

DECEMBER 24TH, 2023

Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Eve



Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Virginia, MN

Pastor Liz Cheney

ENTRANCE HYMN *Oh Come All Ye faithful*

ELW 283

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 of 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 God in the highest: *Refrain*

CHRISTMAS DIALOG AND GREETING

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

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

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

We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

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

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

May the grace and truth of Christ be with you.

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 only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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. You 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. For 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. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the

fire. For 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. His 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.**

HYMN O Little Town of Bethlehem vs 1,2, 4

ELW 279

**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.**

**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!**

SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He 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.

Word of God. Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**



**Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"**

Refrain

**Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"
Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
Born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth. *Refrain***

THIRD READING: LUKE 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And 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.

HYMN Away in a Manger vs 1 & 2

**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 poor baby wakes,
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.**

FORTH READING: Luke 2:8-20

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth 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 heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When 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." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

CHILDREN'S TIME

SERMON

Pastor Liz Cheney

HYMN Go, Tell It on the Mountain vs 1 & 3

ELW 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!**

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

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

THE GOSPEL OF THE INCARNATION

JOHN 1:1-14

THE PRAYERS

Wonderful Counselor, increase our joy as the church gathers on this holy night to sing of our dear Savior's birth. May the story of salvation live in the hearts of all who sing of its wonders. God of grace, **Hear our prayer.**

Mighty God, you have broken the yoke of sin's burden through the birth of your Son. Comfort those whose burdens distract them from the deeper peace of this holy night and grant them a restful mind. God of peace, **Hear our prayer.**

Everlasting Father, uphold all who are in sorrow or need of your divine goodness and mercy (*especially*). We remember with thanksgiving all who have died and who now rest in your peaceful light. God of love, **Hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, bathe us always in the light of your Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

HYMN 9:30am only It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

ELW 282

HYMN OF LIGHT 4:00pm only Silent Night, Holy Night!

ELW 281

**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, heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!
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.**

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. **Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

pg. 191

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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

Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace. All are welcome!

COMMUNION HYMNS

I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve

ELW 271

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

ELW 276

What Child Is This

ELW 296

TABLE BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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 magi, and the peace of the Christ Child. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SEDNING HYMN Joy to the World

ELW 267

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive its King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room 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.**

**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.
He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love.**

DISMISSAL

Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Kristen Wiekum



We hold in our prayers

Please pray for people in need of comfort, hope, healing, or safe transition: Mark, Jess, Kate, Joe, Matthew, Russ, Carolyn B., Dan, Adeline, Jesse, Tedd, Ed & Karen, Ralph, Diane, Chuck, Sue, Mike, Kate, Matt, Ken, Ruth T., Hermine, Deb L., Matt, Ross-(needs transplant of kidneys & pancreas), Brandon, Jessica, Breanna, Jeremy, Richard, Shari, Rodney, Lee, Kathy, Mary, Wally C., Marlene, Victoria. *Please keep Larry Murray and family in your prayers at the passing of his wife, Bonnie Murray.*

Call Ginny Ahrlin, prayer leader for this month, at 218-749-0056 for prayer needs.

If you are in need of any pastoral care or if you or someone you know would like a visit, please call Pastor Liz Cheney at 218-780-8907 or the church office at 218-741-6207.

Visitors and Friends

We at Our Savior's practice open communion during Sunday Worship. Our Lord invites us to share a holy meal at His altar, and we understand that invitation to be open to all who wish to commune with us. You are therefore welcome to join us in our Lord's Supper.

If you prefer a Gluten Free wafer or juice, please let the Pastor/server know.

A warm welcome to all visitors who are worshiping with us this morning! Please join us for coffee fellowship following the service.

CONTACT US

Church Office: 218-741-6207

office@oslcmn.com

www.oslcmn.com

www.facebook.com/oslcmn

YouTube Page ~ Our Savior's Lutheran Church Virginia MN Office

NEW OFFICE HOURS

For the Christmas Holiday, the office will be closed Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 25th & 26th, and Wednesday, Dec. 27th is Newsletter day!

Normal office hours will return to Tuesday - Friday, 9am - 5pm after the holidays.

PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS

Pastor Liz will be here Mondays & off Fridays - 218-780-8907

or lizcheney44@gmail.com

STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Liz Cheney

Church Secretary: Colleen Brown Jacobson

Bookkeeper: Carole Rutka

Musicians: Kristen Weikum, Mark Ongalo, Ginny Ahrlin

Custodian: Steve Gagnon



ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE SUNDAY, Dec. 24th, 2023

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES TODAY Thank you for joining us, and Merry Christmas! Our **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be at 4pm today**, in addition to this morning's service. Invite your family, friends, and neighbors. *May the blessings of Peace, Hope, Joy, and Love be yours as we celebrate Christ's birth together ~*

WANTED! *Council member nominations:* The nominating committee is seeking those interested in serving on Church Council, other committees and as delegates to VLM & the Synod. There are six council members getting off council in January. If you are interested in serving in this way, please contact one of the nominating committee members: Nancy Fisher, Jackie Witty or Tamera Brown.

TECH TEAM FORMATION It's exciting to see what we will be able to do in the very near future! Shortly, Our Savior's will have the equipment and ability to live stream our worship services, funerals, weddings, concerts, etc... LIVE! People will be able to tune in at 9:30 on Sunday mornings and watch our worship in the moment on both our FB page & YouTube. This is very exciting! Pastor is looking to put together a *Tech Team* that would be able to help on Sunday mornings get mics on, camera on, radio on, easy tasks... Dan Peliska has been our solo Tech Team with help from our secretary Colleen. It's time to expand our team, and with our new equipment, now seems to be a good time. Please talk with Pastor Liz if you are interested in helping out in this way.

SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE It's time to re-energize our *Social Concerns Committee* – we sent out both Thanksgiving and Christmas Baskets, but beyond that, there are many social concerns OSLC could be a part of. If you are interested in social justice, outreach ministry and concerns for our local community, this is the team for you! See Pastor Liz for more information.

RADIO SPONSORSHIP **Nina Kampf sponsored last week's broadcast in loving memory of her late husband, Dan. Today, the broadcast is in memory of Darlene Skorich and Ann Markley.** If you are interested in sponsoring a Sunday Worship 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 shared/partial at \$45. Just call the church office, **and/or sign up on the sheet provided on the bulletin board by the fountain. You can also sponsor to support our new tech and sound equipment.**

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS: Christmas Day and Tuesday, Dec. 26th are staff holidays and the office will be closed. Wednesday is our Newsletter folding day – it will be a busy day with a run to the post office ~ if you call and we don't answer please leave us a detailed message and we will call you as soon as possible! We wish you a peaceful Christmas filled with joy.



PLEASE TAKE YOUR BULLETIN HOME FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAYERS & STUDY

Giving for 2023: If you desire to have your end-of-the-month giving for December applied to your total contributions for 2023, it would have to be in to the office by Friday, Dec. 29th at 12:00 noon so counters can deposit it that day (the last “Sunday” contributions would then be Dec. 24th). The IRS stipulates all deposits must be into accounts and verified before Dec. 31st, which is a Sunday. Any contributions given on Sunday, Dec. 31st will have be applied to 2024 as the contributions will not be deposited/verified by the bank until Jan. 2nd.

GIVING IS EASY WITH OUR QR CODE

Just scan it with your phone's camera to learn more about contributing to OSLC's Ministries!



**YOU CAN STILL GIVE TOWARD THE
ELCA "GOOD GIFTS" CAMPAIGN**

We will be collecting in the little piggy bank on the counter during Coffee, following worship this week and next.

Or, you can simply grab an ornament off the small tree in the entryway, take it home and send payment/pay online with the info attached. See the Good Gift's magazine, kid's resources, & coloring books, etc. on the display cabinet under the monitor in the entry. Thank you for participating. Let's give a gift that makes a big difference around the world!

