

DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup>, 2024

*Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Eve*



**Our Savior's Lutheran Church**

Virginia, MN

Pastor Liz Cheney



PRELUDE

WELCOME

Kristen Weikum, Organist, Ginny Ahrlin, Pianist

**CANDLE LIGHTING**

**CHRISTMAS 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.**

**HYMN OF LIGHT**

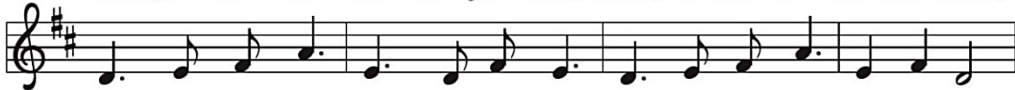
*Now the Heavens Start to Whisper*

ACS #901

*\*Verse 1 will be sung by the choir, please join in verses 2 & 3*



1 Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veil is grow - ing thin.  
2 Heav - y clouds that block the moon - light now be - gin to drift a - way.  
3 Christ, e - ter - nal Sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of wis - dom's seed,



Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten to the stir - ring, faint with - in:  
Dia - mond bril - liance through the dark - ness shines the hope of com - ing day.  
come to bless with fire and fra - grance hours of yearn - ing, hurt, and need.



seed of prom - ise, deep - ly plant - ed, child to spring from Jes - se's stem!  
Christ, the morn - ing star of splen - dor, gleams with - in a world grown dim.  
In the lone - ly, in the strang - er, in the out - cast, hid from view;



Like the soil be - neath the frost - line, hearts grow soft to wel - come him.  
Heav - en's em - ber fans to full - ness; hearts grow warm to wel - come him.  
Child who comes to grace the man - ger, teach our hearts to wel - come 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.

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!*

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*

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*

**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.**



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.

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

### HYMN

#### *Away in a Manger*

ELW 277

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.

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.



### FOURTH 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.

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

## CHILDREN'S TIME

## SERMON

Pastor Liz Cheney

## HYMN

### *Joy to the World*

ELW #267

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry 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,

## 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. 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.**

## 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**

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 \*See Red Hymnals**

*Silent Night, Holy Night!*

**ELW 281**

*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.**

**SENDING HYMN**

***Go, Tell It on the Mountain***

**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*

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

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

**DISMISSAL**

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

**POSTLUDE**

**Kristen Weikum, Organist, Ginny Ahrlin, Pianist**



## Merry Christmas!

### 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, they are available, please let the Pastor & server know.

### WE HOLD IN OUR PRAYERS

Please pray for people in need of comfort, hope, healing, or safe transition: John W., Tanner 17yr old needs a heart transplant, Ross-(needs transplant of kidneys & pancreas), Joy T., Deb, Cliff, Margaret, Shannon P., Amanda, Jan, Nicole, Deb, Luddy, Bruce & family, Andrew T., Sharon P., Sue, Tyler, Gerilyn, Andrew, Alexandria, Courtney, Jill & husband, Amelia, Archer, Kim, Gordy, Sarah, Nancy, Jarie, Thomas, Kathy M., Phyllis, Roya, Laurie, Amy, Colton, Wally, Deb, Adeline, Tedd, Ed & Karen, Ralph, Chuck, Sue, Mike, Matt. Call Ginny Ahrlin @ 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.**

#### **CONTACT US**

OSLC, 1111 8<sup>th</sup> St. South, Virginia, MN Church Office: 218-741-6207

Email: [office@oslcmn.com](mailto:office@oslcmn.com)

Online: [www.oslcmn.com](http://www.oslcmn.com)

[www.facebook.com/oslcmn](http://www.facebook.com/oslcmn)

YouTube Page "Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Virginia MN Office"

#### **OFFICE HOURS**

Office Admin hours are 9am - 5pm, Tuesday - Friday.

There will be times we're away from the office doing errands, for this reason, please call ahead if you plan on coming to the church or need assistance!

#### **PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS**

Pastor Liz will be here Tues. - Thurs. & off Fridays.

Call @ 218-780-8907

or email at [lizcheney44@gmail.com](mailto:lizcheney44@gmail.com)

#### **STAFF**

**Pastor:** Rev. Liz Cheney

**Secretary:** Colleen Brown Jacobson

**Bookkeeper:** Carole Rutka

**Custodian:** Steve Gagnon

**Musicians:** Kristen Weikum, Mark Ongalo, and Ginny Ahrlin



ANNOUNCEMENTS  
*Christmas Eve*  
December 24, 2024



ELCA's "Good Gifts" **catalogs**, Christmas **Cards** and Christmas **ornaments** make it easy to donate with a big impact! Take a catalog, card and ornament home, look over what item/items you would like to donate to and follow the directions to send it in – Keep the card or ornament coinciding with what you are sending your donation for. It's a good way to honor someone, or decorate your tree with, letting others know about "Good Gifts" and how to give to people around the world during the Christmas Season.

**ANNUAL MEETING** Our Annual Congregational Meeting will take place **Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup>**. If you are a member, please commit yourself to coming. It will take place after the Worship Service.

**ANNUAL REPORTS** If you are a leader in a ministry or committee, you will need to turn in your Annual Report **BY DEC. 31<sup>ST</sup>** so the office finish the Annual Report.

**NEW CONSTITUTION** There are copies of the new Constitution in the office if you would like to look it over before the Annual Meeting.

**LIFT CONFIRMATION** Lift will resume **Jan. 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, & 29<sup>th</sup> 6-8pm**, at Messiah Lutheran.

**KITCHEN WORK DAY** We could use a few volunteers, and those good at organizing, **Jan. 17-18<sup>th</sup>**

**ALL CHURCH EVENT "PIZZA & BINGO"** will be held **January 22<sup>nd</sup> 5-7pm**, join us for food, fun & prizes!

**TASK FORCE TEAM** We are building a team to look into the **sanctuary windows** and take the next steps for a springtime project. Quotes will be requested from three different local contractors. Please see Pastor Liz or Mark Ongalo if you are interested in serving on this Task Force team.

**LIVESTREAM & RADIO SPONSORSHIP** 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. This supports our tech & sound equipment. **Sign up on the sheet provided on the bulletin board by the fountain.**

## **EVENTS & MEETINGS THIS WEEK**

12/24 4:00PM OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE

12/29 SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30AM

12/31 ANNUAL MINISTRY/COMMITTEE REPORTS DUE

### ***\*OFFICE HOURS FOR CHRISTMAS WEEK:***

***Mon. 9am -5pm, and Tue, Christmas Eve 9am – noon. Christmas Day, Thurs., & Friday the office will be closed for the Holiday.***



Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

