LUTHERAN CHAPEL CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE DECEMBER 24, 2023



Jesus is born for us.

Celebrate!

Praise the LORD now to forever.

LUTHERAN CHAPEL DECEMBER 24, 2023 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

BOLD indicates congregational responses.

* Indicates that all who are able should stand to honor God.

GATHER

PRELUDE

Chancel Choir	"Listen!"	Joel Raney
Amy & Josh Carpenter	"Castleton Carol"	Ben Cohn
Chapel Ringers	"Great Our Joy"	arr. Douglas Wagner
í	'When Christ Our Lord was Born''	arr. Douglas Wagner
Jeanette Myers & Juan Vizcarra	"O How Joyfully/Still, Still, Still"	arr. Larry Shackley
Instrument Ensemble	"One Christmas Night"	arr. Ed Huckeby
	"African Noel"	arr. William Bay
	"Two English Carols"	arr. Mark Williams
Kathie Riebe & Juan Vizcarra	"Sing We Now of Christmas"	arr. Ellen Foncannon

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *Matthew 28:19b*

C: Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

1 John 1:8-9

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P: Let us recite the gift of the Ten Commandments and the Great Commandment and use these teachings to examine our lives.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Exodus 20:1-17

- 1. You shall have no other gods.
- 2. You shall not make wrongful use of the Name of the LORD your God.
- 3. Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.
- 4. Honor your father and mother.
- 5. You shall not murder.
- 6. You shall not commit adultery.

- 7. You shall not steal.
- 8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
- 9. You shall not covet your neighbor's house.
- 10. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife or (husband).

THE GREAT COMMANDMENT

Mark 12:28-31

You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength...you shall love your neighbor as yourself.

P: Let us kneel or sit for a time of silent confession and self-examination.

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by His authority. I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.



P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

*THE KYRIE Mark 10:47

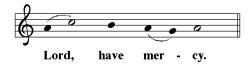


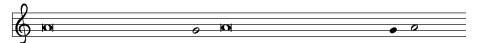
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.





For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-vation, let us pray to the Lord.

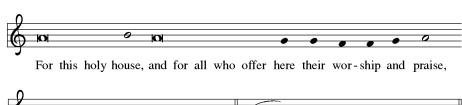


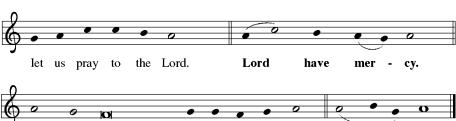


For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,







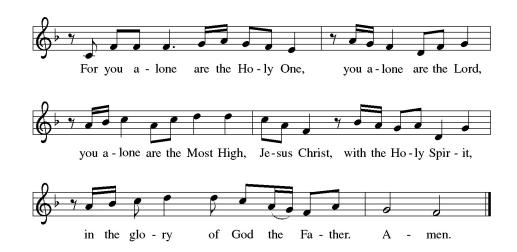


Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

*GLORY TO GOD

Luke 2:14, John 1:29





PRAYER OF THE DAY

(In Unison)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

C: 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

FIRST LESSON 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!

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. 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. 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.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 96

"Today Our Savior is Born"

Jaime Cortez

Congregational Refrain

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.



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Refrain

Sing to our God a joyful song! Everyone bless God's name. Tell of God's wondrous deeds; sing to all the world.

Refrain

Heaven be glad and earth rejoice, let every ocean roar! Every forest, every tree joins the song of joy!

Refrain

Cry out with joy for God has come, come to rule the earth. God will rule the world with love, righteousness and truth.

Refrain

SECOND LESSON 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.

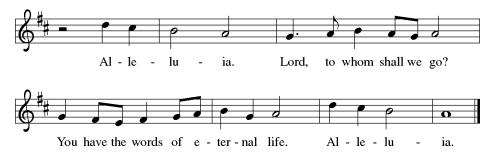
¹¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He 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.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 6:68



*GOSPEL LUKE 2:1-20

Those who are able may stand to honor Christ during the reading of the Gospel.

Response after the announcement:



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.

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

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵When 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." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.]

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



MESSAGE

"The Nativity of our Lord 2023"

Nos of Christmas

Yeses of Christmas

The Law is an aspect in the Word that shows our brokenness, sin and need for Jesus' saving power: No. Yes. Rejected. Loved. How often do I just not get it?

The Gospel is an aspect in the Word that gives strength, wisdom and hope in Jesus' ultimate saving power: Rejected and born in a manger, love flowing from the manger this very night, Jesus Christ is changing the world one life, one family, one community, one nation at a time until all will be put right.

So What? Where do you see the creation rejecting our Creator? Never forget - He is given for us now and forever.



Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864 Music: GLORIA, French carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1887–1958

*THE NICENE CREED

All are invited to confess our faith in God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. If you have not received the gift of baptism or would like to affirm your faith in Jesus and join His mission here, please indicate on the attendance registry and talk to an usher or the pastor.

We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven;

by the power of the Holy Spirit

he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

1 Timothy 2:1-4

AM: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

A brief silence may be kept. Each prayer will conclude: Lord in Your mercy, and the congregation may respond **Hear our prayers**.

Prayers are commended in Jesus' Name.

AM: All these prayers and whatever else You see that we need we ask in the Name of Jesus Christ, who was, who is, and who is to come.

C: Amen.

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

Matthew 5:22-24: Ephesians 4:1-3

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

THE MEAL

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Malachi 3:10, Matthew 23:23, 2 Corinthians 9:7-8

ANTHEM

CHANCEL CHOIR

"Sing Glory to the King!"

David Schmidt

A virgin girl would be the one to bear to earth God's only Son.

Magnify the Lord on high; Sing, "Glory to the King!"

A carpenter would raise the boy, who'd bring the world eternal joy.

God with us, Emmanuel; Sing, "Glory to the King!"

The prophets said from David's line a King would come whose light would shine.

Breaking chains, God sets us free; "Glory to the King!"

The humble village of Bethlehem would be where God became as man.

Christ the Savior is born this day; Sing, "Glory to the King!"

Born in a lowly stall, yet he is Lord of all. Lift your voices and sing!

Glory be to God in the highest and peace, good will to all.

A King is born; his name will be Wonderful Counselor,

Mighty God, the Prince of Peace; Sing, "Glory to the King!"

Some shepherds in a field at night, the sky was calm, the stars were bright.

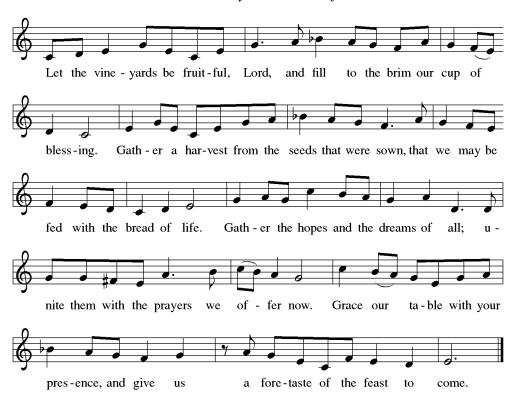
Love was coming down to us; Sing, "Glory to the King!"

Then suddenly the heavens rang as heavenly hosts praised God and sang,

"Glory be to God on high!" Sing, "Glory to the King!"

This is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:

Haste, haste to bring Him laud the babe, the song of Mary.



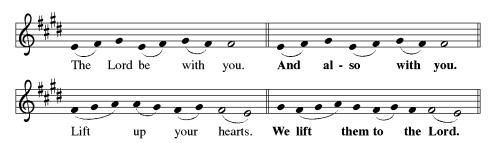
*THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

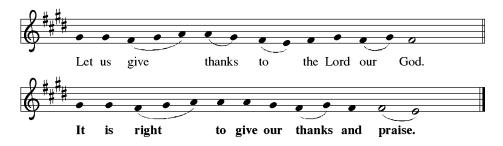
(In Unison)

C: Blessed are You, O God, maker of all things. Through Your goodness You have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered in feeding the world with Your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

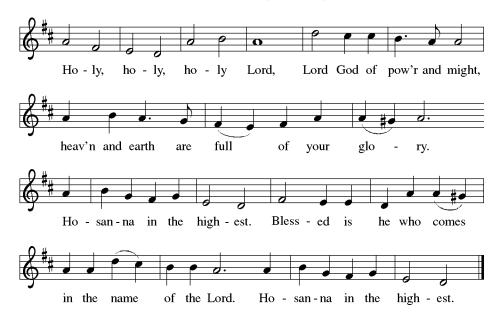
*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

2 Timothy 4:22, Colossians 3:1, Psalm 136





*PREFACE FOR THE DAY AND THE HOLY, HOLY, HOLY Isaiah 6:3, Matthew 21:9



*THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Matthew 26, Mark 14, Luke 22, 1 Corinthians 11

P: 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.

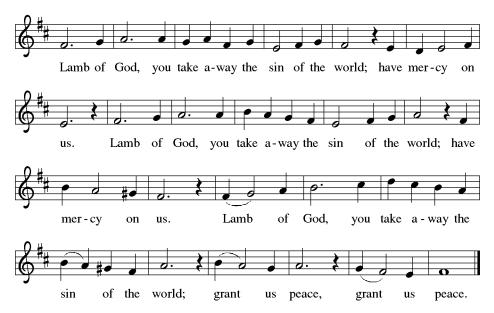
*THE LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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.

*LAMB OF GOD John 1:29



*DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

All baptized Christians are welcome to Holy Communion. Here we receive forgiveness, the gift of abiding in Jesus, the remembrance of His sacrificial love for us on the Cross, and the promise of eternal life (Luke 24:13-35, John 6:22-59, 1 Cor. 11:23-26). Please request grape juice or gluten free bread if needed. Taste and see the LORD is good (Psalm 34:8)!

Please take your communion cup as you leave and discard in trashcan.

P: This is the body of Christ given for you. This is the blood of Christ shed for you.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Chapel Ringers

Instrument Ensemble

"Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine"

"Coventry Carol"

"In Dulci Jubilo"

"Bells of Bethlehem"

"Away in a Manger"

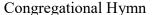
arr. Martha Lynn Thompson

arr. K.M. Dempel

arr. K.M. Dempel

arr. Mark Williams

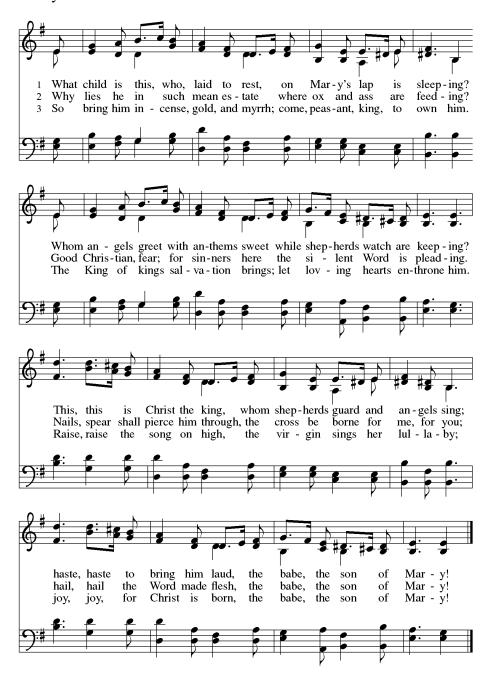
ELW #277





Text: North American, 19th cent.

Music: AWAY IN A MANGER, James R. Murray, 1841-1905



Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898 Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

SENDING

*THE BLESSING

P: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

*SONG OF SIMEON

Luke 2:29-32



*POST COMMUNION PRAYER

AM: God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

CANDLE LIGHTING CEREMONY

The minister lights a large candle from an altar candle, which symbolized Christ, the Light of the world. The ushers light their candles from the minister's candle, then light the candle of each worshiper nearest the aisle. **The lighted candle is never tilted.**



Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792–1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885 Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1787–1863

The candles are extinguished.

*BENEDICTION



*DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE "Adeste Fideles" Eric H. Thiman

Poinsettias may be picked up following this evening's worship service.

THOSE SERVING DURING THIS EVENING'S SERVICE

Ministers	People of Lutheran Chapel
Pastor	Michael Comer
Administrative Assistant	Kim Rundzieher
Director of Music	Kathie Riebe
Assistant to the Director of Music	Juan Vizcarra
Assistant Minister	Sylvia Fogle
Lector	Baker Sanders
Acolyte	Elena Hoffman
Crucifer	Bram Comer
Banner Bearer	Noah Comer
Bible Bearer	Luke Hoffman
Torch Bearers	Olivia Berghello & Jordan Hoffman
Head Ushers	<u> </u>
First Aid/AED/CPR	Mark Thornburg
Council Members of the Month	Steve Ritchie & Nancy Witman



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