

First Sunday of Christmas
January 1st, 2023
Our Savior's Lutheran Church, ELCA



Welcome

Prelude

Christmas Hymn "Once in Royal David's City" # 269

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| 1 Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed, where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed: Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little child. | 3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love; for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heav'n above; and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone. |
| 2 He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all, and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall; with the poor and meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy. | 4 Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by, we shall see him; but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high; there his children gather round, bright like stars, with glory crowned. |

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-189

Call to Worship

L: Welcome to the celebration!

**C: We come to proclaim what the angels proclaimed on the First Christmas:
"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace to everyone."**

L: Welcome to Christmas, and God's table. Welcome to the supper of love, and the celebration of new life in Jesus.

**C: We come to worship the Christ. This baby of God is the Messiah for the world
and the Savior of us all.**

L: We begin our worship as we live in the strong name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

Song "O Little Town of Bethlehem" 279 (vs 1,2)

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| 1 O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy 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. | 2 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! |
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Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893

We Admit Our Emptiness:

All: God of all promises, we confess to you that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have turned our back on those less fortunate. We have tried to keep the gifts you have given us for ourselves. We have tried to impress others with our possessions, but have found our lives empty and without meaning. In our pursuit to reach the top, we have failed to realize that you are the source of all blessings. In our race to be the best, we have destroyed the splendor of your creation. In the middle of our daily business, we have forgotten how to laugh, dance, and sing. God, in your mercy, hear our prayer. Forgive us, renew us, and fill the emptiness of our life with your love.

Song "O Little Town of Bethlehem" # 279 (vs. 3,4)

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| 3 How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n! So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n. No ear may hear his coming; but, in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in. | 4 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! |
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We Hear the Glad Tidings

L: People of God, listen to the words of the angel of the Lord! Hear the glad tidings the shepherds first heard in the cold Judean countryside. "Don't be Afraid! I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all people. This day, in the city of David, a Savior is born, the Messiah and Lord." These words are still true for us

today. The name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus, brings hope to those who are hopeless, comfort to those who mourn, justice to those who are victims of injustice and prejudice, and joy to those who are sad. Praise God for the good news of Christmas!

Song "O Come, All Ye Faithful" # 283

1 O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him,
born the king of angels:

Refrain

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

2 The highest, most holy,
light of light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father
now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

3 Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
in the highest: *Refrain*

4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing: *Refrain*

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, sts. 1, 3-4; tr. unknown, st. 2

God's Word is Proclaimed- Luke 2: 15-20

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.

Sermon

Song 'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime"

284 (vs. 1, 4)

1 'Twas in the moon of wintertime
when all the birds had fled,
that *God the Lord of all the earth
sent angel choirs instead;
before their light the stars grew
dim, and wond'ring hunters heard
the hymn:

4 O children of the forest free,
the angel-song is true;
the holy child of earth and heav'n
is born today for you.
Come, kneel before the radiant boy,
who brings you beauty, peace, and
joy. *Refrain*

Refrain

Jesus your king is born! Jesus is
born, in excelsis gloria!

Text: Jean de Brébeuf, 1593-1649; tr. Jesse E. Middleton, 1872-
1960, alt. Text © 1927 The Frederick Harris Music Company.
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Confession of Faith "Nicene Creed"

Sharing the Peace

Invitation to the Offering

L: Come before the Christ child. Bring all that you are and all that you hope to be.
Offer your gifts in wonder and surprise and awe. Offer you gifts in joy and delight.

Offering

Offering Prayer

God's Giving Continues...

Sharing the Meal

Communion Blessing

Post Communion Proclamation:

L: You are my Song, Lord Jesus

C: A song of peace for lands afar and for mine

L: The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart

C: A fountain ever springing

L: You are my Song, Lord Jesus

C: A song of hope for all your children

L: Though the darkness gather round

C: Songs in the night you giveth

L: You are my Song, Lord Jesus

C: A song of prayer to live as one

L: All things are mine, since I am Yours

C: You are my Song, Lord Jesus

How can I keep from singing?

Christmas Blessing

Sending

L: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Closing Song of Christmas Praise “Go Tell it on the Mountain” # 290

Refrain

Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!

1 While shepherds kept their
watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. *Refrain*

2 The shepherds feared and trembled
when, lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain*

3 Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr.,
1872-1925, stanzas, alt

Postlude





Announcements January 1, 2023

The church will be closed tomorrow (Monday, Jan. 2nd) for the holiday.

No Sunday School today. We will resume class next Sunday, January 8th - hope to see you then!

PRAYER: You are invited to light the candles on the tables in the back of the sanctuary any time before, during, or after worship for yourself, or in memory/honor of a loved one as a symbol of the promised light of Christ shining in the darkest, gloomiest, most uncertain times of our life – to give us hope.

CLOTHING SALE DONATIONS: You may bring in donated clothing for next spring's clothing sale and leave in the back left side of the social hall or the west wing of the church on **MONDAYS**. Call Gloria if you have questions @ 218-750-7362. *Our Annual Clothing Sale will be Apr. 20th-22nd.*

COLD WEATHER CLOTHESLINE: If you are bringing winter clothing to be put out now, you may place your donated winter items outside the west wing entrance in the boxes or on the clothes rack. Jackets, sweatshirts, sweaters, hats, gloves & mittens, and scarves are welcome. *If there is no room outside, the west wing Library Room has a table to store jackets, etc. to be put out when there is room.*

HELP UKRAINE 🏠 *Currently, there is a challenge from a church in Wisconsin who will double our giving through the holidays, with Lutheran World Relief – Send donations to: Lutheran World Relief, P.O. Box 17061, Baltimore, MD 21297-1061. You may also call LWR @ 800-638-3522. **Please continue to pray for peace, protection, and provisions.***

PRAYER CHAIN: You may call Ginny Ahrlin @ 218-749-0056, prayer chain leader for Oct., Nov., Dec. Please pray for people in need of comfort, hope, healing, or safe transition: Breanna, Jeremy, Richard, Shari, Rodney, Matt P., Ross-(needs your prayers to recover from infection, needs eye surgery & transplant of kidneys & pancreas), Marlene K.(bronchitis), Avery(heart), Bettie S.(covid), Dave C., Lee, Kathy, Mary, Wally C., Carolyn, Raymon(blood circulation), Marlene S., Cliff(post-surgery), Gerilyn & family, Bonnie M.(MS), Victoria(cancer), Bob & Wife (ALS).

IF YOU'RE VISITING: Thank you for being here today. If you would like to know more about OSLC, call the church office at 218-741-6207 or Pastor Tim @ 320-226-7074 (voice messages are routed to our email, so leave us a message). Office hours are Mon-Wed from 10am to 4pm, and Fri. 10am to 4pm (except during holidays). Join us for coffee & treats in our Fellowship Hall across from the sanctuary after worship. Bathrooms are located to the left and down the hall as you exit the sanctuary. Parents: As you enter the Sanctuary, to the left, there is an activity tree holding canvas bags with toys & books for your children to use during worship, and coloring pages/books with crayons in the basket beside it - feel free to use them! You are also welcome to utilize the Youth room down the hall with your little ones if needed (Sunday School also takes place here after worship). We're glad you're here~

RADIO SPONSORSHIP: Christmas Day worship was sponsored by two families. Chris & Bill Culbert are sponsoring in thankfulness to God for their 51st Anniversary. *Happy Anniversary!* Judy & Dan Peliska are sponsoring in honor & memory of Grace Peliska. Thank you for supporting this important ministry. If you are interested in sponsoring a Sunday worship broadcast in honor of someone or a special event (wedding anniversary, birth of children, baptism date) or in memory of a loved one who has passed, you may do so in full for \$90 or in partial at \$45. Just call the +church office, and/or sign up on the sheet provided on the blue bulletin board by the fountain. Those in nursing homes, assisted living communities or at home and unable to attend in person thank you for considering. Our live worship can be heard on KRBT 1340AM & 104.9FM.

A FEW NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY:

- Newsletter for January:** We will send it out January 3rd ~ a little later than usual due to the holidays.
- Giving Envelope Boxes:** New boxes will arrive between Jan. 8th & Jan. 15th. You may pick one up in the entry/narthex. They are not numbered so be sure to write your name on the envelopes when you give.
- Faith Formation Meeting:** January 5th at 5:30 pm
- Prayer Meetings:** 2nd & 4th Thursdays at 10am, Jan. 12th & Jan. 26th
- Family Fun Night:** Bowling, January 13th, meet here at 5:30 pm
- Adult Formation:** After worship, January 15th, "What is a Pastor"
- Council Meeting:** January 17th at 5:30 pm
- ANNUAL MEETING:** After Worship, Sunday, January 22nd, in our Fellowship Hall
- Contribution Statements:** Will be mailed to you the week of Jan. 23-27th.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to You!

