

Christmas Eve Worship

December 24, 2022, 4:30 p.m.



Christmas Eve

Lord of Love Lutheran Church (ELCA)

10405 Fort St., Omaha, NE 68134

"Celebrating and sharing God's Love in a welcoming community of faith, while serving others"

Bold type indicates Congregational responses

** Congregation please stand as you are able*

Prelude

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

****Call to Worship***

P: We gather this night to share good news and tidings of great joy!
For today, in the town of Bethlehem, a Savior has been born to us.

He is Christ the Lord! With the angels, let us sing our praises.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace to all on whom God's favor rests.

***Greeting**

P: The grace of our Savior Jesus Christ, Word made flesh, born of Mary, be with you all.
And also with you.

***Gathering Song: "O Come, All Ye Faithful".....ELW 283**

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!

***Prayer of the Day**

L: Let us pray:

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.

Please be seated.

Special Music: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"..... Douglas E. Wagner

Reading: *Isaiah 9:2-7*

L: 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. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

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. 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: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing".....ELW 270**

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 you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
 born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Refrain

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

***Gospel: Luke 2:1-20**

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

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

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields; keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth 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 heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

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

Please be seated.

Children's Sermon..... Pr. Becky Sells

Christmas Sermon..... Pr. Becky Sells

Sermon Hymn: "Angels We Have Heard on High".....ELW 289

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.

****Prayers of Intercession***

L: With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ's coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family.

A brief silence.

Your infinite love is born to us this night. With choirs of angels the church proclaims the good news. Send us out as messengers of the hope that has come to all people. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

You are pleased to dwell with your creatures and the whole earth sings for joy. Renew the splendor of creation from the smallest cell to the widest galaxies. Guide us to be wise stewards of your gifts for the sake of generations to come. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Your authority is over the nations. Break the rod of oppression in every land and free all people from fear. Bring peace where there is war, compassion where there is suffering, and healing where there is disease. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

You cherish those who are most vulnerable. Protect infants and children, and bless those who care for them. Watch over women giving birth, attend the dying, and relieve any who are in pain. Shelter refugee families and those who have no home. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Your lovingkindness embraces everyone in need. Help any for whom this season is lonely or joyless. Comfort those among us, or known to us, who are experiencing distress of body or mind, missing loved ones, or grieving. We especially pray for those on our prayer list and the names of those we hold and lift up to you in our hearts now.... God of grace,
hear our prayer.

You welcome those who have died into the joyous light of glory. We give thanks for the saints of every time and place who have praised you with lives of faith and humility. Inspire us by their example to love you by serving others. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God.

Amen.

Please be seated.

Offering

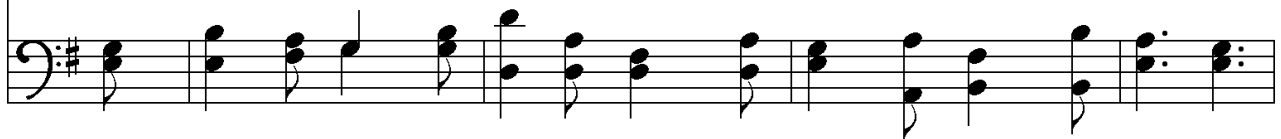
L: Now is the time in our service to reflect on giving back to God for all the blessings God has given us, and the blessings we have to give and share in return. While we don't pass the plates anymore, there is a plate in the back to receive your offerings or you can give electronically at www.lord-of-love.org. This year's Christmas offerings will be split between the missions of Sleep in Heavenly Peace and Angels Share, which can be found at the back of your bulletin. And children may come forward with their noisy offerings as we sing our next hymn.



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?
Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Raise, raise the 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!



****Offertory Prayer***

P: Let us pray.

God with us, you came as a baby to a manger. You slept on straw and greeted shepherds. You come again in bread and wine. Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things. And then, through these gifts, help us to bless the lives of others in the strength of your holy name.

Amen.

****The Great Thanksgiving***

P: The Lord is with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

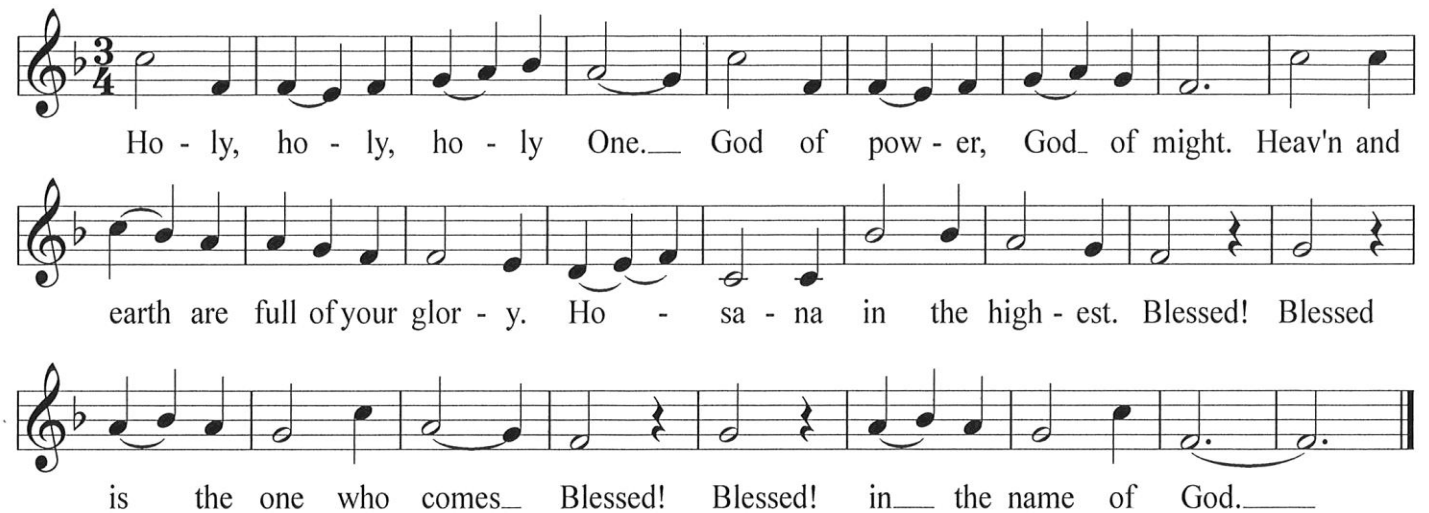
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

At the beginning of creation God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. In ancient times God also led the Israelites through the desert with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. The priests of old also kept a perpetual fire burning in the Temple to remind us that God is a light who cannot be extinguished.

Finally Jesus, the Word, who was with God since the beginning of creation, became flesh and lived among us. We have seen his glory shining in our world, full grace and truth. Christ's light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. This same light has commanded us not to hide our light under a bushel basket, but to put it on a lamp stand so that everyone can see it. With our lights burning brightly, we now join the saints and angels in a hymn of praise to God, the Everlasting Light:

***Holy, Holy, Holy**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly One. — God of pow - er, God of might. Heav'n and
earth are full of your glor - y. Ho - sa - na in the high - est. Blessed! Blessed
is the one who comes — Blessed! Blessed! in — the name of God. —

***Words of Institution**

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**

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

***Communion Invitation**

P: Joy to the world! The Lord has come. Let all who come receive him. All are welcome at his table of the Lord.

Please be seated.

Distribution of Holy Communion

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.

1 A - way in a man-ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -

Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked
 Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look
 ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in

down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
 down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
 your ten - der care and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

***Post-Communion Prayer**

P: On this night, O God, you gave us Christ the Son to save us. As you sent the one foretold, send us now with good news for all people. Let the gladness of this feast have no end as we share with others the joy that fills us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

***Benediction**

P: You are people who have seen a great light! You are people who have received the ultimate gift in the Son of God - the Light of the World. Be bearers of the light, going with the blessing of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, this night and always.

Amen.

***Sending Song: "Joy to the World"ELW 267**

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

****Dismissal***

L: Glory to God in the highest!

Peace to God's people on earth!

Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim the good news.

Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Serving Today:

PastorBecky Sells
 Liturgist.....James Sells
 Organist..... Carol Novak
 Communion Assistants..... Rachel Novak, John & Daniel Sells, Susan Senff
 Video Production Chris Rich, Renae Rich, Jon Novak
 Ushers Chad Christensen, Brian Vandeventer

Everlasting Light Liturgy

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WE GIVE THANKS TO THOSE WHO PROVIDED POINSETTIAS FOR THE SANCTUARY

Doug & Cathy Aden as a gift

Doug & Karen Armitage in memory of our parents Al & Bev Armitage and Ken & Jean Kellogg

Miguel Avalos in memory of Baldemar Moreno, Luz Ramirez, and Serafin Avalos

Paul Barnett in memory of Jackie Barnett and in honor of Pastor Becky's ministry

Jesse & Pat Brewer in memory of Charles Brewer, Brandi Brewer and our parents

Paul Christenson and Carissa Combes in memory of Deb Christenson

Josh, Carissa & Payton Combes in memory of Jason Combes

Kathy Christiansen in memory of Ann & Alvin Christiansen and Rebecca Hubbard

Dave Egr in memory of RM Egr and Mr. & Mrs. CH Strand

Barb Haskins in memory of my sister, Betty Ann

David Hild in memory of Ralph Hild

Dennis & Agnes Hindemith in memory of Tom McCann & Marlene McCann

Amy Kragnes & Gary Krause in memory of Grandpa Alvin

Dave & Susan Lueders in memory of family and friends in heaven

Marilyn Mattheis in memory of Maxine Mattheis and Wade Mattheis

Todd & Lisa Meyer in memory of Merlin Meyer

Karen Mullin in memory of Gehard & Inez Erickson

Peg & Paul Murphy in memory of Janet & Ed Guthrie and Ethel & Milford Murphy

Harry Naasz in memory of Jim Amundson, Jr.

The Novak and Rich families in memory of our mothers and grandmothers

Samantha & Doug Rowen as a gift from Alaina & Jaxson Rowen

VanArsdale family in honor of Rex Quadhamer & Brian Vandeventer for their work with the high school youth

Connie, Kelley & Steph Walther in honor of First Responders and in memory of our dear husband and dad,
Brian Walther

Joan Witt in memory of Wayne Witt and parents

Brandon Zalesky in memory of Ronald Sauers, Geneva Sauers & Paizlee Deeds

Advent and Christmas Special Offerings

The offerings will be split between the Omaha chapter of Sleep in Heavenly Peace and Angels Share. SHP constructs and provides beds and bedding to kids without them. Angels Share runs a supportive housing complex at the former Dana College campus for youth aging out of foster care or otherwise at-risk.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.