

CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2016



Our Savior's Lutheran Church

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Rev. Paul Lutter, Interim Senior Pastor (prpaul@oslcmn.com)

Meagan Esterby, Director of Youth and Family Ministry

Rooted in Faith + Growing in Christ + Reaching to Serve

Welcome to Our Savior's Lutheran Church! We are so glad you are worshipping with us today. Ushers are available at the back of the sanctuary if you should need any assistance. Restrooms are located just down the hall and at the far west entrance. All God's children are welcome and celebrated in this sanctuary, with all their wiggles and giggles, but there is also a staffed nursery and changing station at the far end of the hallway for your convenience. We hope you can join us for cookies and fellowship following worship!

PRELUDE & WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the Holy One of Israel,
the Word made flesh,
the Power of the Most High,
‡ one God, now and forever.

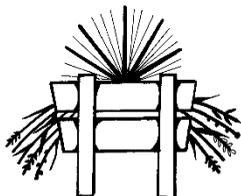
Amen.

Gathered in the name of Jesus,
let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Gracious God,
**in Christ Jesus you come among us
as light shining in darkness.
We confess our failure to welcome this light.
Forgive us and renew our hope,
so that we may live in the light of your grace,
and welcome the truth of Christ the Lord. Amen.**

I bring you good news of great joy for all the people:
To you is born a Savior, Christ the Lord.
Your sins are forgiven in ‡ Jesus' name.
Amen.



OPENING HYMN *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,



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!



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:

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!

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

THE FIRST READING Isaiah 9:2-7

This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!

²The 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.

Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Special Music (3:30)

Sr. Choir "Candle of Peace"

THE PSALM Psalm 96

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad. (Ps. 96:11)

¹Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.

²**Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD;
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**

³Declare God's glory among the nations
and God's wonders among all peoples.

⁴**For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised,
more to be feared | than all gods.**

⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.

⁶**Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**

⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

⁸**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.**

⁹Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

¹⁰**Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is king!
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved
will judge the peoples with equity."**

¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

¹²**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O LORD,
for you come to judge the earth.**

¹³You will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with your truth.

THE SONG FOR CHILDREN *Away in the Manger* vs. 1 & 2 ELW 278



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



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



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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE & THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Please stand as you are able

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Love has Come* ELW 292 vs. 1



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.

THE HOLY GOSPEL Luke 2:1-14

God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.

¹In 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!

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Love has Come* ELW 292 vs. 3



3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



gift of Christ-mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

THE MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY *Go Tell It on the Mountain* ELW 290

Children are invited to join the Rhythm Band around the piano at the front of the sanctuary!

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!



- 1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
- 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
- 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;

Refrain



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

THE PRAYERS *All petitions conclude:* Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

PEACE The Peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

TITHES & OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY – Sr. Choir “Infant Holy” accompanied by Ginny Ahrlin (3:30)

Deb Gunderson - violin “Once in David’s Royal City” accompanied by Mark Ongalo (5:15)

OFFERING PRAYER

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

The Lord be with you **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Join their unending hymn...What Child is This ELW 296 vs. 1



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

LORD'S PRAYER

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Joy to the world! The Lord is come.
Let every heart receive your Savior.



All are welcome to the Lord's table! You will be offered the wafer; please receive it in your open palm and eat. Then take either the wine (dark) or grape juice (light) in the small cup and drink. Those not wishing to receive communion are invited to receive a blessing. Children not communing will receive a blessing and a teddy graham. Children may indicate if they are ready to receive communion by offering an open palm.

Communion Hymn

O Little Town of Bethlehem ELW 279



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
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.
oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Communion Hymn *Your Little Ones, Dear Lord*

ELW 286



1 Your lit - tle ones, dear Lord, are we, and
2 With songs we has - ten you to greet, and
3 Oh, draw us whol - ly to you, Lord, and
4 Un - til at last we too pro - claim, with



come your low - ly bed to see; en - light - en ev - 'ry
kiss the ground be - fore your feet. Oh, bless - ed hour, oh,
to us all your grace ac - cord; true faith and love to
all your saints, your glo - rious name; in par - a - dise our



soul and mind, that we the way to you may find.
sweet-est night that gave you birth, our soul's de - light.
us im - part, that we may hold you in our heart.
songs re - new, and praise you as the an - gels do.

Communion Hymn *Good Christian Friends Rejoice*

ELW 288



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.
 He has o - pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Communion Hymn *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

ELW 282



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.

Communion Hymn *The First Noel*

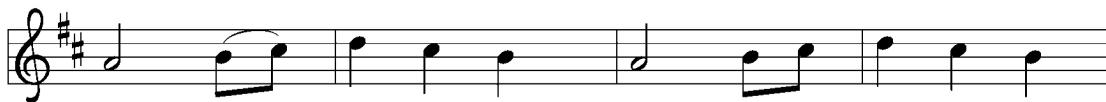
ELW 300



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . . a star shin - ing
 3 And by the light of that . . . same star three . .
 4 This star drew near to the . . . north - west, o'er . .
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . . men three, full . .



cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
 in . . . the east . . . be - yond . . . them far; and to the
 wise . . . men came . . . from coun - try far; to seek for a
 Beth - le - hem . . . it took . . . its rest; and there it
 rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . . so it con -
 king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . . o - ver the
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . . gold, . . . and

Refrain



night that was so deep.
 tin-ued both day and night.
 star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
 place where Je - sus lay.
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

On this day, 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.**

HYMN for the Lighting of the Candles

Silent 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,



Hold - er 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.

BLESSING

May Christ, who by his incarnation
has filled us with grace and truth,
give you peace this Christmas and always.

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and the Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN *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



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.

SENDING

Glory to God in the highest!

Peace to God's people on earth!

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



Welcome to Worship Saturday, December 24, 2016

Nursery is open and available!

Thank you to today's worship assistants:

Organist: Kristen Weikum **Lectors:** Dan Peliska (3:30), Nathan LeBeque (5:15)

Greeters: Dawn Matschiner (5:15) **Ushers:** Mike & Deb Lekatz (5:15)

Sr. Choir director: Mark Ongalo **Accompanist:** Ginny Ahrlin

Violinist: Deb Gunderson **Accompanist:** Mark Ongalo

Video: Bob Rutka **Altar Care:** Mary Troutwine

Communion Servers: Phil & Mary Troutwine and Barry Frey (3:30),
Nathan LeBeque, Dawn Matschiner, and Diane Vandervort (5:15)

The church office will be closed Monday, Dec. 26th through Saturday, Dec. 31st.

Prayer Chain – December – contact Deb Gunderson at 744-5184.

PRAYER CONCERNS: Please pray for all who are undergoing medical tests or who suffer from chronic illness, all scheduled or recovering from surgery or treatments

+ We pray for the people listed below and those we name in our hearts in need of comfort, hope, and healing, we lift up: Matthew & Mary House, Joyce Wessman, Norma Bodovinac, Helen Foonsness, Irene Hanula, Cliff Heglund, Gladys Johnson, Karen Maki, Ann Markley, Troy McGowan, Jay Mott, Bonnie Murray, Kara Petron, Sarah Robertson, Elizabeth Rutske, Vincent Suihkonen, Irene Swartout, Bill Culbert, Irene Coleman, Skip Hanson, Ruby Rasmussen, Dave Crockett, Deb Conaway, Marilyn Chilstrom, Connie.

+ For Families and Friends who mourn the loss of loved ones: Betty Anderson, Cindy Griffin – Kotila, Vernon Schwandt