

CHRISTMAS EVE
DECEMBER 24th, 2022
OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN, ELCA



CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP
December 24, 2022
Our Savior's Lutheran Church, ELCA

Christmas Prelude

The Night Proclaimed...

Song of Hope "Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

275 (vs. 1-2)

- 1 **Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
once you sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

- 2 **Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
yonder shines the infant light.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

Call to Worship

The world is on the edge. Taut with expectation. Breathless with imminence. Caught up in anticipation. Something is going to change. Something.... Something hovers just out of sight. Beyond our imagining. Beyond our dreaming. Beyond our hoping. God moves, and we are on the brink of the incredible. So come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

3 **Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations,
you have seen his natal star.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

4 **All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising
to the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt., sts. 1-3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4

Prayer...

Confession of our Sin:

L: Amid the darkness of this world, let us confess our sin and welcome the light of God’s forgiveness.

Silent Reflection

L: Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus.

C: Forgive our lack of faith and trust in your will.

L: Your Son was born in the poverty of a stable.

C: Forgive our neglect of the poor.

L: The shepherds left their flocks and went to Bethlehem.

C: Forgive our selfishness and complacency.

L: The magi followed the star to find the Savior of the nations.

C: Forgive our reluctance to seek you with all our hearts.

Forgiveness of our Sin:

L: The angel said, “You shall call his name Jesus for he will save his people from their sins.” With great joy, I announce to you the entire forgiveness of your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Song "Your Little Ones, Dear Lord"

286

- 1 **Your little ones, dear Lord, are we,
and come your lowly bed to see;
enlighten ev'ry soul and mind,
that we the way to you may find.**
- 2 **With songs we hasten you to greet,
and kiss the ground before your feet.
Oh, blessed hour, oh, sweetest night
that gave you birth, our soul's delight.**
- 3 **Oh, draw us wholly to you, Lord,
and to us all your grace accord;
true faith and love to us impart,
that we may hold you in our heart.**
- 4 **Until at last we too proclaim,
with all your saints, your glorious name;
in paradise our songs renew,
and praise you as the angels do.**

Text: Hans A. Brorson, 1694-1764; tr. Harriet Krauth Spaeth, 1845-1925, alt.

The Promise of God's Word

Isaiah 9: 2-7

Christmas Eve Prayer

The Christmas Story

Story

Luke 2: 1-7

Song "What Child Is This"

**What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds
watch are keeping?**

**This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!**

Story

Luke 2: 8-14

Song "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

**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.**

Story

Luke 2: 15-20

Song "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

**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!**

Christmas Message

Song "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

276

1	Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall; oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all. Swiftly winging, angels singing, bells are ringing, tidings bringing: Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!	2	Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true. Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow: Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!
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Text: Polish carol; tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885-1933, alt.

Greeting of Peace:

L: On this night of quietness and joy God calls us to be at peace: with God, with other nations, other races, others of all kinds, with each other. Tonight we beseech God to pour out love and understanding on our troubled world, remembering those for whom peace is unknown and sorrow is the stuff of everyday life. We particularly pray for the blessing of peace upon the peoples

of Ukraine and Russia that there may be peace, not war, justice and freedom, not power and control.

C: Amen, Lord. Give us all peace.

Silent prayer

L: As we are forgiven and reconciled to God through Christ Jesus, let us be reconciled to each other. The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C: and also with you.

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. We continue our worship with the offering.

The Offering of Our Gifts

Offering Prayer

L: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, we thank you!

C: There are so many things to be thankful for tonight, God. Receive these tokens of our gratitude for your love incarnate in the babe of Bethlehem. May they become God-with-us for all the world. May they breathe hope back into a world that needs a sense of wonder and joy. Accept our gifts and use them as you will to boldly proclaim your grace and love in the world. Amen.

Offering Response:

L: Unto us a child is born.

C: Unto us a son is given.

L: For our world, our time, our needs,

C: Jesus Christ is born.

L: For our wants, our fears, our sins,

C: Jesus Christ is born.

L: For our joy, our peace, our hope,

C: Jesus Christ is born.

L: Glory to God in the highest!

C: Peace to God's people on earth.

Communion Song "Away in a Manger"

277 (vs. 1)

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.**

God's Story of Love Come Down

"Away in a Manger" # 277 (vs. 2)

**The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

God's Story of Love Come Down

"Away in a Manger" # 277 (vs. 3)

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.**

Lord's Prayer

Sharing the Meal

Songs during the Meal- 270, 271, 282, 300

Blessing

Prayer

Lighting of the Christmas Candles

A Reading from John and Genesis

Song "Silent Night"

281

**1 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.**

**2 Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,**

**heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!**

**3 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.**

Closing Prayer

Blessing

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary,
The obedience of Joseph,
The joy of the angels,
The eagerness of the shepherds,
The determination of the wisemen,
And the peace of the Christ child.
Almighty God, Father, + Son and Holy Spirit
Bless you and your family now and always. Amen.

Sending

L: Go in peace. Spread the news the angels told. Tell the world:
Your Savior is here!

C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude