

CHRISTMAS EVE 2024

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

Christmas Eve 2024

“God’s Gift of Peace”

AS WE GATHER Christmas is all about Jesus our Savior, God’s greatest gift of love for us. God’s prophet proclaimed He would be called “The Prince of peace” (Isaiah 9:6). The only hope for us sinners and all the heartache in our lives is found in the God of perfect love who sent His Son to take on human flesh and blood that He might carry in His body our sin, die our death and rise again for our forgiveness. Hear the words proclaimed for you: “Unto you is born this day . . . a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. . . . Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!” He came for you. He came to save you. He is with you. Clinging to Him in faith, His peace will fill and guard your heart and mind.

*Luther once said, “Word and Sacrament are the manger and swaddling clothes in of which it has pleased Christ to lay Himself.” Just as the shepherds were told where to find Jesus then, so also we’re told where to find Him still today. He is no longer in the humble manger; but by His own promise, He is in the humble means of bread and wine with His true body and blood in the **Lord’s Supper**. As we receive His gift, the greatest gift we can give to others is a loving witness to the truth of His Word. For this reason, we practice close communion; and guests who desire to commune are asked to speak with the pastor before the service. **Please fill out a card, and hand it to an Elder as you come forward to commune.***

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

THE WELCOME

(please stand)

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN #379 *“Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful”*

- 1) Oh, come all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant!
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him Born the King of angels:
Refrain: Oh, come, let us adore Him, Oh, come, let us adore Him,
Oh, come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!
- 2) Highest, most holy, Light of light eternal, Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;
Son of the Father Now in flesh appearing! *Refrain:*
- 3) Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation, Sing all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God ... In ... the ... highest: *Refrain:*

THE INVOCATION AND OPENING PRAYER

P: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: O God, because You once caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light, grant that we who have known the mystery of that Light here on earth may come to the full measure of its joys in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: When the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. We confess our unrighteousness, we plead for His mercy.

(silence for reflection on God's Word and self-examination)

P: Most merciful God,

C: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your punishment now and forever. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.

P: God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

(please be seated)

THE HYMN *"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"* (#366, verses 1, 3-4)

**It came upon the midnight clear, That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to all, From heav'n's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay To hear the angels sing.**

**All you, beneath your heavy load, By care and guilt bent low,
Who toil along a dreary way With painful steps and slow:
Look up, for golden is the hour, Come swiftly on the wing,
The Prince was born to bring you peace; Of Him the angels sing.**

**For lo, the days have come to pass By prophets seen of old,
When down into the circling years Came Christ as was foretold.
His word of peace shall to the earth God's ancient promise bring,
And all who take this gift will hear The song the angels sing.**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 9:2-7 (ESV)

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. You have multiplied the nation; You have increased its joy; they rejoice before You as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, You have broken as on the day of Midian. For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over His kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

P: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

THE HYMN "I Am So Glad When Christmas Comes"



1 I am so glad when Christ-mas comes, The night of Je - sus' birth,
2 The lit - tle child of Beth - le - hem, The King of heav'n - ly grace,
3 He's now re - turned to heav'n a - bove, God's Son he is al - way;
4 I too would sing my Sav - ior's praise, My joy, my crown, my Lord;



When Beth - le - hem's star shone as the sun And an - gels sang with mirth.
Came down from his ex - alt - ed throne To save our fall - en race.
He ne'er for - gets his lit - tle ones But hears them when they pray.
For he has made me his own child By Wa - ter and the Word.

**5 I love this precious Christmas Eve
And my dear Savior mild
And I shall not forget the truth
He loves me as His child**

**6 I am so glad when Christmas comes
Let anthems fill the air
He opens wide for every child
His paradise so fair.**

THE EPISTLE Titus 3:4-7 (ESV)

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE HYMN #387 *“Joy to the World”*

- 1) **Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive its King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**
- 2) **Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**
- 3) **No more let sin and sorrow grow Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as the curse is found.**
- 4) **He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders of His love.**

(please stand)

THE HOLY GOSPEL Luke 2:1-20 (ESV)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the second chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn Son and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths and laid Him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a Baby wrapped in swaddling cloths 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, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!" When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this Child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

(please be seated)

THE HYMN OF THE DAY #380 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see, Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty!
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.

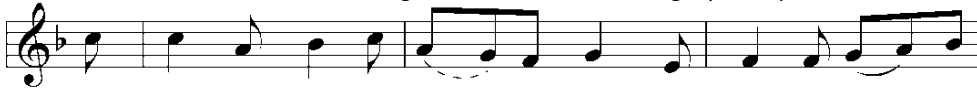


Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King!"

THE SERMON "God's Gift of Peace" Text: Luke 2:1-20

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERINGS

THE HYMN "On Christmas Night All Christians Sing" (#377)



1 On Christ-mas night all Chris - tians sing To hear the news the
2 Then why should men on earth be so sad, Since our Re - deem - er
3 When sin de - parts be - fore His grace, Then life and health come
4 All out of dark-ness we have light, Which made the an - gels



an - gels bring, On Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing To
made us glad, Then why should men on earth be so sad, Since
in its place, When sin de - parts be - fore His grace, Then
sing this night, All out of dark - ness we have light, Which



hear the news the an - gels bring, News of great joy, news of great
our Re - deem - er made us glad, When from our sin He set us
life and health come in its place; An - gels and men with joy may
made the an - gels sing this night: "Glo - ry to God and peace to



mirth, News of our mer - ci - ful King's birth.
free, All for to gain our lib - er - ty?
sing, All for to see the new - born King,
men Now and for - ev - er - more. A - men."

(please stand)

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(Each petition concludes with the following response: "Lord, in Your mercy," "hear our prayer.")

THE PREFACE *(responses are spoken)*

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may be drawn to the love of those things which are not seen. Hear us as we pray in the name of Jesus, who has also taught us to pray . . .

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(printed inside the back cover of your hymnal)*

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE PEACE

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

C: Amen.

(please be seated)

THE DISTRIBUTION AND HYMNS

#370 "What Child Is This"



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is
2 Why lies He in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are
3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to



sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While
feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The
own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is
si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall
lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the



Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
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!

#374 "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"



1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;
2 An - gels sang a - bout His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;
3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;



There He lay, the Un - de - filed, To the world a strang - er.
Heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth Glo - ry all a - round Him.
He is still the Un - de - filed But no more a strang - er.



Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Sav - ior?
Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, Heard the an - gels sing - ing;
Son of God of hum - ble birth, Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;



Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His fa - vor.
All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ring - ing.
Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glo - ry!

#368 "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;



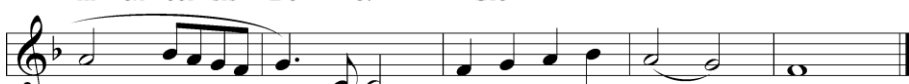
And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.



Refrain
Glo - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - -



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

#361 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is giv'n!
4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;
While mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won-d'ring love.
So God im-parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of His heav'n.
Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.
O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
No ear may hear His com - ing; But in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to-night.
And prais - es sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!
Where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.
O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

(please stand)

THE DISMISSAL

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

C: Amen.

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Let us pray. O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled to serve You constantly; through Jesus Christ Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C: Amen.

(please be seated)

THE LIGHTING OF CANDLES AND CLOSING CAROLS

“Away in a Manger” (#364)

- 1) Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**
- 2) The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.**
- 3) Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.**

“Silent Night” (#363)

- 1) 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.**
- 2) 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!**
- 3) Silent night! Holy night! To the world saving Light;
Love descends from heaven above; Dwells with us in brotherly love,
Jesus, Word now made flesh! Jesus, Word now made flesh!**
- 4) 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.**

*Please extinguish your candle when we are finished singing,
and place them in the box as you leave.*

*You are invited to join us for Christmas Day Worship
Tomorrow morning at 9:00 a.m.*

Please usher yourselves out.

Merry Christmas!

2024 CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS



- * Loren & Janice Jepsen and family in memory of Leslie & Eileen Grell
- * Loren & Janice Jepsen and family in memory of Ruth Jackson
- * Daryl & Barb Pedersen in memory of loved ones
- * JoAnn Riessen in memory of Erwin & Elfie Riessen
- * Curtis & Angela Korner and family in memory of loved ones
- * The Bruhn, Hargens, Korner, Paulsen & Wiebers families in memory of Cole Schneider
- * JoAnn Clausen and family in memory of Larry Clausen and Colton Clausen
- * JoAnn Clausen and family in memory of Leona & Theo Aldag and Bernice & Andrew Clausen
- * Craig & K'Lynn Harm in memory of loved ones
- * Craig & Val Teut in memory of Virgene Fredericks and Taylor Marie Teut
- * Bruce & Cindi Paulsen in memory of loved ones
- * Dave & Jac Friedrichsen in memory of Freddie & Elaine Friedrichsen
- * Dave & Jac Friedrichsen in memory of Kent & Joan Johnson
- * Lowell & Julie Teut in memory of Taylor Marie Teut and Tyler Banks (our grandchildren)
- * Lowell & Julie Teut in memory of Lenhardt & Anna Teut and Fred & Viola Jess (our parents)
- * Joel & Sandy Bubke in memory of our family & friends
- * Richard & Becky Hanlin in memory of loved ones
- * Kent & Nan Bornhoft in memory of parents Harold & Irma Bornhoft, Janice Allen & Gary Howard
- * Bruce & Cathy Namanny and family in memory of loved ones
- * Marie Peters and family in memory of Richard Peters
- * Leroy Hight in memory of Marlene Hight and loved ones
- * Dennis & Coleen Bruhn in memory of loved ones
- * Nancy Bielenberg in memory of Herbert & Arlene Teut
- * Darwin & Julie Petersen in memory of Dwight & Beverly Winquist and Jerry Winquist.
- * Wayne & Joyce Miller in memory of Ken Miller
- * Wayne & Joyce Miller in memory of our parents
- * Richard Fredericks in memory of Virgene Fredericks and Taylor Marie Teut
- * Mike & Tracy Beeck and family in memory of Marlene Hight and Larry & Jolene Beeck
- * Donna Harm and family in memory of Roger Harm
- * Josh & Ashley Beeck and family in memory of friends & loved ones
- * Derick & Amanda Bruhn and family in memory of loved ones
- * Eric & Renae Schneider and family in memory of Cole Schneider
- * The Bruhn, Hargens, Korner, Paulsen & Schneider families in memory of Jason Wiebers
- * Lodean & Sandra Voss and family in memory of Louis & Alice Aldag and Erwin & Marvella Voss
- * Joyce Detlefsen in memory of Guenter Detlefsen
- * Roger & Karin Schneider in memory of loved ones
- * Harry & Kay Riessen in memory of loved ones
- * Kristin Hennings & Andrew Palmersheim in memory of Warren Hennings and Jerry & Jenell Meseck
- * Tim & Lila Bubke in memory of their parents, siblings, family & friends

Thank you for placing poinsettias to the Glory of God.
You may take them home after the 9:00 Christmas Day worship service.