



*Christmas Eve + 10:30 p.m.*

*Central Lutheran Church*

*Minneapolis*



# Twilight Service of Holy Communion Nativity of Our Lord

*Christmas Eve*  
December 24, 2021 + 10:30 p.m.



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*Exploring the promise of God for all*

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*The Holy Spirit gathers  
us in unity  
on the eve of  
Christ's birth.*



## GATHERING

### PRELUDE

Carols for String Quartet and Harp

Carol for Bells: "Of the Father's Love Begotten"

arr. Kevin McChesney

*(Please stand at the sound of the bell)*

### OPENING SENTENCES

**P** Heavy clouds that block the moonlight

**All** now begin to drift away.

**P** Diamond brilliance through the darkness

**All** shines the hope of coming day.

**P** Christ, the morning star of splendor,

**All** gleams within a world grown dim.

**P** Heaven's ember fans to fullness;

**All** hearts grow warm to welcome him.

**P** The Word made flesh now lives among us.

**All** O come, let us adore him.

### CAROL

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Hymn 283

*Stanza 1 – unison; 2 – choir; 3 and 4 – in unison*

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

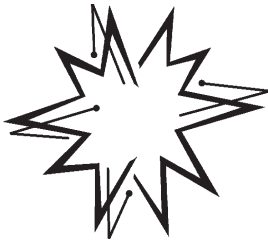
**P** The Lord be with you.

**All** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Creator God, by your greatness you became small, by your power you became powerless, by your timelessness you entered our time. Through the birth of your Son, help us be witnesses to your amazing love for the whole world.

We pray this in the name of Jesus the Christ and you, God



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

the Creator and the Holy Spirit, one God forever.

**All Amen.**

*(Please be seated)*

## WORD

### FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

A reading from the prophet 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.

<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.

The word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

### CAROL

*"All My Heart Again Rejoices"*

Johann G. Ebeling, arr. Mark Sedio

*All my heart again rejoices as I hear, far and near, sweetest angel voices;  
"Christ is born," their choirs are singing, till the air everywhere now with  
joy is ringing. Hark! A voice from lowly manger softly thus calls to us "You  
are safe from danger; Come and see from all that grieves you; you are freed,  
all you need I will surely give you." Come, then, let us hasten yonder; here  
let all, great and small, kneel in awe and wonder; love him who with love is  
yearning; hail the star that from far bright with hope is burning.*

Text by Paul Gerhardt

*(Please stand)*

## GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

**All** 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

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

**All** Praise to you, O Christ.

## SERMON

*(Please stand)*

## CAROL

Hymn 289

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

*Stanza 1 - all, in harmony; 2 - choir; 3 - all, in harmony*



## APOSTLES' CREED

**P** Gathered into one, let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed:

**All** 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 Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.\*

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.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

**A** Rejoicing and reverent, we pray for the church, the world  
and all those in need.

*Each petition concludes:*

God who is with us:

**All** Hear our prayer.

**P** Receiving the fulfillment of a savior born this night, we offer  
thanks and praise to you – our God who keeps promises and  
hears our prayers. For this, we are your faithful and grateful  
people,

**All** Amen.

## MEAL

### PEACE

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you all.

**All** And also with you.

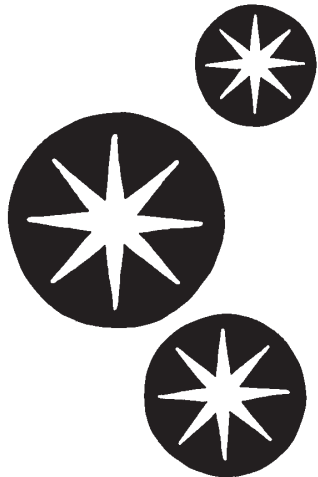
*(Please be seated)*

### MUSICAL OFFERING

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

arr. Cathy Moglebust

*God feeds us  
with the presence  
of Jesus Christ*



*(Please stand)*

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

**P** The Lord be with you.

**A** And also with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**A** We lift them to the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**A** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**P** Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life. . .

. . . Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

**A** Amen.

## LORD'S PRAYER

**P** Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us, let us pray  
as our Savior taught:

**A** Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.

*(Please be seated)*

## COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Midnight Stars Make Bright the Skies"

Qi-fang Lang, arr. Mark Sedio

*Midnight stars make bright the skies, Bethlehem in slumber lies; glistening  
heaven sends forth a great light, shepherds see a wondrous sight! Angel  
ranks in chorus sing. Silken sounds from heaven ring. Frightened shepherds  
hear them say: "Christ is born on earth today." Glory be to God on high,  
blest are all beneath the sky.*

*Midnight slumber lies o'er all, one lone bright lamp lights the stall.  
Choose old clothing, wrap him warmly, manger shall his cradle be.  
Born to save us from our sin, Word made flesh our lives to win,  
Came to earth from heaven's throne, mortals' sin to bear alone.  
Glory be to God on high, blest are all beneath the sky.*

Text by Jin-qiu Yang





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


## CAROL

"Silent Night, Holy Night!" *(see end of bulletin)*

*Please raise your lighted candles  for the final line of each stanza.*

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

## SENDING

### BENEDICTION

**P** May you be filled with the wonder of Mary,  
the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels,  
the eagerness of the shepherds,  
the determination of the magi,  
and the peace of the Christ child.  
Almighty God, Father, + Son,  
and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

**AI** Amen.

### DISMISSAL

**A** Go in peace. Your light has come.

**AI** Thanks be to God.

### POSTLUDE

"Finale" from the Symphony No. 6 Charles-Marie Widor





## SERVING TODAY

Pastor Melissa Pohlman,  
 Pastor Stephanie Friesen *presiding*  
 Pastor Peter Nycklemoe *preaching*  
 Seminary Intern Sarah Hanson *assisting minister*  
 Sara Masters *reader*

Deacon Cantor Mark Sedio,  
 Isaac Drewes *organists*  
 Central Choir, Central Handbells *ensembles*  
 Andrea Sieber, Derick Rehurek *violins*  
 John Vettel *viola*  
 Veronica Hudacek *cello*  
 Nikki Christopher *harp*

Froya Olson, Robin Helgen,  
 Bill Pederson, David Gindra *quartet*  
 Mark Kieffer *video/sound*

Richard Stegall, Diane Olson  
 Bill Masche *sacristans*  
 Usher Ministry Team *ushers*

Angee Hagen, Christopher Haug,  
 Paul Troselius, John Troselius,  
 Renee Troselius, Caron Porthan,  
 Sara Klomp, Intern Sarah Hanson,  
 Nancy Tykwinski, Judy Hadler,  
 Mark Erickson, Molly Johnson,  
 Steve Dahlberg, Kathy Otis,  
 Michael Dee

*Advent/Christmas Decor Team*

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 Minneapolis Area Synod  
 and the ELCA

Opening sentences are taken from the final stanza of "Now the Heavens Start to Whisper" the hymn that served as our theme throughout the Advent season. The text by Mary Louise Bringle (set to the Welsh tune Suo-Gân) is included in the ELCA's new worship supplement All Creation Sings.

*Portions of the liturgy are from Sundays and Seasons.com*

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*Opening Sentences from "Now the Heavens"  
 Mary Louise Bringle, © 2006 GIA Publications.  
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Central Lutheran  
 MINNEAPOLIS

Stanza 1 - all in unison; 2 - choir; 3 and 4 - all in unison

## O Come, All Ye Faithful

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!

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2  
 Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

Stanza 1 - all, in harmony; 2 - choir; 3 - all, in harmony

## Angels We Have Heard on High

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

*Refrain*

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo -

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

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

The carol is sung by all in harmony.

## Silent Night, Holy Night! *Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!*

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.