

A red Christmas ornament is the central focus, hanging from a pine branch. The ornament features a white silhouette of the Nativity scene, showing Mary kneeling, Joseph standing, and the infant Jesus in a manger. The text is printed in white on the ornament. The background is dark with some blurred lights, suggesting a Christmas tree setting.

Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom
his favor rests.

Luke 2:14

Lord of Love Lutheran Church

The Nativity of Our Lord

December 24, 2023

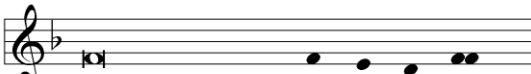
CHRISTMAS EVE VESPERS

PRESERVICE BELLS

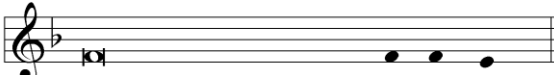
Joy to the World

EVENING RESPONSES

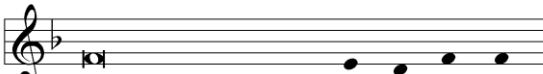
STAND



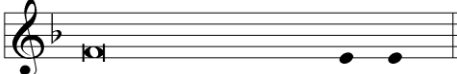
M: Jesus Christ is the light of the world,



C: the light no darkness can o - ver - come.



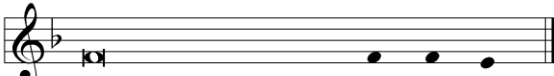
M: Stay with us, Lord, for it is eve - ning,



C: and the day is almost o - ver.

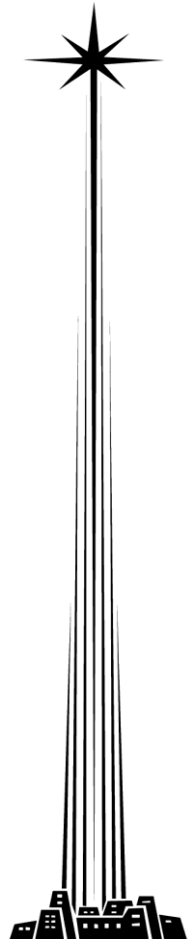


M: Be our light and scat - ter the dark - ness,



C: and hear our evening hymn of praise.

The congregation remains standing to sing the hymn





1 Oh, come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant, Oh,
 2 God from true God, and Light from Light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion;
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, oh, come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 Born of a vir - gin, to earth he comes,
 Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove.
 Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry giv'n,



Come and be - hold him, Born the King of an - gels.
 On - ly be - got - ten Son of God the Fa - ther.
 Glo - ry to God, all Glo - ry in the high - est.
 Word of the Fa - ther, Now in flesh ap - pear - ing.

Refrain

Oh, come, let us a - dore him, Oh, come, let us a - dore him,



Oh, come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

Text: John F. Wade, c. 1711–86; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–80, alt.

Tune: ADESTE FIDELES (Irregular) John F. Wade, c. 1711–86, alt.

RESPONSIVE SENTENCES FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

(Isaiah 40:1-2, 9-10)

M: Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

C: **Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed,**

M: That her sin has been paid for,

C: **That she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.**

M: You who bring good tidings to Zion, go up on a high mountain.

C: **You who bring good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid;**

M: Say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!"

C: **See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and his arm rules for him.**

M: See, his reward is with him,

C: **And his recompense accompanies him.**

PRAYER

M: Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true light. Grant that as we have known on earth the wonder of that light, we may also behold him in all his glory in the life to come; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

BE SEATED

SOLO

O Holy Night

THE WORD OF GOD FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 7:10-14

¹⁰ The LORD spoke to Ahaz again. He said, ¹¹ “Ask for a sign from the LORD your God. Ask for it either in the depths below or in the heights above.” ¹² But Ahaz responded, “I will not ask. I will not test the LORD.”

¹³ So Isaiah said: Listen now, you house of David. Is it not enough for you to test the patience of men? Will you test the patience of my God as well? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give a sign for all of you.^[a] Look! The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and name him Immanuel.

ANTHEM

In Old Judea

SECOND LESSON

Titus 3:4-7

⁴ But when the kindness and love of God our Savior toward mankind appeared, ⁵ he saved us—not by righteous works that we did ourselves, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and the renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that, having been justified^[a] by his grace, we might become heirs in keeping with the hope of eternal life.

CHOIR ANTHEM

Carols of Gathering



GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 2:1-20

2 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governing Syria. 3 And everyone went to register, each to his own town. 4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the town of Nazareth, into Judea, to the town of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was from the house and family line of David. 5 He went to be registered with Mary, his wife, who was pledged to him in marriage and was expecting a child.

6 And so it was that while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son, wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. [The Christ Candle is lighted.]

8 There were in the same country shepherds staying out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified! 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. For behold, I bring you good news of great joy, which will be for all people: 11 Today in the town of David, a Savior was born for you. He is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be a sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." 13 Suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude from the heavenly army, praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward mankind."

15 When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Now let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." 16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. 17 When they had seen him, they told others the message they had been told about this child. 18 And all who heard it were amazed by what the shepherds said to them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. 20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

BE SEATED

HYMN (CW 65)

O Little Town of Bethlehem



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And,
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The
 4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De -



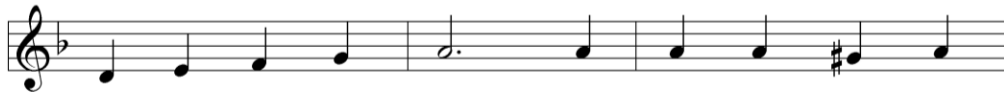
still we see thee lie! A - bove thy deep And
 gath - ered all a - bove, While mor - tals sleep, The
 won - drous gift is giv'n! So God im - parts To
 scend to us, we pray; Cast out our sin And



dream - less sleep The si - lent stars go by.
 an - gels keep Their watch of won - d'ring love.
 hu - man hearts The bless - ings of his heav'n.
 en - ter in; Be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro -
 No ear may hear his com - ing, But
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The



ev - er - last - ing light. The hopes and fears Of
 claim the ho - ly birth, And prais - es sing To
 in this world of sin Where meek souls will Re -
 great glad ti - dings tell; Oh, come to us, A -



all the years Are met in thee to - night.
 God the King And peace to all the earth.
 ceive him still, The dear Christ en - ters in.
 bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

A Savior...for You**GATHERING OF THE THANK-OFFERING**

*During the collection of the offering, the male quintet will sing
“Angels We Have Heard on High”*

RESPONSIVE PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

M: Oh gracious and almighty Father, we praise you that you kept your ancient promises by sending your everlasting Son in human flesh.

C: **On this holy night, receive our thanks and devotion, our songs and prayers.**

M: You sent Jesus as a lowly child to demonstrate your concern for all, the weak and lonely, the troubled and frightened, the timid and helpless. No one is overlooked by your ever-seeking eyes. No one is excluded from your upholding arms. No one is denied the comfort and help of your outstretched hand.

C: **Bless us with a childlike faith in the divine assurance that you love and care for us always.**

M: You sent Jesus as the Savior of the world to deliver all from the curse of sin, the power of death, and the torment of hell. He took our place. He was born under the law to set us free. He became the innocent lamb of sacrifice. He came to die and rise again in order that we might live eternally. Firmly implant this good news in our hearts, and fill us with an eager desire to spread the Word concerning what we have heard tonight.

C: **May all who hear the message, in every nation under heaven, be amazed and believe what is told them about the child.**

M: You sent Jesus as the Light of the world to drive out all darkness that would rob us of the full life that you intend for us. May the “joy that will be for all people” be our joy. May the “peace on earth to all on whom his favor rests” be our peace. May the treasure that Mary pondered in her heart be our treasure.

C: For today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to us. He is Christ, the Lord. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES/PEACE, PEACE/SILENT NIGHT

At this time, please turn on the candle you received when you entered the sanctuary this evening. You may turn it off after the singing of Silent Night.

The choir begins this anthem with the singing of "Peace, Peace."

At the director's cue, the congregation will join in singing stanza 1 of Silent Night.

**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.**



CLOSING SENTENCES AND PRAYER

M: The world may hold, her wealth and gold;

C: **But you, my heart, keep Christ as your true treasure.**

M: To him hold fast, until at last,

C: **A crown is yours and honor in full measure.**

M: **O Jesus Christ, your manger is,**

My paradise where my soul is reclining.

For there, O Lord, we find the Word,

Made flesh for us – your grace is brightly shining. Amen.

(CW 40:1 &6)

BLESSING

M: “The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.” (Romans 16:20)

C: **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN (CW 61)

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the
 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er -
 3 Hail, the heav'n - ly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of



new - born King; Peace on earth and mer - cy mild,
 last - ing Lord, Late in time be - hold him come,
 Right - eous - ness! Light and life to all he brings,



God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!" Joy - ful, all you
 Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb. Veiled in flesh the
 Ris'n with heal - ing in his wings. Mild he lays his



na - tions rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
 God-head see, Hail th' in - car - nate De - i - ty!
 glo - ry by, Born that we no more may die,



With th' an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is
 Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus,
 Born to raise us from the earth, Born to

Refrain

born in Beth - le - hem!"
 our Im - man - u - el! Hark! The her - ald
 give us sec - ond birth.



an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

Serving this Evening:

Pastor Joel Jenswold

Pianist: Kristin Huebner

Choir Director: Elaine Wilson

Quintet Director and Youth Bell Director: Ruth Kovaciny

Brass Instruments: Andy Huebner, Cayden Myhre and Weston Myhre

Ocarina: Cayden Myhre

Youth Bells: Kyle Kopplin, Lucas LaGrange, Cayden Myhre, Hudson Myhre,
Weston Myhre,

Ushers: Bob Degnan, The Heath Family and Roger LaGrange

Altar Guild: Colleen Biwer, Kristin Huebner and Sophia Strong

A/V: Julie Doyle

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You are invited to join us for worship:

Christmas Day

One service

9:00 am

