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**CHRISTMAS EVE**

**DECEMBER 24, 2021**

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## WELCOME

**HYMN: "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (LSB #379)**

**O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold Him Born the king of angels:  
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!**

**Highest, most holy, Light of Light eternal,  
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;  
Son of the Father Now in flesh appearing!  
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!**

**Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God In the highest:  
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!**

**Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n!  
Word of the Father Now in flesh appearing!  
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!**

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## INVOCATION

### CONFESSION OF SINS:

**Pastor:** Do you truly repent of your sins and desire to be saved?

**People:** I do. I have sinned against God and broken His commands. I have done this in my thoughts, my words, and my deeds. Both by the evil I have done, and by the good I should have done, but didn't.

**Pastor:** Do you desire to live in the light of Christ's glory and grace?

**People:** I do, with the help of the Holy Spirit.

**Pastor:** Do you believe that Christ has come to bring you forgiveness, life, and salvation?

**People:** I do believe this, for that's what the Christmas gospel proclaims!



## **ASSURANCE OF GRACE:**

Pastor: As angels announced the coming of Christ, I announce the coming of God's grace and forgiveness for you in Christ as well.

**People: The glory of God shines upon us in the face of Christ. Our light has come and in Him we have forgiveness and new life!**

Pastor: Now we go to live as sons and daughters of the Light.

**People: Amen.**

## **HYMN: "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come" (LSB #358)**

**"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."**

**"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."**

**"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."**

**Ah dearest Jesus, holy Child,  
Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled.  
A quiet chamber set apart  
For You to dwell within my heart.**

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## **PRAYER**

### **OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 9:2-7**

<sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>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**

<sup>11</sup> For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. <sup>12</sup> It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, <sup>13</sup> while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup> 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.

### **RESPONSE: (From Psalm 98:1 & Luke 2:11)**

**Pastor:** Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things!

**People:** Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord!

### **GOSPEL READING: Luke 2:1-20**

<sup>1</sup> In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. <sup>2</sup> (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup> And everyone went to his own town to register. <sup>4</sup> So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. <sup>5</sup> He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup> and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. <sup>8</sup> And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup> Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.” <sup>15</sup> 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.” <sup>16</sup> So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

### **HYMN: “What Child is This” (LSB #370)**

**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!**

**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!**

**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!**

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**SERMON: Luke 2:11 “It Doesn’t Feel Like Christmas!”**

### **CHRISTMAS CREED:**

I believe in God the Father, Creator of all things, who sent his Son as my Savior. I believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, announced by angels, worshipped by the Wise Men, who lived to suffer, die, and rise again, to free me from sin, death, and the power of the devil. I believe in the Holy Spirit, who has brought me to faith in the Christ and by whose continuous work in my heart I am ever led to lay before the feet of Christ my worship, my life, my love; to live under him as my King, both now and forevermore. Amen.

### **OFFERING**

### **MUSIC**

### **CHRISTMAS PRAYER:**

**Pastor:** Source of eternal light and life,

**People: Come to those who live far from You. Call and enlighten them that they may know and believe in Your Son Jesus Christ.**

**Pastor:** O Prince of Peace, through Your Word inspire peace throughout the world.

**People: Reconcile us to one another Jesus, even as You have reconciled us to Your Father.**

**Pastor:** For those who are in any kind of need, especially...*(special prayer requests)*...Lord in Your mercy,

**People: Hear our prayer and bring to those who face trials a wholeness of spirit, a healing of body, and an endurance empowered by Jesus, our Immanuel, God with us!**

Pastor: Great God, continually unite us as one in Christ Jesus,

**People: That Your church on earth may increasingly speak with one voice and with one heart, as it proclaims the coming of Christ. Amen.**

**HYMN: "Now Sing We, Now Rejoice" (LSB #386)**

**Now sing we, now rejoice,  
Now raise to heav'n our voice;  
He from whom joy streameth  
Poor in a manger lies;  
Not so brightly beameth  
The sun in yonder skies.  
Thou my Savior art!  
Thou my Savior art!**

**Come from on high to me;  
I cannot rise to Thee.  
Cheer my wearied spirit,  
O pure and holy Child;  
Through Thy grace and merit,  
Blest Jesus, Lord most mild,  
Draw me unto Thee!  
Draw me unto Thee!**

**Now through His Son doth shine  
The Father's grace divine.  
Death was reigning o'er us  
Through sin and vanity  
Till He opened for us  
A bright eternity.  
May we praise Him there!  
May we praise him there!**

**Oh, where shall joy be found?  
Where but on heav'nly ground?  
Where the angels singing  
With all His saints unite,  
Sweetest praises bringing  
In heav'nly joy and light.  
Oh, that we were there!  
Oh, that we were there!**

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## **SERVICE OF LIGHT:**

*(Please tip unlighted candles to receive flame from those already lit.)*

Pastor: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world.

**People: His light scatters the darkness of sin.**

Pastor: Come, Lord Jesus, illumine our hearts.

**People: That we may carry the light of Your forgiveness and love to a fallen world.**

Pastor: The Light of Christ for the lost and the wayward.

**People: The Light of Christ for the poor, the hungry, and the homeless.**

Pastor: The Light of Christ for the lonely and the grieving.

**People: The Light of Christ for all who dwell on earth.**

Pastor: Come, Lord Jesus, illumine our hearts,

**People: That we may carry Your Light to a fallen world. Amen.**

## **HYMN: "Silent Night" (LSB #363)**

**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 Thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.**

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## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**People: 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.**

## **BLESSING:**

Pastor: Go in the peace of this Christmas night.

**People: We go with the blessing of God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## **POSTLUDE**



**1st CANDLE** - (purple) **THE PROPHECY CANDLE or CANDLE OF HOPE** - We can have hope because God is faithful and will keep the promises made to us. Our hope comes from God. (Romans 15:12-13)

**2nd CANDLE** - (purple) **THE BETHLEHEM CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF PREPARATION** - God kept his promise of a Savior who would be born in Bethlehem. Preparation means to "get ready" Help us to be ready to welcome YOU. O GOD (Luke 3:4-6)

**3rd CANDLE**- (pink) **THE SHEPHERD CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF JOY**- The angels sang a message of JOY! (Luke 2:7-15)

**4th CANDLE**- (purple) **THE ANGEL CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF LOVE** - The angels announced the good news of a Savior. God sent his only Son to earth to save us, because He loves us (John 3:16-17)

**5th CANDLE** - (white) **"CHRIST CANDLE"**- The white candle reminds us that Jesus is the spotless lamb of God, sent to wash away our sins! His birth was for his death, his death was for our birth! (John 1:29)

***If you would like  
to take home a  
poinsettia, you may  
following the 12/26  
Sunday Worship  
service.***

*<sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.*

1. What does sin do to the good things God puts in our life?
  
2. What is much of our Christmas feeling based on?
  
3. Why do Christmas “things” fail us so often?
  
4. Why should we be excited about Christmas?
  
5. What day was Jesus born on?
  
6. How is Jesus the “Christ”?
  
7. Why is Jesus “Lord”?
  
8. What does Jesus save us from?
  
9. Why can we be filled with joy even when Christmas trappings are missing?

**Scripture References**  
**December 24, 2021**

**Luke 2:11**

*<sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.*

**Luke 2:20**

*<sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.*