



The Nativity of Our Lord

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2018

WORSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS DIALOGUE

Jesus Christ is the light of the world!

He is the Light no darkness can overcome.

At darkest night we gather to celebrate the great light of our salvation.

With the heavenly host we sing, "Glory to God in the highest heaven."

In Christ, God's Word is made flesh and lives among us.

With the shepherds, we will tell of the wonders we have seen and heard.

GATHERING HYMN: *O Come, All Ye Faithful* (v. 1-3) (ELW 283)

GREETING

Good Christian friends, rejoice! Tonight Christ is born in Bethlehem and here in Norridge. From realms of glory, angels sing. From fields, keeping their watch by night, shepherds arrive. Bearing gifts, wise people travel from afar. And we too, have come to the manger to see the newborn king.

May the grace and truth of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you made this holy day shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN: *Go, Tell It on the Mountain* (ELW 290)

(Refrain) **Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

**While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. *(Refrain)***

**The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo, above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. *(Refrain)***

**Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. *(Refrain)***

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2–7

A reading from Isaiah.

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness —
on them light has shined.

³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

WELCOMING THE GOSPEL: *Angels We Have Heard on High* (ELW 289)

Children are invited to play instruments each time the refrain is sung.

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.**

(Refrain)

Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

**Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song? *(Refrain)***

GOSPEL: Luke 2:1–14 [15–20]

Our Christmas Eve story comes from the Gospel of Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. To us is born a Savior.

Jesus Christ our Lord.

Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. To us is born a Savior.

Jesus Christ our Lord.

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 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. To us is born a Savior.

Jesus Christ our Lord.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. To us is born a Savior.

Jesus Christ our Lord.

But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see? I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” To us is born a Savior.

Jesus Christ our Lord.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” To us is born a Savior.

Jesus Christ our Lord.

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. To us is born a Savior.

Jesus Christ our Lord.

When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. To us is born a Savior.

Jesus Christ our Lord.

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. To us is born a Savior.

Jesus Christ our Lord.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CELEBRATING THE GOSPEL: *Angels We Have Heard on High* (ELW 289)

Children are invited to play instruments each time the refrain is sung.

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

(Refrain)

Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

CHRISTMAS EVE MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY: *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (ELW 279)

**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.**

**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!**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rejoicing in the light of Christ that shines upon us, we pray for the church, the world, and all according to their needs.

Let us pray for the church throughout the world; for those who proclaim the gospel; for teachers of the faith; for poets, artists, and musicians; and for all the baptized. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For the earth, your beloved creation and our fragile home; for rivers and woods, mountains and valleys; for marshes and oceans, towns and cities; for shepherds, ranchers, and all who care for animals. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For those who govern and for all in authority; for those who work to bring lasting peace to the land of Jesus' birth; and for all who protect the lives of children. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For innkeepers and travelers; for those whose needs for food or shelter depend upon the generosity of others; for those struggling with addiction; for those who suffer neglect, and for all who are sick. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For this assembly; for those celebrating their first Christmas; for those whose joy is diminished by loneliness or loss; for those absent from us; and for those who are far from home. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

With thanksgiving, we remember all who have died and those whose lives have inspired us to deeper faith, more passionate service, and stronger love.
Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered

Pondering the mystery of your love, we offer our prayers in the name of Christ, the Word made flesh.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Share God's peace with those around you in these or similar words: "Peace be with you."

OFFERING & ANTHEM

OFFERTORY HYMN: *What Child Is This* (ELW 296)

**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!**

**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!**

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

EUCCHARISTIC HYMN: *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* (ELW 270)

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 we no more may die, born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy God,

Creator of all and Source of life, at the birth of time
your word brought light into the world.

In the fullness of time,

you sent your Word, born of Mary, to shine in our darkness
and to make us your daughters and sons.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,

his birth and life among us, his death and resurrection,
we await his coming again when all things will be restored in him.

By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup,

that, held and nourished by you,
we may live as your children, shining with the light of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,

Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The mystery hidden for the ages is revealed for us in this meal.
Come, behold and receive your God.

COMMUNION

All are welcome to join in our communion meal. After receiving the bread, you may take an empty glass to receive the wine. Grape juice is also available in pre-filled glasses. Those not communing are welcome to come forward for a blessing.

During the distribution:

The body of Christ, given for you. **Response: Amen.**

The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Response: Amen.**

COMMUNION HYMN: *I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve* (ELW 271)

**I am so glad each Christmas Eve,
The night of Jesus' birth!
Then like the sun the star shone forth,
And angels sang on earth.**

**The little Child in Bethlehem,
He was a King indeed!
For He came down from Heaven above
To help a world in need.**

**He dwells again in Heaven's realm,
The Son of God today;
And still He loves His little ones
And hears them when they pray.**

**I am so glad on Christmas Eve!
His praises then I sing;
He opens then for every child
The palace of the King.**

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We give you thanks, O God, that in this bread and cup of Christ's very life, you give us food for our journey. As you led the magi by a star, as you brought the holy family home again, guide us on the way unfolding before us. Wherever we go, may our lives proclaim good news of great joy in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

DIALOGUE FOR THE COMING OF THE LIGHT

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

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

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

In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

*As the light is passed, please keep lit candles upright,
and tilt the candle that is being lit.*

HYMN OF LIGHT: *Silent Night, Holy Night!* (ELW 281)

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 your holy face,

With the dawn of redeeming grace,

Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

You may extinguish your candles at this time.

BLESSING

May the Word that Mary brought to birth carry you into new and abundant life.
Amen.

May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms enfold you with love and strength.
Amen.

May the Word that angels proclaimed in song bring harmony to our world.
Amen.

And the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN: *Joy to the World* (ELW 267)

**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.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**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.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God.**

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“Greeting” taken from *in these or similar words Crafting Language for Worship*. Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Fortress, 2015. Print.

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Assisting Minister: Patti Mann
Reader: Karen Lanners
Bread/Wine Presenter: *Volunteer Needed*
Acolyte: Ingrid, Everett, Eloise Sporrong
Ushers: Karen Lanners and June Farrow
Counters: *Volunteers Needed*
Altar: *Volunteers Needed*
Greeter(s): Kären Tompkins

SERVING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2018

Assisting Minister: Patti Mann
Reader: Linda Engler
Bread/Wine Presenter: Karen Lanners
Acolyte: *Volunteer Needed*
Ushers: Marion Engler and Diane Huske
Counters: Patti Mann and James Mann
Altar: Ruth Igoe and Patti Mann
Greeter(s): June Farrow

***A special thank you to everyone who ordered the beautiful
poinsettia flowers adorning our church this Christmas Eve.
Merry Christmas!***

ACACIA PARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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*Pastor: Rev. Meagan Sherman-Sporrong
Organist/Choir Director: Katherine Kishka
Administrative Assistant: Dawn Olson Parent*