

Nativity of our Lord: Christmas Eve

Evangelical Lutheran Worship – Setting 4

December 24, 2017 – 5:00



CHRIST THE SERVANT LUTHERAN CHURCH

2121 East University Drive, Denton, Texas 76209

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

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 Trinity, ☩ one God, the Maker of heaven and earth,
the Word made flesh, the Lord and giver of life.

Amen.

Let us come into the light of Christ, confessing our need for God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of peace,

**we confess that we are not at peace—
with others or with ourselves.**

**We bring to you all that tears us apart:
discord in our families,
violence in our world,
our own conflicted hearts.**

In your mercy, mend us.

Reconnect us to one another and to you.

**Let peace reign over all the earth,
through the Prince of peace,
our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

In the Word who has come to dwell with us,
God has given us grace upon grace:
forgiveness that is stronger than our sins,
love that can heal every broken heart.
Hear this word of God's pardon and peace:
in the name of ☩ Jesus our Savior,
you are free from all your sins.
Rise, shine, for your light has come.

Amen.

Stand

ENTRANCE HYMN: Angels We Have Heard on High

ELW 289

The Entrance Hymn is sung.



- 1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
- 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
- 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

Refrain



Glo - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo -



- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864

Music: GLORIA, French carol

GREETING

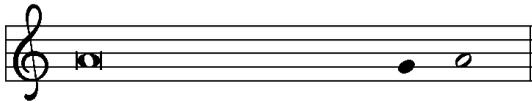
The minister greets the congregation.

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.

KYRIE

A Kyrie may be sung in dialogue between an assisting minister and the assembly.



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day.

Let us pray...

After the prayer the assembly responds:

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2–7

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.

The reading may be concluded:

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 96

The appointed Psalm is sung.

- ¹Sing to the LORD ¹a new song;
sing to the LORD, ¹all the earth.
- ²Sing to the LORD, bless the name ¹of the LORD;
proclaim God's salvation from ¹day to day.
- ³Declare God's glory a- ¹mong the nations
and God's wonders a- ¹mong all peoples.
- ⁴For great is the LORD and greatly ¹to be praised,
more to be feared ¹than all gods.
- ⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they ¹are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have ¹made the heavens.
- ⁶Majesty and magnificence are ¹in your presence;
power and splendor are in your ¹sanctuary.
- ⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families ¹of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD hon- ¹or and power.
- ⁸Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the ¹holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts ¹of the LORD.
- ⁹Worship the LORD in the beau- ¹ty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, ¹all the earth.
- ¹⁰Tell it out among the nations: "The ¹LORD is king!
**The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved
will judge the peo- ¹ples with equity."**
- ¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the ¹earth be glad;
**let the sea thunder and all that is in it;
let the field be joyful and all that ¹is therein.**
- ¹²Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy
at your com- ¹ing, O LORD,
for you come to ¹judge the earth.
- ¹³You will judge the ¹world with righteousness
and the peoples ¹with your truth.

SECOND READING: Titus 2:11–14

The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity. Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior's final appearance.

¹¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He 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.

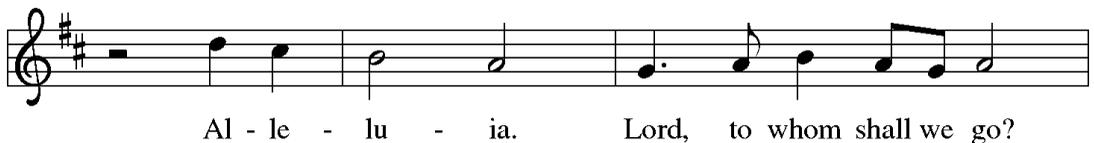
The reading may be concluded:

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel. The Alleluia is sung before and after the cantor sings the proper verse for the day



GOSPEL: Luke 2:1–14

The gospel is announced.

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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!”

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.

The gospel concludes:

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

The assembly is seated. Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

ELW 270

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new - born king;
2 Christ, by high - est heav’n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail the heav’n-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!



peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled.”
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin’s womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris’n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, “Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!”
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Refrain



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new-born king!”

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831–1915

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

An assisting minister leads the assembly in prayer.

This night the eternal Word of God is born in us. We pray for Christ's light of life to take flesh in the church, the creation, and all people of God.

A brief silence.

After each petition, the assembly responds:

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

The presiding minister concludes the prayer.

Pondering the mystery of your love, we offer our prayers in the name of Christ, the Word made flesh.

Amen.

PEACE

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

The assembly is seated.

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

During this time, the table is set. Assembly song or other music may accompany or follow the gathering of the offering.

After the offering is gathered, the assembly stands. Bread, wine, money, and other gifts may be brought forward.

☩ Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
 bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
 fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -
 nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your
 pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

After the table is set, the assisting minister may lead one of the following or a similar prayer.

Let us pray.

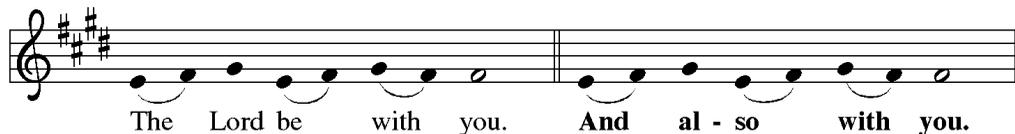
Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus,
 who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace.

As you have blessed us with your gifts,
 let them be blessing for others.

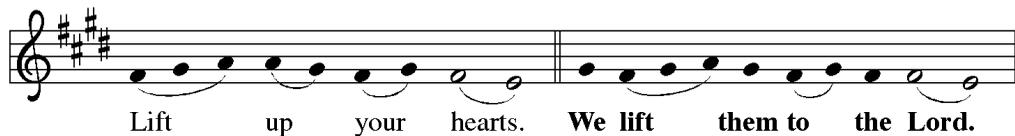
With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven,
 we shout for joy at the coming of your Son,
 Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

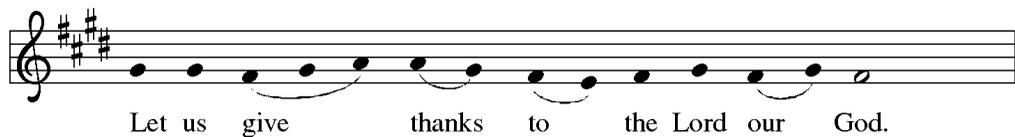
DIALOGUE



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

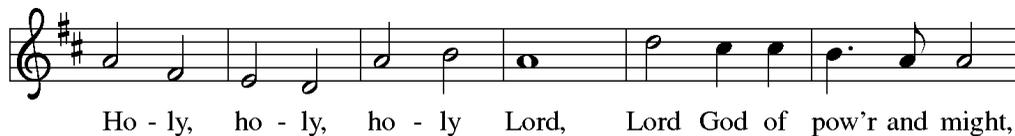


Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

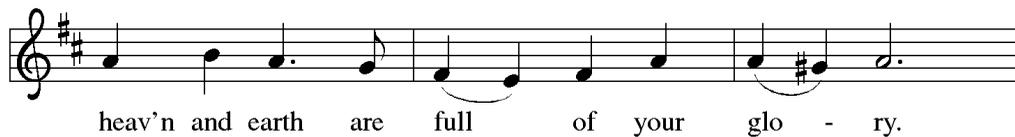


It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



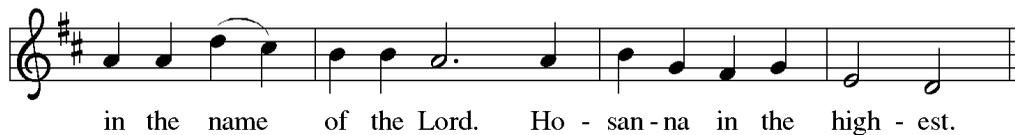
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

The presiding minister continues, using one of the following or another appropriate form.

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup
we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.
Come among us.
Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours,
Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High,
one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

The mystery hidden for the ages is revealed for us in this meal.
Come, behold and receive your God.

COMMUNION

Sit

The presiding minister and the assisting ministers receive the bread and wine and then give them to those who come to receive. Those unable to come forward will be served in the pew. As the ministers give the bread and wine, they say these words to each communicant:

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

The communicant may say:

Amen.

Hymns and other music may be used during the ministration of Communion.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ELW 279

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!

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!

Away in a Manger

ELW 277

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.

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.

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.

Stand

After all have returned to their places, the minister may say these or similar words.

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

CANTICLE

The Post-Communion Canticle or an appropriate hymn is sung as the table is cleared.



Lord, now you let your ser-vant go in peace; your word has been ful -



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-



pared in the sight of ev-'ry peo-ple: A light to re-veal you to the



na - tions and the glo-ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.



Glo-ry to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Spir - it,



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now,



and will be for - ev - er. A - men

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The assisting minister leads one of the following or a similar prayer after communion.

Let us pray.

Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

The minister blesses the congregation.

May the Word that Mary brought to birth carry you into new and abundant life.

Amen.

May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms enfold you with love and strength.

Amen.

May the Word that angels proclaimed in song bring harmony to our world.

Amen.

And the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

CANDLELIGHTING

Candles will be lit for the singing of the final hymn. Hold lit candles upright and tilt the candle you are lighting. Parents are asked to assist and supervise children. Candles will be lifted high for last verse.

SENDING HYMN: *Silent Night*

ELW 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.

DISMISSAL

The assisting minister may send the assembly into mission.

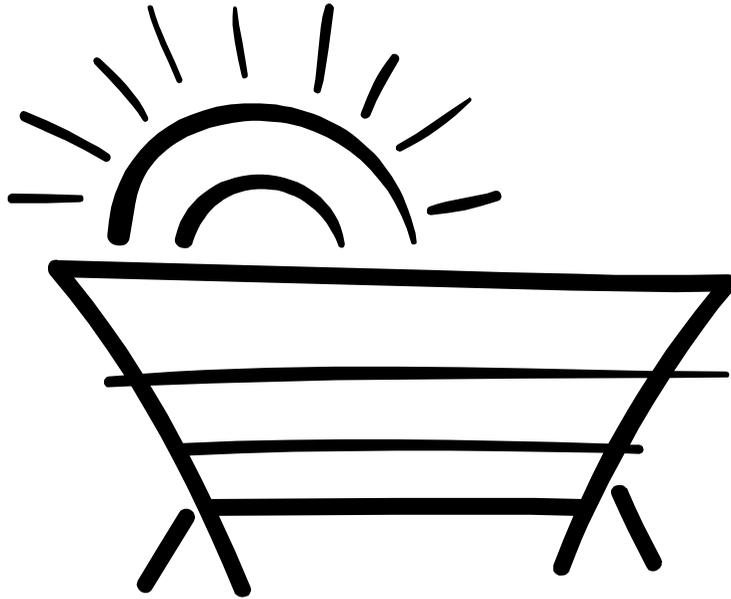
Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

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CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

In observance of Christmas, the church office will be closed December 25, 26 & 27.

On December 31 there will be a single Sunday Service at 11:00 am Christian Education Hour will not meet.

WELCOME

Our Lord came in the flesh among a world filled with scandal and despair. His birth was a humble event on the floor of a stable. It was there that our Lord first welcomed all who sought him; from rough and tumble shepherds to the most educated of kings. We, at Christ the Servant, recognize that even the baby Jesus offers us an example to follow. No matter what your background, past, or status in society we welcome you.

So if you are:

Young or Old

Short or Tall

Fair or Dark Skinned

Married or Single

Homosexual or Heterosexual

Republican or Democrat

Illiterate or over-educated

More Lutheran than Luther or new to the faith

Catholic, Baptist, Pentecostal, Methodist or something else

Seeking a deeper relationship with God or burned-out

Feeling guilty or feeling blessed

Looking for new friends or meeting old friends

Or you are

Just here because Grandma is in town

and she wanted to go to church

We welcome you.

It's what Jesus would have done.



**Christ The Servant
Lutheran Church**