



Christmas Eve + 3:00 p.m.

Central Lutheran Church

Minneapolis

Twilight Service of Holy Communion Nativity of Our Lord

Christmas Eve
December 24, 2021 + 3:00 p.m.



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



Exploring the promise of God for all

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Carols for Organ, Harp & Violin

(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 – quartet; 3 and 4 – in unison

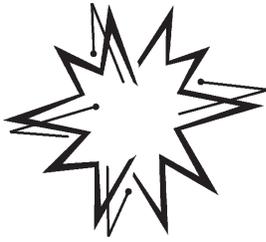
PRAYER OF THE DAY

- 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 the Creator and the Holy Spirit, one God forever.

- All** Amen.



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

(Please be seated)

WORD

CHILDREN'S WORD

Children are invited to come forward; parents are welcome to come with their children.

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.

³You 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.

⁴For 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.

⁷His 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.

¶ 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)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

A **Glory to you, O Lord.**



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.

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

SERMON

(Please stand)

CAROL

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

Hymn 289

stanza 2 - quartet

APOSTLES' CREED

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

A **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:

Al 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,

Al Amen.

MEAL

PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you all.

Al And also with you.

(Please be seated)

MUSICAL OFFERING

“Virgin’s Slumber Song”

Max Reger

*Amid the roses Mary sits and rocks her Jesus child,
While amid the treetops sighs the breeze so warm and mild.
And soft and sweetly sings a bird upon the bough;
“Ah, baby, dear one, slumber now.”*

*God feeds us
with the presence
of Jesus Christ*

*Happy is thy laughter, holy is thy silent rest;
Lay thy head in slumber fondly on thy mother's breast.
Ah, baby, dear one, slumber now.*

Text by Martin Roelitz

(Please stand)

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

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

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **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.

All **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

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

All **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)

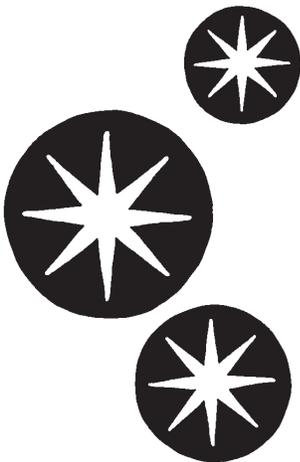
COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

"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

CAROL

"Silent Night, Holy Night!" *(see end of bulletin)*
Please raise your lighted candles  for the final line of each stanza.

All 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

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

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.
All Amen.

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Your light has come.
All 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*
 Kathryn Holum & Marlee *assisting ministers*
 Christopher Haug & Karl Starr *readers*
 Deacon Cantor Mark Sedio,
 Isaac Drewes *organists*
 Nikki Christopher *harp*
 Andrea Sieber *violin*
 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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 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.



Central Lutheran
 MINNEAPOLIS

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Opening Sentences from “Now the Heavens”
 Mary Louise Bringle, © 2006 GIA Publications.
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Stanza 1 - all in unison; 2 - quartet; 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 - quartet; 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.