

CREATED, SAVED AND GIFTED BY GOD,
WE SEEK, SERVE AND SHARE JESUS CHRIST.



NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
DECEMBER 24, 2024- 4:30 PM

CHRISTMAS EVE PRELUDE - 4:00 PM

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
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NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

Introduction

In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

Detail Disoriented

Read Luke 2 closely, and you will notice that many of the details we assume about the Christmas story are noticeably absent. Luke does not tell us about a journey on a donkey, an innkeeper, a stable, or any animals, hay, or straw. The text even leaves unclear the reason the infant Jesus is laid in a manger, which is an unusual second option after finding no room at the inn. It is very easy to get lost in the details (real or imagined), or at least to get distracted by them. They often become the center of our Christmas pageant preparations and the focus of our nativity scenes. But when we worry too much about sheep, hay, and stables, we can lose sight of the heart of the story: Jesus, the promised one, is born. Jesus is born, and through him, God will scatter the proud, lift up the lowly, fill the hungry with good things, and show mercy from generation to generation (Luke 2:51-55).

For many of us, preparations for Advent and Christmas include many details: Advent calendars, decorations, special foods, gatherings, concerts, additional worship services, gifts, guests. These details of the season can bring us delight and fulfillment. They can also feel like disorienting burdens.

When the details feel like they are too much, let us return to the heart of the story: Jesus is born, not at an ideal time, but at precisely the right time. Jesus is born, even in the middle of our own messy lives and preparations. Jesus is born, even into our imperfect world. When all else is cleared away, all the details swept aside, this is still our good news: Jesus, our wonderful counselor and bringer of peace (Isaiah 9:6), is born.

PRELUDE

All are invited to join in singing the carols.

Carol: "Joy to the World"

(ELW 267)

Solo:

"The Wexford Carol"
traditional Irish tune arr. Brenda Portman
Paula Bennett, flute
Lisa Donovan, mezzo-soprano

Good people all, this Christmas time,
Consider well and bear in mind
What our good God for us has done
In sending his beloved Son.
With Mary holy we should pray
To God with love this Christmas Day.
In Bethlehem, upon that morn,
There was a blessed Messiah born.

Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep
Their flocks of lambs and feeding sheep
To whom God's angels did appear,
Which put the shepherds in great fear.
"Prepare and go," the angels said,
"To Bethlehem, be not afraid
For there you'll find, this happy morn
A princely Babe, sweet Jesus, born."

With thankful heart and joyful mind,
The shepherds went the babe to find,
And as God's angel had foretold,
They did our Saviour Christ behold.
Within a manger he was laid,
And by his side the virgin maid,
Attending on the Lord of Life,
Who came on earth to end all strife.

Carol: "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

(ELW 282)

Carol: "Away in a Manger"

(ELW 277)

Carol: "He Came Down"

(ELW 253)

Carol: "Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming"

(ELW 272)

Solo:

“Gabriel's Oboe” by Ennio Morricone
Paula Bennett, oboe

Carol: “Go Tell It on the Mountain”

(ELW 290)

Carol:

“My Soul Magnifies the Lord”

(Verse 1 - Praise Team)

Good news of great joy
For every woman every man,
This will be a sign to you:
A baby born in Bethlehem,
Come and worship, do not be afraid.

(Verse 2 - All)

**A company of angels,
Glory in the highest
And on the earth a peace among
Those on whom His favor rests.
Come and worship, do not be afraid.**

(Refrain - All)

**My soul, my soul magnifies the Lord,
My soul magnifies the Lord;
He has done great things for me,
Great things for me.**

(Verse 3 - All)

**Unto you a child is born,
Unto us a Son is given.
Let every heart prepare His throne,
Let every nation under Heaven
Come and worship, do not be afraid.**

(Refrain - All)

**My soul, my soul magnifies the Lord,
My soul magnifies the Lord;
He has done great things for me,
Great things for me.**

**My soul, my soul magnifies the Lord,
My soul magnifies the Lord;
He has done great things for me,
Great things for me.**

(Praise Team)

Of His government there will be no end,
He'll establish it with His righteousness,
And He shall reign on David's throne,
And His name shall be from this day on
Wonderful Counselor, Everlasting Father
Wonderful Counselor.
And His name shall be Everlasting Father!

(Praise Team/**Congregation**)

My soul, my soul magnifies the Lord.
My soul, my soul magnifies the Lord.

He has done great things for us,
He has done great things for us.
He has done great things for us,
He has done great things for us.

My soul, my soul magnifies the Lord.
My soul, my soul magnifies the Lord.
My soul, my soul magnifies the Lord.

(Refrain - All)

My soul, my soul magnifies the Lord,
My soul magnifies the Lord;
He has done great things for me,
Great things for me.

My soul, my soul magnifies the Lord,
My soul magnifies the Lord;
He has done great things for me,
Great things for me.

He has done great things!
He has done great things!

Solo:

"Gesù Bambino" by Pietro Yon
Debbie Kempf, flute

Solo:

“O Holy Night” by Adolph Adams
Ed Thieman, tenor

O Holy Night! The stars are brightly shining;
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth!
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
Till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope, the weary soul rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!

Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!
O night divine; O night divine!

Truly he taught us to love one another,
His law is love and his gospel is peace.
Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother,
And in his name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
Let all within us praise his holy name.

Christ is the Lord! Oh, praise his name forever!
His power and glory evermore proclaim!
His power and glory evermore proclaim!

GATHERING

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Tom Rutherford

** CALL TO WORSHIP

The prophets foretold his coming:
A child will bring light to the darkness,
comfort to a burdened nation,
and peace that will endure .

O come, let us adore him!

The angels announced his birth:
Good news of great joy!
Glory to God in the highest!
Peace to God's people on earth!

O come, let us adore him!

Kings bowed before him:
Rulers traveling far from their kingdoms,
Guided by the light of Truth and a star in the east;
The wise three are the first to worship Christ.

O come, let us adore him!

His light is eternal:
In our lives, in our hope -
In our relationships, in our challenges -
Within our very selves - Jesus Christ is born!

O come, let us adore him!

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
 2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
 Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
 Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain

Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

**** GREETING**

The grace of the Christ-child, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

**** CONFESSION**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God-with-us, **we confess that we have turned away those seeking shelter, claiming there is no room when we have plenty. We have made power and wealth our idols, while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger. We have overlooked the shepherds, expecting good news in prettier packaging. Too often, we have valued violence instead of your peace. Turn us from our ways to your ways. Grant us the grace to begin again. Free us from all that keeps us bound, and forgive our sin, through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us. Amen.**

**** FORGIVNESS**

Hear the good news and rejoice! You are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, forgiven in Christ, and freed to respond in joy. **Amen.**

**** SONG OF PRAISE**

“Angels We Have Heard on High (Deo)” (ELW 289)

(Intro - Praise Team)

Deo, oh. Deo, oh.

(Verse 1 - All)

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

(Refrain - All)

Gloria, in excelsis Deo.

(Verse 2 - All)

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

(Refrain - All)

**Gloria in excelsis Deo;
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

(Bridge - Praise Team / All)
We will raise our voices, **Deo, oh;**
Join the angels' song on high, **Deo, oh;**
We will hold your beautiful light,
Shining glory through the night, **Deo, oh.**

(Verse 3 - All)
**Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains;
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.**

(Refrain - All)
**Gloria, in excelsis Deo.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo.**

(Bridge - Praise Team / All)
We will raise our voices, **Deo, oh;**
Join the angels' song on high, **Deo, oh;**
We will hold your beautiful light,
Shining glory through the night, **Deo, oh.**

**** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Almighty God, **you made this holy night 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.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:2–7

This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this!

A reading from the book of Isaiah.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined. You 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. For 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. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For 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. His 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.**

PSALM

Psalm 96

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad. (Ps. 96:11)

Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.

**Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD;
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**

Declare God's glory among the nations
and God's wonders among all peoples.

**For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised,
more to be feared than all gods.**

As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.

**Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**

Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.**

Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

Tell it out among the nations: “The LORD is king!

The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peoples with equity.”

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;

let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O LORD,
for you come to judge the earth.**

You will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with your truth.

SECOND READING

Titus 2:11–14

The appearance of God’s grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity. Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior’s final appearance.

A reading from Titus.

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

**** GOSPEL**

Luke 2:1-20

God’s greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the “good news of great joy” and proclaim God’s blessing of peace.

The holy gospel according to 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. 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. 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. 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. 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.” 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 God favors!” 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. 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. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

YOUTH MESSAGE

MESSAGE

Pastor Tom Rutherford

ANTHEM

“Tidings Carol”

French and English Tunes adapted by Thomas Helmore
words and musical arrangement by Patrick M. Liebergen
Pam Bauser, flute
Chancel Choir

O come, O come, Emmanuel, come down to us on earth;
O come, O come, Emmanuel, we long to see your birth.
Let everyone be joyful with songs of Christmas mirth.
O tidings of comfort and joy.

O come, O come, Emmanuel, your birth is drawing near;
O come, O come, Emmanuel, let carols ring out clear.
O come, O come, Emmanuel,
We await your coming with great cheer.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O come, Emmanuel, we look to see the light;
O come, O come, Emmanuel, now take away all fright.
The angels and the shepherds will praise you through the night.
O tidings of comfort and joy.

O come, O come, Emmanuel, come down from heav'n above,
Emmanuel.

**** APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY

“The First Noel”
French carol, arr Richard Walters
Bill Fahle, trombone

OFFERING PRAYER

God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day. **Amen.**

** DIALOGUE

Lift up your heads; **we lift them up to God.**
Lift up your voices; **we lift them up to God.**
Lift up your hearts; **we lift them up to God.**

** WORDS OF INSTITUTION

And so we gather at the table. We come from many different places in life. And as we come together around the table we discover that our differences are not something we just tolerate, but that our differences are indeed a blessing. So come, children of God, just as you are. Wherever you are on this journey of life and faith, you are welcome here - here in this place, here in this community, here at this table. Come, children of God, come and remember.

Remember the stories that Jesus' friends tell: Stories of bread broken and shared to feed a multitude; stories of gathering both enemy and friend together around a common table; stories of unlikely guests revealing the face of the sacred.

On a night of both celebration and betrayal Jesus took bread, blessed it and broke it; gave it to his disciples and said, “Take and eat, this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.” Then Jesus took the cup, blessed it, and gave it to his disciples 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.”

And so we pray: Lord, bless this bread and bless this fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking that our eyes might be open, and that we might recognize the risen Christ in our midst, indeed in one another.

** LORD'S PRAYER

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

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

A child has been born for us, a Son given to us. Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

For those of you communing at home or in the pews.

HOLY COMMUNION - Receiving the Lord's tangible presence.

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Each person may respond: **Amen.**

COMMUNION SONG

“What Child Is This?” (ELW 296)



- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
- 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
- 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?
Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



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!
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

(Verse 1 - Praise Team)

What hope we hold this starlit night:
A King is born in Bethlehem.
Our journey long, we seek the light
That leads to the hallowed manger ground.

(Verse 2 - Praise Team)

What fear we felt in the silent age,
Four-hundred years can he be found?
But broken by a baby's cry,
Rejoice in the hallowed manger ground.

(Refrain - All)

**Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
God incarnate, here to dwell.
Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
Praise his name, Emmanuel.**

(Verse 3 - Praise Team)

The Son of God, here, born to bleed;
A crown of thorns would pierce his brow.
And we beheld this offering,
Exalted now, the King of kings,
Praise God for the hallowed manger ground.

(Refrain - All)

**Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
God incarnate, here to dwell.
Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
Praise his name, Emmanuel.
Praise his name, Emmanuel.**

REFLECTION DURING COMMUNION

As we prepare to receive the sacrament today, may we quietly take this time to center ourselves on Christ, and reflect the amazing gifts of grace and forgiveness that we have been given. As we receive the body and the blood of our Lord, let us reflect upon His sacrifice. Finally, may we take this time to ask the Holy Spirit to enter our hearts, and then to work in us and through us each and every day.

** TABLE BLESSING

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

**** PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy. **Amen.**

SENDING OF COMMUNION

Communion ministers may be sent to take the sacrament to those who are absent. The presiding minister may lead this prayer of sending.

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick, homebound, and imprisoned. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

CANDLE LIGHT SERVICE

** CELEBRATION OF LIGHT

Pastor Tom Rutherford

God of Mystery and Wonder, this holy night is radiant with the brilliance of the Star of Bethlehem, Jesus, our Light of the World! **The God who said “Out of the darkness the light shall shine!” is the same God who makes the light shine in our hearts through the face of the newborn babe Emmanuel.**

The light shines in the midst of the darkness and we remember that there is no amount of darkness which can extinguish the light of even one small candle. **You O God, created the light that pierces this most holy and silent of nights. Let us go now to be your Light in the world, holding the flame of your presence in our hearts.**

With joy and thanksgiving we have gathered as your people. We have again heard the timeless story of Christmas. In the excitement and awe of this holy night, center our hearts that your love may be born in us anew. **Sing O angels, in the stillness of our hearts. Shine, O Light, in the darkness of our world. Amen.**

The Sharing of Light

For safety: Keep the lighted candle upright at all times. Tip the unlighted candle toward the flame to receive the light.

** GOSPEL OF THE INCARNATION

John 1:1-14

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,
 1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,

ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.
 all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,

Hol - der Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher
 Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
 heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your

Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

**** BLESSING**

The God of love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, lavish you with grace, illumine your path, and increase your joy, today and always. **Amen.**

**** SENDING SONG**

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing (King of Heaven)”

(Verse 1)

Hark! the herald angels sing: glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled; (pause)
Joyful all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim: Christ is born in Bethlehem;
Hark! the herald angels sing: glory to the newborn King.

(Verse 2)

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace, hail the Son of righteousness;
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings; (pause)
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.

(Refrain)

King of heaven, come down; King of heaven, come now;
Let your glory reign, shining like the day. King of heaven, come.
King of heaven, rise up. Who can stand against us?
You are strong to save, in your mighty name. King of heaven, come.
(Oh...)

(Verse 3)

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord;
Late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb; (pause)
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing: glory to the newborn King, the newborn King.

(Refrain)

King of heaven, come down; King of heaven, come now;
Let your glory reign, shining like the day. King of heaven, come.
King of heaven, rise up. Who can stand against us?
You are strong to save, in your mighty name. King of heaven, come.

King of heaven, come. King of heaven, come.
King of heaven. come. King of heaven, come.
King of heaven, come down; King of heaven, come now;
Let your glory reign, shining like the day. King of heaven, come.

**** DISMISSAL**

Go in peace, the Word of God dwells in you richly.

**Created, saved and gifted by God; we seek, serve and share Jesus Christ.
Hallelujah, thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

“W + 2” = Worship Plus Two

**Make a commitment to not only worship each week
but also try to find a way to serve in the congregation
and seek out a way to serve our community.**

YOU ARE NOW ENTERING THE MISSION FIELD

Upcoming Commemorations

Stephen, Deacon and Martyr Thursday, December 26, 2024

Stephen was a deacon and the first martyr of the church. He was one of those seven upon whom the apostles laid hands after they had been chosen to serve widows and others in need. Later, Stephen's preaching angered the temple authorities, and they ordered him to be put to death by stoning.

John, Apostle and Evangelist Friday, December 27, 2024

The son of Zebedee and brother of James, John was one of the twelve disciples and witness to the transfiguration. Tradition has named him also the writer of the Gospel of John, the three New Testament letters bearing his name, as well as Revelation.

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs Saturday, December 28, 2024

This day commemorates the young children killed by Herod in Bethlehem in his jealous attempt to murder the baby Jesus, a sobering reminder of the evil that led Christ to be born for our salvation.

Name of Jesus Wednesday, January 1, 2025

By Jewish law, every baby boy was circumcised and named on the eighth day of life, so on the eighth day of Christmas the church celebrates this event in Jesus' life. The keeping of the covenant as well as Jesus' name are signs of God's salvation given to us through him.

Johann Konrad Wilhelm Loehe, renewer of the church, died 1872 Thursday, January 2, 2025

Loehe was a pastor in nineteenth-century Germany. Loehe's chief concern was that a congregation find its life in the holy communion, and from that source evangelism and social ministries would flow. He sent pastors to North America, Australia, New Guinea, Brazil, and Ukraine.

NOTES:



*The Poinsettias in Our Sanctuary Are Donated
In Loving Memory or In Loving Honor of
Family and Friends.*

Honor

Given by Roger and Pam Bauser in Honor of our Children and
Grandchildren: PJ and Nora Bauser, David, Amanda, Sophia,
William Bauser, Kim, Brendan, and Maggie McBrien

~~~~~

Given by Jim and Debbie Kempf in Honor of  
James and Juli Kempf, Christopher James Trentman, Nick and Jenn Trentman

~~~~~

Given by the Thieman Family in Honor of Thelma Thieman and Ed Yoeckel

~~~~~

Given by Wayne and Michele Weyhrauch in Honor of  
Oskar Watson and Wallace Watson



*Memory*

Given by Roger and Pam Bauser in Memory of Bud and Loretta Bauser, James Bauser,  
Bill and Charlotte Bowman, and Laura Bowman Hodgkin

~~~~~

Given by Dave and Lorry Creech in Memory of family and friends

~~~~~

Given by Don and Janet Grieshop in Memory of our parents Ernest L. (Hap) and Mary  
Kathryn Grieshop, Carl E. and Dorothea Grace Leflar

~~~~~

Given by Lila Mae Harms in Memory of family and friends

~~~~~

Given by Del and Ginny Herbeck in Memory of Dal Herbeck and our parents

~~~~~

Given by Ron and Bonnie Hershey in Memory of and our parents Raymond Flanagan,
Dorothy and Torrence Hershey, and Alice Steffen

~~~~~

Given by Eileen Hunter in Memory of James and Margaret Parlett

~~~~~

Given by Denny and Rose Irby in Memory of Al Duriden and Dale and Dorthy Irby.

~~~~~

Given by Sandra Pfaff in Memory of Paul Pfaff, Merlin Thompson, and Kimberly Yale

~~~~~

Given by Wayne and Sandy Rosholt in Memory of Elsie Rosholt and Julie Rosholt

~~~~~

Given by Dave and Angie Seltzer in Memory of our Elinor Boeke, Laura Seltzer, Mary Seltzer, Phil Seltzer, and Robert Settlage

~~~~~

Given by Jack and Chris Steel in Memory of Bruce Martin, Luther and Lois Martin, Betty and Jack Steel Sr.

~~~~~

Given by Kate Steininger in Memory of Herb Steininger

~~~~~

Given by Pat Tews in Memory of Roy Hoak, Will Robinson, and Carl L. Tews

~~~~~

Given by the Thieman Family in Memory of Leo Thieman and Ella Yoeckel

~~~~~

Given by Jeff and Susan Wehmeyer in Memory of our parents

~~~~~

Given by Michele and Wayne Weyhrauch in Memory of Owen and Lavon Dawson, Chuck Green, and Wesley Weyhrauch



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