

*To you
is born this day
a Savior*

LUKE 2:11

"The Hopes and Fears of All the Years are Met in Thee Tonight"

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, December 24, 2023

Lord of the Valley Lutheran Church, Granby, Colorado

Prelude

Welcome

"O, Come, All Ye Faithful"

**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!**

**The highest, most holy, Light from Light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father, Now in flesh appearing!**

Refrain

**Sing Choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to G - o - d, In - the - high-est,**

Refrain

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee - be - glo - ry - giv'n
Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing;**

Refrain

Leader: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world! He is the Light no darkness can overcome.

People: On this night we gather to celebrate the light of our salvation.

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

People: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Leader: Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

People: We have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

Leader: For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

People: In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

Leader: In Christ, God's Word is made flesh and lives among us.

People: Let us live in the light and love of Christ.

Leader: The Grace and Peace of Christ is with you always.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray (*A brief silence*) O Fragile Savior, You came unprotected, into our dangerous world and offered yourself as our Peace. Let us seek your Peace and know your Peace that in our lives we reflect Your Peace with confidence and joy!

People: Amen

A Christmas Reading – *The Promise of Light* - Isaiah 9: 2-7

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

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, good will to all, great news of joy we bring,"
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way, with painful steps and slow,
Look now, for glad and golden hours, come swiftly on the wing;
O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing!

For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,
When with the ever circling year, Shall come the time foretold,
When peace shall over all the earth, Its ancient splendors fling,
And all the world give back the song, Which now the angels sing.

Leader: It is an age-old story that still speaks to us through the centuries.

People: It is a story of love and family, gifts from strangers and the awe of the heavens, of individual people saying 'Yes!'

Leader: It is the story of the yearning for peace in a world that is anything but peaceful. It is a story of hope being sent to us in unexpected ways.

People: Let us be quiet now, and listen to the story, God's story, our story, the story of joy, of hope, of peace, the story of God's love for you and me and the world.

A Christmas Reading - *Jesus is Born* - Luke 2: 1-7

"Away in a Manger"

Away in a manger, no crib for his 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.

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 cradle 'til morning is nigh.

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 fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

A Christmas Reading – *The Earth and Heaven's Rejoice* - Luke 2: 8-20

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above the deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.

O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth.
And praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell;
Oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel.

Christmas Eve Message

"Angels We Have Heard On High"

**Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply Echoing their joyous strains.**

(Refrain): **Gloria, In Excelsius Deo, Gloria, In Excelsius Deo**

**Shepherd why this jubilee, Why your joyous strains prolong
What the gladsome tidings be, Which inspire your heavenly song?**

(Refrain)

**Come to Bethlehem and see, Him whose birth the angels sing
Come adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord the newborn king.**

(Refrain)

**See the babe in manger laid, whom the choirs of angels praise;
Let our voices never fade, news of love and life we raise.**

(Refrain)

Prayers for Christmas Eve

Leader: God of Grace,

People: hear our prayer.

Offering

Leader: Like Mary and Joseph, who trusted in your grace, O God, we offer ourselves and our gifts to you.

People: Bless our lives, make holy our every thought and action, that Jesus Christ may be revealed through us to the world that is yet in darkness. Amen

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Words of Institution

Leader: 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.

Lord's Prayer *(spoken together)*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

Distribution of Communion

(Those who wish to receive communion will be ushered forward. Grape juice is available, let the server know as you approach. Gluten free wafers are available from the Pastor.)

Songs During Communion:

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" "Go Tell it on the Mountain"

(Both Songs are in the Insert in the Bulletin)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: Life giving God, in this meal you have bound us to yourself, at this table we have received the very presence of Jesus Christ. Send us now to be what we have received, that all creation might know your love and sing your praise now and always.

Lighting of Candles

(Please use caution when lighting the candles. Someone will light the candle of the person on the aisle, who then will pass the light on down to the next person. **Please keep the lighted candle upright.** As your candle is lit, please turn and offer the light to the person next to you.)

(Once all candles are lit the lights will be dimmed and then we sing Silent Night.)

**Silent Night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin, mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild.
Sleep in heavenly peace. Sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly host sing, Al-le-lu-ia!
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!**

**Silent night, holy night! Son of God, Love's pure light
Radiant beams from your holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth. Jesus, Lord, at your birth.**

Benediction

Leader: A light shines in the darkness, and the darkness shall never overtake the light. Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!!

(Following the Benediction please carefully extinguish your candles. Please continue to hold the candle upright to prevent wax from spilling on you or the people next to you. Place your candles in the boxes as you leave.)

"Joy to the World"

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive
her king; let every 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.**

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

Thank you to all who have assisted in our worship this evening.

HAVE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS!

**Join us Tomorrow Morning at 10:00 AM For Our Christmas Day Service.
Join us in worship Sundays at 9:30 AM or Saturday Evenings at 5:30 pm beginning
January 6th. – You are Always Welcome!**

Songs Copied with permission under CCLI # 1580664 or Onelicense.net # 705815

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”



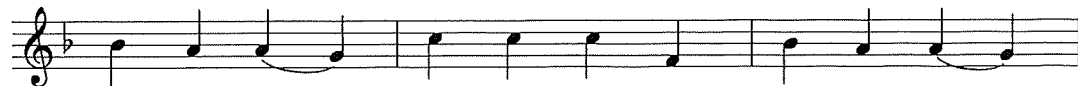
1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the
 2. Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored, Christ the ev - er -
 3. Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of



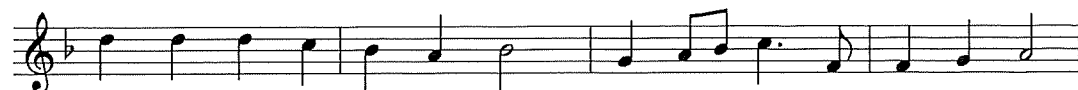
new - born King; Peace on earth, and mer - cy mild
 last - ing Lord: Late in time be - hold him come,
 Right - eous - ness! Light and life to all he brings,



God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!” Joy - ful, all you
 Off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb. Veiled in flesh the
 Ris'n with heal - ing in his wings. Mild he lays his



na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
 God - head see: Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty,
 glo - ry by, Born that we no more may die,



With the an - gel - ic host 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 us from the earth, Born to give us sec - ond birth.



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

"Go Tell it on the Mountain"

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun-tain, O-ver the hills and ev - 'ry-where;

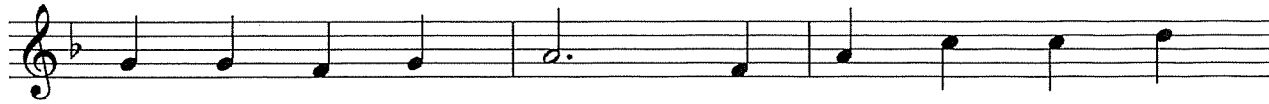


Go tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born!

Verses



1. While shep - herds kept their watch - ing O'er
2. The shep - herds feared and trem - bled When
3. Down in a low - ly man - ger The



si - lent flocks by night, Be - hold through - out the
lo! a - bove the earth Rang out the an - gel
hum - ble Christ was born, And God sent us sal -



heav - ens There shone a ho - ly light.
cho - rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
va - tion That bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

Nativity of Our Lord

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.
³You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
⁴For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
⁶For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
⁷His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Psalm 96

SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he
favors!"

[¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.]

Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 61:10—62:3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40.

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