



*Loved by God,  
Sent to Serve.*

**Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Eve  
December 24, 2023  
4 & 6 pm**

# **Evangelical Lutheran Worship**

## **GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

**Prelude:** *Still, Still, Still w/Mary Did You Know*

**arr. Carol Tornquist**

### **Welcome and Announcements**

Welcome! We are thankful that you are joining us this evening. 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. 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. Let us worship the New Born King!

### **Christmas Proclamation!**

**Gathering Song:** *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

**ELW 270**

### **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.*

### **Isaiah 9:2-7**

<sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>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.**

**Gospel Acclamation: *What Child Is This* vs. 1**

**ELW 296**

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

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>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.

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before 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; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

<sup>15</sup>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." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>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.**

## **Children's Time**

**Sermon**

**The Rev. Karla Wildberger**

**Hymn: *What Child is This* vs. 2 & 3**

**ELW 296**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

...Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

...according to your abundant grace. **Amen.**

## **MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## **Thanksgiving**

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 God thanks and praise.**

## **Preface**

... we join our voices together and say:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!  
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Hosanna in the highest!**

## **Thanksgiving at the Table**

**...Amen.**

## **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.

## **Distribution of Communion**

All are invited to join in the sharing of this meal, instituted by Christ, himself, for the forgiveness of sins. Come, all are welcome. There are gluten free wafers available, please let the pastor know if that is your preference. There is also white grape juice available, in the middle of the tray.

## **Communion Distribution Songs**

*Away in a Manger  
The First Noel*

**ELW 278  
ELW 300**

## **Prayer after Communion**

God of wonder, in Jesus we behold the light of the world come near. As you have come among us now, send us out in joy, hastening to share the good news of your love. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit dwelling among us now and forever. **Amen.**

## **Candle Lighting**

Leader: The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have witnessed His glory.

**All: Oh, come. Let us worship and praise Him.**

Leader: The people who were in shadows have seen a great light.

**All: The light shines and the darkness becomes holy.**

Leader: Those who lived in the shadowy places – on them light has shined.

**All: We have been embraced by Christ's glory, the glory of God's only Son, full of grace and truth.**

Leader: For a child has been born for us, a Son given to us.

**All: What has come into being in Him was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

Leader: Today Christ is born; today salvation has appeared!

**All: Glory to God in the highest! Alleluia!**

**Hymn: *Silent Night, Holy Night***

**ELW 281**

## **SENDING**

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

## **Benediction**

**... Amen.**

**Sending Song: *Joy to the World* vs. 1 & 4**

**ELW 267**

## **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Share the joy of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude: *Angels We Have Heard on High***

**setting by Valerie A. Floeter**

Thank you for joining us for this special time of worship. You are welcome back anytime!

### **Upcoming worship times:**

Tomorrow, Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup>, Christmas Day, Wartburg Seminary, 10:00 am  
Sunday, December 31, 2023, one service only at 10:30 am

### **Thank you to the following for providing the Poinsettias to beautify our sanctuary:**

Mike & Stephanie Ackerman in memory of Nick & Anita Ackerman, in honor of  
Brad Lobberecht

Craig & Joan Cram in honor of our family

Kevin & Kris Erickson Eipperle in memory of Verdon Erickson & Marvalee  
Eipperle

Kurt & Susan Hansen in memory of our parents

Steve & Sandy Heer in honor of God's creation

Barb Lindecker (2) in memory of my parents Alice & Leonard

Galen & Debbie Thomas in memory of our parents & grandparents

Dale & Jan Helwig-Schrobilgen in memory of our parents & family members

Val & Morgan Kennedy/Alan & Bri Ensign in memory of Janet Grimm & Jack  
Kennedy

Larry & Barb Croghan in memory of our parents

Betty Westemeier in memory of Daniel Westemeier

Stephen Geisert in memory of Janel Geisert

Jill Klinebriel in memory of Wayne Asmus

Phil & Peggy Granovsky in celebration of Christ's birth

### **Worship Leaders**

Presiding Minister / Preacher

Lector

Ushers

Pianist

Rev. Karla Wildberger

4:00 Jennifer Cartee

4:00 Sam & Sue Deaver

Rita Dienst

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**Choir Director**  
Susan Hansen

**Administrative Office Hours**  
Monday - Thursday  
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

