

Christmas Eve Midnight Service

December 24, 2021

11:00 PM

WELCOME

+ WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS +

Pastor Please stand in silence as we contemplate the presence of our God and Savior.
In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People Amen.

INTROIT When all was still, and it was midnight, your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the royal throne.
Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?
The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together against the Lord and against his anointed.
He who sits in the heavens laughs, the Lord holds them in derision.
Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying, "As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill."
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.
When all was still, and it was midnight, your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the royal throne.

HYMN "Silent Night, Holy Night" LSB 363 (sung quietly)

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.

COLLECT FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Pastor 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. Amen.

+ We Hear God's Word +

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 9:2-7

(ESV)

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.

³ You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

⁴ For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵ For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶ 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.

⁷ 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.

HYMN

What Child Is This

LSB 370 vv. 1,2

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!

EPISTLE LESSON**Titus 2:11-14****(ESV)**

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹²training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

HYMN**Let All Together Praise Our God****LSB 389 vv. 1,4,7**

Let all together praise our God Before his glorious throne;
Today he opens heav'n again To give us his own Son,
To give us his own Son.

He undertakes a great exchange, Puts on our human frame,
And in return gives us his realm, His glory, and his name,
His glory and his name.

Your grace in lowliness revealed, Lord, Jesus, we adore
And praise to God the Father yield And Spirit evermore;
And Spirit evermore.

HOLY GOSPEL**Luke 2:1-14****(KJV)**

¹And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. ²(*And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.*) ³And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David) ⁵To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. ⁶And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. ⁷And 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.

⁸And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. ¹⁰And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this *shall be* a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

¹⁴Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

¹⁵And 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. ¹⁶And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they had seen *it*, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all they that heard *it* wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. ¹⁹But Mary kept all these things, and pondered *them* in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

HYMN

Angels from the Realms of Glory

LSB 367

Angels from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story, Now proclaim Messiah's birth;
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ the newborn king.

Shepherds in the fields abiding, Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing, Yonder shines the Infant Light.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ the newborn king.

Sages leave your contemplations, Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations, Ye have seen his natal star.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ the newborn king.

Saints before the altar bending Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending, In His temple shall appear.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ the newborn king.

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son.
Evermore your voices raising To the=eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ the newborn king.

MESSAGE

The Birth of a House Builder Text: 2 Samuel 7:1-17 Pastor Balvanz

+ We Respond To God's Word +

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And he will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen

OFFERINGS *Catherine Russell - Gesù. Bambino/O Holy Night*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

+ The Lord's Supper +

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

LSB 197

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My T body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” LSB 621

Let all mortal flesh keep silence And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly-minded, For with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descending Comes our homage to demand.

King of kings yet born of Mary, As of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords in human vesture, In the body and the blood,
He will give to all the faithful His own self for heav’nly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven Spreads its vanguard on the way
As the Light of Light, descending From the realms of endless day,
Comes the pow’rs of hell to vanquish As the darkness clears away.

At his feed the six-winged seraph, Cherubim with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence As with ceaseless voice they cry:
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, Lord Most High!”

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” LSB 366 vv. 1,4

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, good will to all, From heav’n’s all-gracious king.”
The world in solemn stillness lay To hear the angels sing.

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.

“Angels We Have Heard on High” LSB 368

Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.
Glo-ri-a in excelsis Deo; Glo-ri-a in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heav’nly song?
Glo-ri-a in excelsis Deo; Glo-ri-a in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king.
Glo-ri-a in excelsis Deo; Glo-ri-a in excelsis Deo.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

Pastor: O give thanks to the Lord for He is good.
People: **and his mercy endures forever.**

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

(The pastor takes the light from the Christ candle to the acolytes and assistants. 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. Thank you.)

Pastor: As the light of these candles illuminates our faces, it reminds us of Christ, our Light, the child in the manger at Bethlehem, a Savior suffering our death on the cross, and soon to come from His throne on high as Judge of all. He is our Light here on earth and the eternal Light who enlightens heaven, where there is no need of candle or sun. Rejoice! The Light of the World has come. That light transforms us with the brightness of His glory.

This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaimed to you: that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

People: If we say we have fellowship with Him but still walk in darkness, we lie, and do not live according to the truth.

Pastor: But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another;

People: And the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all our sins.

Pastor: You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and then cover its light. Instead they set the lamp on its stand, set up high, and it lights everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before everyone, that they may see your good works and give praise to your Father in heaven.

O God, as You make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of Your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ, grant that we, who joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our judge; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Pastor: The almighty and merciful God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

People: Amen! Glory to God in the Highest! And peace to His people on earth!

Pastor: May this child who has brought light and life into our world bless you. May
He keep you in His everlasting peace and joy.
May He, who is the Light of the world, shine brightly through you.

People: **Amen!**

Pastor: When all was still, and it was midnight, your almighty Word, O Lord,
descended from the royal throne.

CLOSING CAROL (*With Gusto!*)

“Joy to the World”

LSB 387

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive its 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.
No more let sins and sorrow 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.

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.

Extinguish the candles



*Please join us for Christmas Day Worship
at 9:30 a.m.*