied the suffering and death of Jesus, our Redeemer: "Surely he has born our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed his stricken, smitten by God and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that brought us peace, and by his wounds we are healed."

**Narrator 13:** These promises of God tell us that Jesus would be born into the world to suffer and die in our place for our sins. He paid the penalty that we owe. And then He rose again on Easter morning, winning the victory over the grave!

## Recitation

*In this promise of a Savior  
The cross of Christ we see,  
For by his death upon the cross  
Christ won the victory.*

## HYMN *God Loves Me Dearly* LSB 392 (Children: stz. 1 & all refrains)

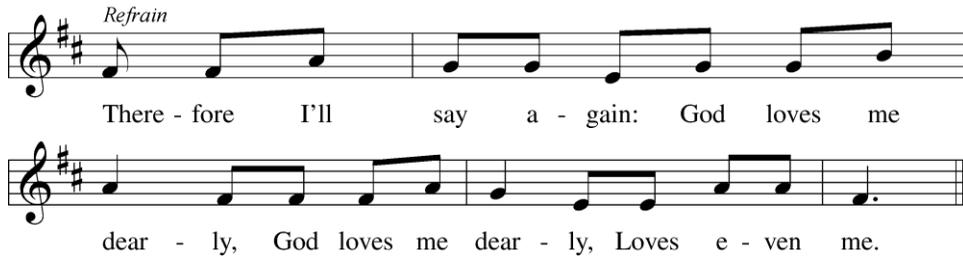


1 God loves me dear - ly, Grants me sal -  
2 I was in slav - 'ry, Sin, death, and  
3 He sent forth Je - sus, My dear Re -  
4 Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Him - self did  
5 Now I will praise You, O Love E -



va - tion, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.  
dark - ness; God's love was work - ing To make me free.  
deem - er, He sent forth Je - sus And set me free.  
of - fer; Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Paid all I owed.  
ter - nal; Now I will praise You All my life long.

*Refrain*



There - fore I'll say a - gain: God loves me  
 dear - ly, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.

## II. Jesus Is Born

- Narrator 14:** God kept the promises He had made to Adam and Eve, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and to all of His chosen people throughout the Old Testament. "When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons."
- Narrator 15:** The story of the Christ Child's birth is told in the Gospel of St. Luke. This wonderful story fills the hearts of God's people with joy and gladness wherever it is heard.
- Narrator 16:** "In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."
- Narrator 17:** Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.
- Narrator 18:** "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."
- Narrator 19:** "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.
- Narrator 20:** "Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail."
- Narrator 21:** "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me according to your word." Then the angel left her.

### Recitation

*The woman's promised offspring  
 Is Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
 God's Son, born of woman.  
 So God fulfilled his word.*

*You see, this is your Savior!  
 He came to die for you  
 That you may live forever  
 Where all God's children do.*



1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing From ten - der stem hath  
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, The rose I have in  
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der With sweet - ness fills the  
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, Who felt our hu - man



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing As proph - ets long have  
 mind; With Mar - y we be - hold it, The vir - gin moth - er  
 air, Dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor The dark - ness ev - 'ry -  
 woe; O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry, Who dost our weak - ness



sung, It came, a flow - 'ret bright, A - mid the  
 kind. To show God's love a - right, She bore to  
 where. True man, yet ver - y God, From sin and  
 know: Bring us at length we pray To the bright



cold of win - ter, When half - spent was the night.  
 us a Sav - ior, When half - spent was the night.  
 death He saves us And light - ens ev - 'ry load.  
 courts of heav - en, And to the end - less day.

### Stand

**Narrator 22:** And it came to pass in those days that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register.

**Narrator 23:** So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the city 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.

**Narrator 24:** And 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 swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

### Recitation

<i>The birth took place in Bethlehem,</i>	<i>Come with us to that humble stall,</i>	<i>Yes, in his lowly manger bed</i>
<i>There in a lowly stall,</i>	<i>We'll kneel beside his bed,</i>	<i>The cross of Christ we see.</i>
<i>A virgin bore the Son of God,</i>	<i>But rather than a wooden crib,</i>	<i>There for our sins that Savior bled</i>
<i>The Savior of us all.</i>	<i>We'll view his cross instead.</i>	<i>To win our victory.</i>

**HYMN**      *Away in a Manger*      LSB 364 (Children sing)

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

*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.*

*Sit*

**Narrator 25:** 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.

**Narrator 26:** And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

**Narrator 27:** And this shall be a sign unto you; You shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, 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.

**HYMN**      *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*      LSB 380



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;  
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God - head see, Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty!  
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!  
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

## IV. Jesus Is Proclaimed

**Narrator 28:** 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."

**Narrator 29:** 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.

**Narrator 30:** But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

### Recitation

*No bells rang out in Bethlehem,  
When our dear Lord was born.  
No bells rang out to tell his birth  
On that first Christmas morn.*

*The message of the Christmas bells  
Is really ours to tell.  
You see, just like the shepherds,  
You are a Christmas bell.*

*The shepherds came from nearby fields  
To see their newborn King;  
And when they saw their little Lord  
They made the whole town ring.*

*For you and me the Christ Child came,  
For sinners high and low.  
Oh, far these tidings now proclaim,  
To man his Savior show!*

### HYMN *Go Tell It on the Mountain* LSB 388 (Children sing refrains)



Go tell it on the moun - tain, O-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



Go tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born!



- 1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er si - lent flocks by night,
- 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled When lo, a - bove the earth
- 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger The hum-ble Christ was born;



Be - hold, through - out the heav - ens There shone a ho - ly light.  
Rang out the an - gel cho - rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
And God sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

**Narrator 31:** Of course, we cannot go to Bethlehem and see the infant Redeemer cradled in His lowly manger. But Jesus has cradled us in His arms, having washed us clean from all our sins in the waters of Holy Baptism.

**Narrator 32:** We cannot stand with the shepherds who were the first to hurry to the manger bed. But we can share in their joy as we hasten, again and again, to the house of the Lord, where Jesus forgives our sins and preaches to us His Word through the voice of His messenger, the pastor.

**Narrator 33:** We cannot, like Simeon in the temple, hug the infant Savior and lift Him in our arms. But we can receive Him on our tongue and in our mouth as He feeds us with His body and blood, once lifted up upon the cross.

**Narrator 34:** In free and joyful response to all that God has done for us in Jesus, in His Word and in His Sacraments, it is our privilege to proclaim the message of Jesus Christ crucified for the sins of the world.

**Narrator 35:** In our church, in our school, and in our daily lives, God calls us to "show forth the praise of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light."

**Narrator 36:** So let us all with gladsome voice praise the God of heaven, who, to make our hearts rejoice, His own Son has given!

**HYMN**      *Let Us All with Gladsome Voice*      LSB 390



1 Let us all with glad-some voice Praise the God of heav - en,  
2 To this vale of tears He comes, Here to serve in sad - ness,  
3 We are rich, for He was poor; Is not this a won - der?  
4 Christ, our Lord and Sav - ior dear, Be Thou ev - er near us.



Who, to bid our hearts re - joice, His own Son hath giv - en.  
That with Him in heav'n's fair homes We may reign in glad - ness.  
There-fore praise God ev - er - more Here on earth and yon - der.  
Grant us now a glad new year. A - men, Je - sus, hear us.

**THE OFFERING**      Duet – *A Christmas Alleluia* (Hailey Cole and Carly Oetting)  
*As the offerings are brought forward, all stand to sing the Doxology (LSB 805)*

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**P** Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

**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.**

## SALUTATION AND COLLECTS

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with thy spirit.**

P 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. **Amen.**

P O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

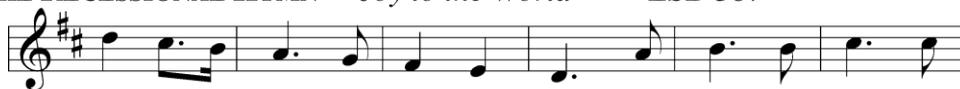
## BENEDICAMUS AND BENEDICTION

P Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **Amen.**

## THE RECESSIONAL HYMN *Joy to the World* LSB 387



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her  
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -  
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him  
play, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
ground; He comes to make His bless - ings  
prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture  
plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing  
flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is  
ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
found, Far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.