

The Service of Lessons and Carols

The Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord

24 December Anno ✠ Domini 2009 ~ 7:00 p.m.



"The Virgin will be with Child and will give birth to a Son, and they will call Him Immanuel, which means, 'God with us.'" (Matt. 1:23)

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The Service of Lessons and Carols

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Welcome

Welcome to the Lord's House on this blessed and holy night. The Service of Lessons and Carols is observed this evening to focus upon the fulfillment of God's promise to send us a Savior in the birth of Jesus Christ, our Lord. We pray that the Holy Spirit will enable you to truly listen to the Lord tonight as He speaks to you through His Holy Word and points you to the Baby Jesus lying in the manger. May you be led to faithfully confess with confidence that this Baby is the Eternal Word of God in human flesh, who came down from heaven and was Incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary in order to save you from your sins. He is our Immanuel, which means "God with us." He is the King of kings and Lord of lords who was born to die *for you*! That is what Christmas is truly about – the salvation accomplished and won by Jesus Christ. May this Service of Lessons and Carols be a celebration for you of the forgiveness, life, and salvation you have through faith in Christ! Please take the time to fill out the **Record of Fellowship form** that is in the pew. If you are visiting with us this evening, we want you to know that we are overjoyed that you are here. Please make your visit known to us by introducing yourself to us after the Service and by signing the guest book that is in the hallway on the left as you leave the sanctuary. Thank you and MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Our Mission Statement

The mission of Peace Lutheran Church is to welcome all people into the fellowship of God's love by proclaiming the forgiveness of sins through Jesus Christ and to nurture our members with God's Holy Word and Sacraments.

Midnight Mass

Please consider making your Christmas complete by joining us for Midnight Mass this evening at 11:30 p.m. as we celebrate the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord. Come and receive the holy and blessed gifts the Lord desires to give you through His Holy Word and Sacrament. We hope to see you here!

The Prelude and Ringing of the Bells

All stand at the ringing of the bells and face the processional cross. It is customary to continue facing the cross as it is processed in and to bow your head and make the sign of the cross in reverence and admiration to the Lord as it passes your pew. The same applies to the recessional at the conclusion of the Service.

The Processional Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful

LSB 379



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 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



O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,



O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!



The Invocation

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

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

C Amen.

The Christmas Versicles

P The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

C The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

P On those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

C We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son who came from the Father.

P For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

C In Him was life, and that life was the light of men.

Hymn of Preparation

We Praise You and Acknowledge You, O God

LSB 941

(Stanza 3 is sung without organ)

1 We praise You and ac - knowl - edge You, O God, to be the Lord,
2 The band of the a - pos - tles in glo - ry sing Your praise;
3 You, Christ, are King of glo - ry, the ev - er - last - ing Son,
4 You sit in splen - did glo - ry, en - throned at God's right hand,

The Fa - ther ev - er - last - ing, by all the earth a - dored.
The fel - low - ship of proph - ets their death - less voic - es raise.
Yet You, with bound - less love, sought to res - cue ev - 'ry - one:
Up - hold - ing earth and heav - en by forc - es You com - mand.

To You all an - gel pow - ers cry a - loud, the heav - ens sing,
The mar - tyrs of Your king - dom, a great and no - ble throng,
You laid a - side Your glo - ry, were born of vir - gin's womb,
We know that You will come as our Judge that fi - nal day,

The cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim their prais - es to You bring:
Sing with the ho - ly Church through - out all the world this song:
Were cru - ci - fied for us and were placed in - to a tomb;
So help Your ser - vants You have re - deemed by blood, we pray;

"O ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
"O all - ma - jes - tic Fa - ther, Your true and on - ly Son,
Then by Your res - ur - rec - tion You won for us re - prieve—
May we with saints be num - bered where prais - es nev - er end,

Your maj - es - ty and glo - ry fill the heav - ens and the earth!"
And Ho - ly Spir - it, Com - fort - er— for - ev - er Three in One!"
You o - pened heav - en's king - dom to all who would be - lieve.
In glo - ry ev - er - last - ing. A - men, O Lord, a - men!



The Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And with your spirit.

P Let us pray:

P O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Be seated

The First Lesson

Genesis 3:8–15

And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; he shall crush your head, and you shall strike his heel."

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.



Savior of the Nations, Come

LSB 332

(Stanza 3 – Women; Stanza 4 – Men; Stanza 7 – Choir)



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, Vir - gin's Son, make
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the Spir - it
3 Here a maid was found with child, Yet re - mained a
4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and



here Your home! Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,
of our God, Was the Word of God made flesh—
vir - gin mild. In her womb this truth was shown:
king - ly hall; God of God, yet ful - ly man,



That the Lord chose such a birth.
Wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.
God was there up - on His throne.
His he - ro - ic course be - gan.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 5 God the Father was His source,
Back to God He ran His course.
Into hell His road went down,
Back then to His throne and crown. | 7 From the manger newborn light
Shines in glory through the night.
Darkness there no more resides;
In this light faith now abides. |
|---|---|

Stand

- | | |
|---|---|
| 6 For You are the Father's Son
Who in flesh the vict'ry won.
By Your mighty pow'r make whole
All our ills of flesh and soul. | 8 Glory to the Father sing,
Glory to the Son, our king,
Glory to the Spirit be
Now and through eternity. |
|---|---|

Be seated

The Second Lesson

Genesis 22:15–18

And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.



(Stanza 1 – Soloist Roger Humphrey)

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L



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive
 2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest all things
 3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy tribes on
 4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from Sa - tan's
 5 O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen wide our



Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 might - i - ly; To us the path of knowl - edge show,
 Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst give the Law
 tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y pow'r to save,
 heav'n - ly home; Make safe the way that leads on high,



Un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re - jice! Re - jice!
 And teach us in her ways to go. Re - jice! Re - jice!
 In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe. Re - jice! Re - jice!
 And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re - jice! Re - jice!
 And close the path to mis - er - y. Re - jice! Re - jice!



Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!
 Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!
 Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!
 Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!
 Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

O
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6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
 And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 And death's dark shadows put to flight.

Refrain

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
 In one the hearts of all mankind;
 Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
 And be Thyself our King of Peace.

Refrain

The Third Lesson

Isaiah 7:14; 9:2, 6-7

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel . . . The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined . . . 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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

(Stanza 1 – Soloist Sarah Messer)



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!



The Fourth Lesson

Micah 5:2-5

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And he shall be their peace.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

LSB 361

(Stanza 3 is sung without organ)



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!

The Fifth Lesson

Matthew 1:18–25

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

- L** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C** Praise to You, O Christ.



(Stanza 1 – Children only)



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



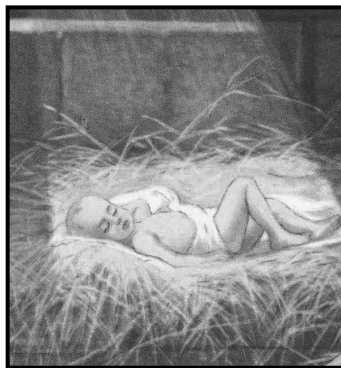
The lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet head.
But lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing He makes.
Close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.



The stars in the sky — looked down where He lay,
I love Thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,
Bless all the dear chil - dren in Thy ten - der care,



The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
And stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
And take us to heav - en to live with Thee there.



The Sixth Lesson

Luke 2:1–7

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.

L This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



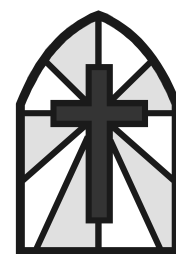
King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him
 ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 ground; He comes to make His bless - ings
 prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



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



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.



The Seventh Lesson

Luke 2:8–20

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.

L This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.



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.



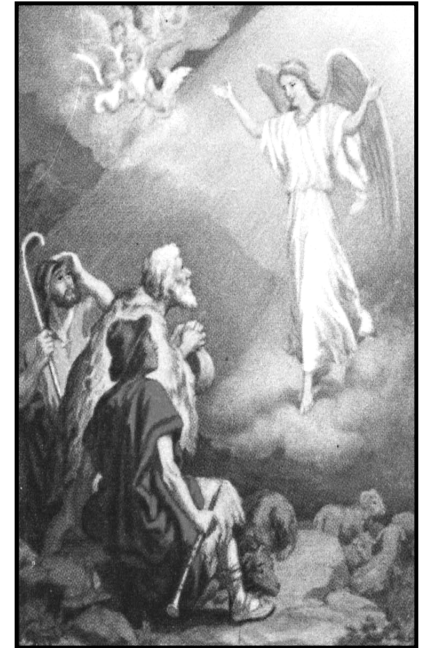
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The Sermon

Hymn of Response: "O Holy Night" (Guitarist and soloist Roger Humphrey)

The Eighth Lesson

Matthew 2:1-11

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: "'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

L This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.



1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er
 2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, Bright - er vi - sions
 4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, Watch - ing long in



all the earth; Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
 flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing,
 beam a - far; Seek the great De - sire of na - tions,
 hope and fear, Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,



Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth.
 Yon - der shines the In - fant Light.
 Ye have seen His na - tal star.
 In His tem - ple shall ap - pear.



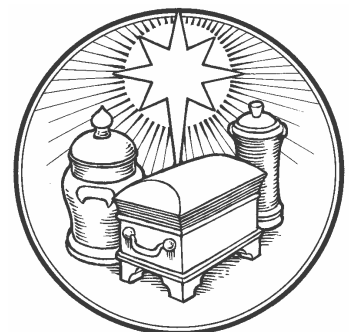
Refrain
 Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship;



Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Stand

5 All creation, join in praising
 God the Father, Spirit, Son,
 Evermore your voices raising
 To th'eternal Three in One. Refrain



The Ninth Lesson

John 1:1–14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.



L This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to You, O Christ.

Be seated

A Great and Mighty Wonder

LSB 383

(Stanza 1 – Soloist Sarah Messer)



1 A great and might - y won - der, A full and ho - ly cure:
2 The Word be - comes in - car - nate And yet re - mains on high,
3 While thus they sing your Mon - arch, Those bright an - gel - ic bands,
4 Since all He comes to ran - som, By all be He a - dored,



The vir - gin bears the in - fant With vir - gin hon - or pure!
And cher - u - bim sing an - thems To shep - herds from the sky.
Re - joice, O vales and moun - tains, And o - ceans, clap your hands.
The in - fant born in Beth - l'em, The Sav - ior and the Lord.



Pro - claim the Sav - ior's birth: "To God on high be



glo - ry And peace to all the earth!"

5 All idols then shall perish
And Satan's lying cease,
And Christ shall raise His scepter,
Decreeing endless peace. Refrain.



The Offering and Candle Lighting



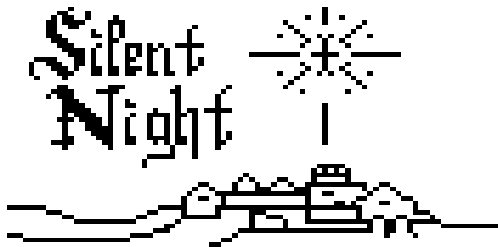
As our tithes and offerings are gathered for the Lord's work, your individual candles will be lit. Remember, when you light your candles, please tip only unlit candles. After the offerings have been gathered and all candles have been lit, we will sing "Silent Night, Holy Night."

Silent Night, Holy Night

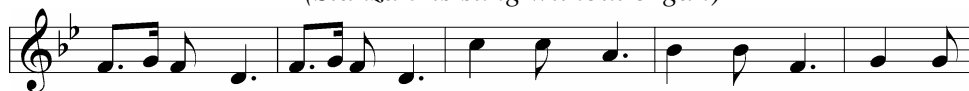
LSB 363

(Stanza 1 in German – Soloist Carol Zeile)

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
Alles schläft, einsam wacht
Nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh.



(Stanza 3 is sung without organ)



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright Round yon
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep-herds quake at the sight; Glo - ries
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light Ra - diant



vir - gin moth-er and child. Ho - ly In-fant, so ten-der and mild,
stream from heav-en a - far, Heav'n-ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
beams from Thy ho - ly face With the dawn of re-deem - ing grace,



Sleep in heav - en - ly peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

The Concluding Collect

P Let us pray:

O God, as You make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, grant that we, who joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, 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.

Please extinguish your individual candles as the lights are turned back up for the conclusion of the Service.

The Christmas Response (*shouted with joy and excitement!*)

P Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

C Glory to God in the highest!

P Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills, and everywhere;

C Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

The Benediction

- P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C** Amen.

The Recessional Hymn

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

LSB 380



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 Postlude

Soli Deo Gloria

To God Alone Be the Glory!

Serving Our Lord This Evening

The Presiding Minister

Rev. Thomas C. Messer, Pastor

The Organist

Mary Jakolat

The Crucifer

Terry Luplow

The Acolytes

Aaron Messer

Samantha Messer

The Ushers

Vern Jakolat

Chris Brown

The Vocalists

Sarah Messer Roger Humphrey

Carol Zeile Peace Choir

The Guitarist

Roger Humphrey

The Lectors

Miguel Ortiz

Bill Harmon

Chris Brown

Terry Luplow

Vern Jakolat

Jon Penzien

Bob Wendt

Dave Zeile

Pastor Messer

Serving Our Lord

Midnight Mass – 11:30 p.m.

The Organist: Mary Jakolat
Altar Care: Carol Zeile

The Ushers: Vern Jakolat, Chris Brown
The Acolytes: Sarah Messer, Samantha Messer

The Elder: Dave Zeile

Sunday, Dec. 27

The Organist: Mary Jakolat
The Greeters: Jim & Janice Sager
Coffee: Coaline Luplow

The Ushers: Daren Johnson, Bill Hendrick
The Acolytes: Sierra Luplow, Melanie Penzien

The Elder: Dave Zeile
Altar: Carol Zeile

Peace Calendar

Tomorrow, Dec. 25

Sunday, Dec. 27 8:30 a.m.

9:30 a.m.

10:45 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

Monday, Dec. 28 **12:00 p.m.**

Tuesday, Dec. 29 **12:00 p.m.**

Wednesday, Dec. 30 6:00 p.m.

7:00 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 31 10:00 a.m.

12:00 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 1

Sunday, Jan. 3 8:30 a.m.

9:30 a.m.

10:45 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

Monday, Jan. 4 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 5 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 6 6:00 p.m.

7:00 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 7 10:00 a.m.

5:00 p.m.

Church Office Closed (Merry Christmas!)

Choir

Divine Service – First Sunday after Christmas

Fellowship

Adult Bible Study, NO Sunday School

Divine Service – Feast of The Holy Innocents

Newsletter articles due

Divine Service – Feast of St. Stephen, First Martyr

“Christian History” Study

Divine Service – Feast of St. John, Apostle & Evangelist

Together in the Word

Divine Service – Feast of the Circumcision & Name of Jesus

Church Office Closed (Happy New Year!)

Choir

Divine Service – Second Sunday after Christmas (Installation of New Officers)

Fellowship

Adult Bible Study, Sunday School

Ladies Guild Meeting

Church Council

“Christian History” Study

Divine Service – The Epiphany of Our Lord

Together in the Word

Weight Watchers

Reminders & Notices

1. During Divine Service on January 3, we will install our newly elected congregational officers (*Chris Brown – President; Gary Miller – Financial Secretary; Miguel Ortiz – Bd. of Elders; Daren Johnson – Bd. of Trustees; Janice Sager and Andrea Elliott – Bd. of Christian Education*).
2. We would like to extend our thanks to all who purchased poinsettias to decorate our altar this Christmas.

*Merry
Christmas!*



“Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of 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!”

From a Christmas Sermon Preached by Dr. Martin Luther

We see here how Christ, as it were, takes our birth from us and absorbs it in his birth, and grants us his, that in it we might become pure and holy, as if it were our own, so that every Christian may rejoice and glory in Christ's birth as much as if he had himself been born of Mary as was Christ. Whoever does not believe this, or doubts, is no Christian.

O, this is the great joy of which the angel speaks. This is the comfort and exceeding goodness of God that, if a man believes this, he can boast of the treasure that Mary is his rightful mother, Christ his brother, and God his father. For these things actually occurred and are true, but we must believe. This is the principal thing and the principal treasure in every Gospel, before any doctrine of good works can be taken out of it. Christ must above all things become our own and we become his, before we can do good works.

But this cannot occur except through the faith that teaches us rightly to understand the Gospel and properly to lay hold of it. This is the only way in which Christ can be rightly known so that the conscience is satisfied and made to rejoice. Out of this grow love and praise to God who in Christ has bestowed upon us such unspeakable gifts. This gives courage to do or leave undone, and living or dying, to suffer every thing that is well pleasing to God. This is what is meant by Isaiah 9: 6, "Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given," to us, to us, to us is born, and to us is given this child,

Therefore see to it that you do not find pleasure in the Gospel only as a history, for that is only transient; neither regard it only as an example, for it is of no value without faith; but see to it that you make this birth your own and that Christ be born in you. This will be the case if you believe, then you will repose in the lap of the virgin Mary and be her dear child. But you must exercise this faith and pray while you live, you cannot establish it too firmly. This is our foundation and inheritance, upon which good works must be built.

If Christ has now thus become your own, and you have by such faith been cleansed through him and have received your inheritance without any personal merit, but alone through the love of God who gives to you as your own the treasure and work of his Son; it follows that you will do good works by doing to your neighbor as Christ has done to you. Here good works are their own teacher. What are the good works of Christ? Is it not true that they are good because they have been done for your benefit, for God's sake, who commanded him to do the works in your behalf? In this then Christ was obedient to the Father, in that he loved and served us.

Therefore since you have received enough and become rich, you have no other commandment to serve Christ and render obedience to him, than so to direct your works that they may be of benefit to your neighbor, just as the works of Christ are of benefit and use to you. For the reason Jesus said at the Last Supper: "This is my commandment that ye love one another; even as I have loved you." John, 13: 34. Here it is seen that he loved us and did every thing for our benefit, in order that we may do the same, not to him, for he needs it not, but to our neighbor; this is his commandment, and this is our obedience. Therefore it is through faith that Christ becomes our own, and his love is the cause that we are his. He loves, we believe, thus both are united into one. Again, our neighbor believes and expects our love, we are therefore to love him also in return and not let him long for it in vain. One is the same as the other; as Christ helps us so we in return help our neighbor, and all have enough.