

# *Christmas Eve Worship*

*December 24, 2024, 4:30 pm & 11:00 pm*



## *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*

### **Christmas Eve Prelude**

#### **\*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 on 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.*

**4:30 pm Special Music "O Holy Night" .....Adolphe Adam**

**11:00 pm Choir Anthem "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen" .....Arr. Molly Ijames**

***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.

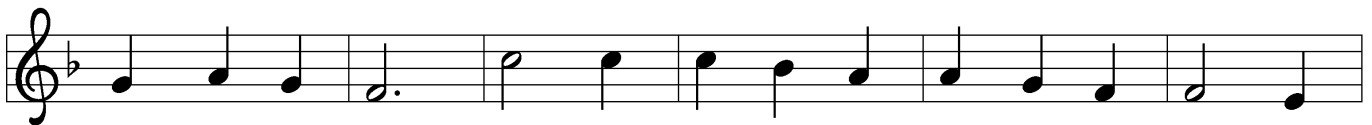
Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*Gospel Acclamation "Love Has Come" ..... ELW 292**



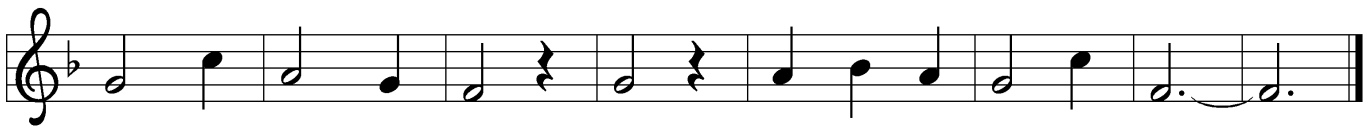
1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the  
 2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -  
 3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;  
 sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;  
 last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to  
 what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the  
 Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.  
 name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.  
 gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

**\*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.**

**4:30 pm Children's Sermon..... Pr. Becky Sells**

**Christmas Sermon..... Pr. Becky Sells**

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,

**\*Prayers of Intercession**

L: Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

*A brief silence.*

Angels sing with praise, and shepherds run with haste. As we glorify and praise you in this place, send us into the world, proclaiming the salvation you have revealed this night. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

The seas roar, and the trees of the forest sing for joy. As creation resounds with praise, inspire us with awe, reverence, and a renewed care for all that fills the fields, skies, and seas. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

The nations declare your glory. Uphold the leaders of the earth with your justice and righteousness. Break the rod of the oppressor in every land, and bring peace where people are experiencing conflict. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

The holy family finds shelter around the animals' manger. Draw near to persons experiencing homelessness, those who are alone this holiday season, and all for whom this world makes no room. Wrap all your children in bands of love and mercy. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

A child is born for us and light shines on the weary. Watch over those who give birth this night and attend to those who are dying. Be present in all our joys and in our sorrows. We especially pray for those on our prayer list and those we lift up to you in our hearts now... God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

The heavenly host praises you. With thanksgiving for Mary, Joseph, and all your saints, sustain us in the blessed hope revealed this night. Fashion us by their example into a people zealous for good deeds, sharing your love and mercy with all. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

**4:30 pm Special Music "Carol of the Bells" ..... Arr. Melody Bober**

**11:00 pm Choir Anthem "It Was a Starry Night".....David & Bonnie Huntsinger**

**\*Peace**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

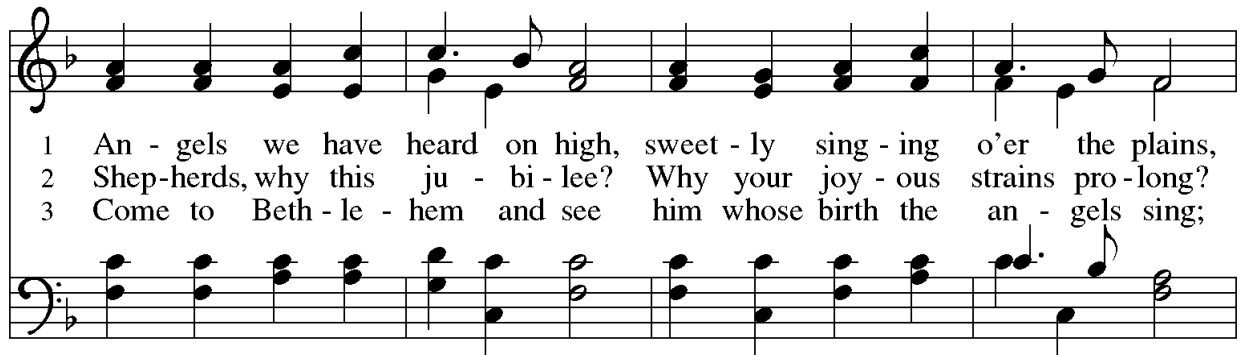
**And also with you.**

*Please share signs of peace with one another*

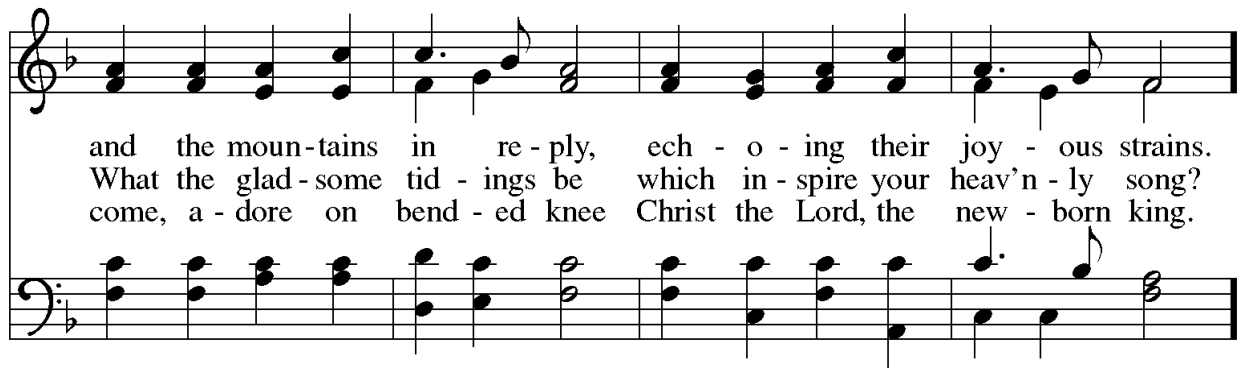
**Offering**

Gifts may be placed in the offering plate located in the back of the sanctuary or may be given electronically at [www.lord-of-love.org](http://www.lord-of-love.org). Our special offering tonight will be split 50/50 between Sleep in Heavenly Peace and Lutheran Disaster Response.

**Offertory 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.

***\*Offertory Prayer***

P: Let us pray.

God of abundance,

**receive and bless these gifts we have offered.**

**Join our hearts with the song of the angels,  
and gather us at your table of celebration.**

**Strengthen us to share with all the world  
the abundance of your grace upon grace,  
poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.**

**Amen.**

***\*The Great Thanksgiving***

P: The Lord be 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.**

### ***\*Thanksgiving at the Table***

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:  
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.  
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.  
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.  
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.  
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.  
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,  
the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup  
we remember your Word dwelling among us,  
full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us.

Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours,

Holy One of Israel,

Word of God incarnate,

Power of the Most High,

one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

***\*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 every heart receive him. All are welcome at the table of the Lord.

*Please be seated.*

***Distribution of Holy Communion***

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!"

"Away in a Manger"..... ELW 277

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.

1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,  
2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,  
3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,  
4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,

from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.  
who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:  
when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,

"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king."  
A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,  
look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;  
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,

The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.  
and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.  
oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!  
and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

***\*Post-Communion Prayer***

P: 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.  
**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: "Silent Night, Holy Night!" ..... ELW 281

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.



***\*Dismissal***

L: Glory to God in the highest!

**Peace to God's people on earth!**

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

**Thanks be to God!**

*Candles are extinguished.*

***Postlude***

***Serving Today:***

Pastor .....Becky Sells  
Liturgist ..... Susan Senff 4:30 pm; Brian Vandeventer 11:00 pm  
Organist .....Carol Novak  
Technical Directors..... Chris Rich & Renae Rich  
Sound/Choir Director ..... Jon Novak  
Nursery Attendant 4:30 pm ..... Maykala Adams  
Ushers: 4:30 pm ..... Chad, Gracie & Jacob Christensen, Dave & Marshall Lueders  
Ushers: 11:00 pm ..... Craig Pennell, Rex Quadhamer, Paul Christenson, Kenn Garder  
Altar Care ..... Susan Senff 4:30 pm; Pat Wineinger 11:00 pm  
Lord of Love Brass 11:00 pm  
Trumpet: Chris Ramsay, Rex Quadhamer  
F Horn: Helen Jordon  
Trombone: Brian Lund  
Tuba: Joshua Lund

**Special thanks to all who shared their musical gifts with us on this Christmas Eve!**

*Love Is Come*

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950

Music: UN FLAMBEAU, F. Seguin, *Recueil de noëls composés en langue provençale*, 1856

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*WE GIVE THANKS TO THOSE WHO PROVIDED POINSETTIAS FOR THE SANCTUARY*

Doug & Cathy Aden in honor of Sara & Rebecca

Doug & Karen Armitage in memory of Jeff Peterson and John Edwards

Paul Barnett in memory of Jackie Barnett & Barnett family parents and in honor of Pastor Becky's Ministry and in honor of Mary Lou's daughter-in-law, Sarah

Jesse & Pat Brewer in memory of Charles & Arlene Shultz and Charles & Lee Brewer and Butch Brewer

Paul Christenson in memory of Deb Christenson

Joe & Jackie Combes in honor of Josh, Carissa and Payton and in memory of Jason and our parents

Dave & Judy Egr in memory of Mr. & Mrs. R.M. Egr and in memory of Mr. & Mrs. C.H. Strand

Paula Foster in memory of Dale Foster and Emily Christensen

David Hild in honor of Maxine Hild and in memory of Ralph Hild

Liddell family

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

Todd & Lisa Meyer in memory of Merlin Meyer and Shirley Papenhausen

Kent & Ardis Mickelson in honor of the Lord of Love Choir

Karen Mullin in memory of Gehard & Inez Erickson/Owen & Margaret Mullen

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

Becky Sells – To the Glory of God

Pat & Monica Steiner in memory of Pat's parents, Joe & Mary Ann and Monica's mom, Penny Stevens

Connie Walther in honor of our First Responders

Joan Wellensiek Witt in memory of Wayne Witt and my parents, Ray & Amelia Wellensiek

Also, in honor of Pastor Becky, my family including Lord of Love family and friends for all the blessings and prayers I have received during my illness

**Advent and Christmas Special Offerings**

The offerings will be split 50/50 between Sleep in Heavenly Peace and Lutheran Disaster Response.