

The Nativity of Our Lord

December 24, 2024 - 7:00 p.m.



She gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Luke 2:7



CHRISTMAS EVE

“A Festival Service of Lessons & Carols with Candlelight”

December 24, 2024 - 7:00 p.m.

As We Gather

How would you explain the message of Christmas to someone who has never heard it? There are many places to start, but at its core Christmas is the discovery that God’s love is so deep that He sent His only Son to restore our broken relationship with Him. Jesus was born in our flesh to live the life we should have lived and die the death we should have died. Tonight, we recall how Christmas and the entire Gospel of our salvation is beautiful news to hear and to believe over and over again, whether we are hearing it for the first time or one hundred and first time. For to us a Son is born, to us a child is given ... Jesus, our Immanuel (God with us).

Pre-Service Music

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” *piano duet-Rhonda Hansen & Jennifer Daake*

“What Child is This”

Calvary Handbells

Red Connection Pads

Welcome! Please add your name to the connection pad at your seating location or record your attendance online at clcs.org/attendance or the QR code on the right.



A Note on Offerings *As an act of worship and thanksgiving, we offer to God what He has first given to us: the first and best of our time, talents, and financial gifts. Donation boxes are located by each entry door or if you would like to contribute online, with either a onetime or ongoing gift, please use clcs.org/give or the QR code to the left.*

Welcome & Opening Sentences (Please stand)

P: On this night,

C: we sing with the angels, rejoice with the shepherds, marvel with Mary, and praise God with the whole Christian Church.

P: Christ is born in Bethlehem!

C: O come, let us adore Him.

Entrance Hymn

“O Come All Ye Faithful”

LSB 379



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
 2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of 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, O come— ye to Beth - le - hem;
 Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;
 Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
 Je - sus, to Thee— be— glo - ry giv'n!



Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:
 Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Glo - ry to God— In— the— high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

Refrain



O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,



O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

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Call to Worship & Prayer

L: O Lord, when all was still in the middle of the night,

C: **Your almighty Word descended from Your royal throne.**

L: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (*John 1:1*)

C: **And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.** (*John 1:14*)

L: In him was life,

C: **and the life was the light of men.** (*John 1:4*)

L: We gather this night in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

L: Let us pray. O God, You once caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light that is Christ. By Your Spirit you have made known the mystery of that Light here on earth. Bring us into the full measure of its joy, now and forever; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

† Lessons & Carols †

Prayer for the Word

L: In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

C: But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son. (*Hebrews 1:1-2*)

First Lesson (*Please be seated*) *The Promise of a Child Born for Us* *Isaiah 9:2, 6-7*

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. ... ⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming” (*Brad Nix*)

Calvary Chorale

Second Lesson

The Promise to Mary

Luke 1:26-32a

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High...”

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Carol

“Infant Holy Infant Lowly”

LSB 393



1 In - fant ho - ly, In - fant low - ly, For His bed a cat - tle stall;
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, Shep - herds keep - ing Vig - il till the morn - ing new



Ox - en low - ing, Lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
Saw the glo - ry, Heard the sto - ry, Tid - ings of a Gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, An - gels sing - ing, Bells are ring - ing, Tid - ings bring - ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, Free from sor - row, Prais - es voic - ing, Greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

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Third Lesson

The Promise to Joseph

Matthew 1:18-23

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³ "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).

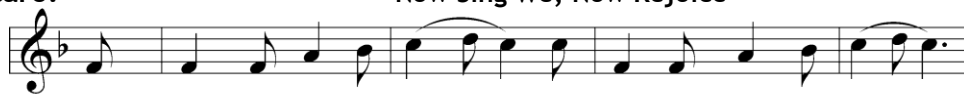
L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Carol

"Now Sing We, Now Rejoice"

LSB 386



1 Now sing we, now re - joi - ce, Now raise to heav'n our voice;
4 Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'n - ly ground?



He from whom joy stream - eth Poor in a man - ger lies;
Where the an - gels sing - ing With all His saints u - nite,



Not so bright - ly beam - eth The sun in yon - der skies.
Sweet - est prais - es bring - ing In heav'n - ly joy and light.



Thou my Sav - ior art! Thou my Sav - ior art!
Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!



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Fourth Lesson***The Promised King****Micah 5:2-3*

² But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. ³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Carol**“It Came upon the Midnight Clear”***LSB 366*

1 It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, goodwill to all,
From heav’n’s all-gracious king.”
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

4 For lo, the days have come to pass
By prophets seen of old,
When down into the circling years
Came Christ as was foretold.
His word of peace shall to the earth
God’s ancient promise bring,
And all who take this gift will hear
The song the angels sing.

*Public domain***Fifth Lesson*****The Promised City****Luke 2:1-7*

¹ In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Carol Medley**“O Little Town of Bethlehem”***LSB 361*

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.

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.

“Away in a Manger”*LSB 364*

1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

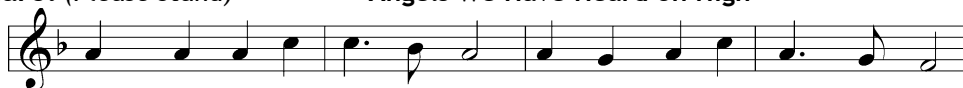
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Sixth Lesson***The Promise of the Angels*****Luke 2:8-14**

⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who 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 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Carol (Please stand)**"Angels We Have Heard on High"****LSB 368**

1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
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.
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.

Seventh Lesson***The Promise Proclaimed by the Shepherds*****Luke 2:15-20**

¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷ And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸ And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told 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 they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Carol (*Please be seated*)

“Sussex Carol”

Calvary Chorale

Christmas Message

“The Voice of an Angel and a Sign of Great Joy”

Luke 2:1-20

Special Music

“Christmas Joy Medley”

Calvary Handbells

Announcements

Our Humble Confession & God’s Resounding Forgiveness (*Please stand*)

- P: Into a world darkened by sin God gave His gift of light and life. Jesus came as one of us because we could not find light and life on our own. Let us, therefore, humble ourselves, confessing the darkness in our lives and asking for His generous compassion.
- C: **Almighty God, we are people who have walked in darkness.
We have too often failed to look to the light of Christ.
We have too often stood in judgment of others, leaving no room for peace in our hearts.
We have too often failed to love others as we should, leaving us feeling cold.**
- P: This is the good news of this night, “To us a child is born; to us a Son is given” (*Isaiah 9:6a*) and the angel said: “You shall call Him Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins” (*Matthew 1:21*). Because of Jesus, His birth, His death, and His resurrection, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C: **Amen! Thanks be to God!**

Candle Lighting

Is. 60:1, John 8:12b; 1 Ptr 2:9b; 2 Cor. 4:6; Matt. 5:14a, 16b

- P: Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. Jesus said: “I am the light of the world; whoever follows Me will have the light of life.”
- C: **We declare the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.**
- P: We praise Him, who declared, “You are the light of the world. Let your light shine before all, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”
- C: **For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light, for the fruit of light consists in all goodness, righteousness, and truth.**



The Gospel of the Incarnation

John 1:9, 11-12, 14

P: The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him. But to all who did receive Him, He gave the right to become children of God. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

The pastor will give light from the Christ Candle to the ushers. The ushers will give the light to the worshiper nearest the aisle, who will give the light to the others in that row.

Please tilt only unlit candles to prevent the spilling of wax.

Carol

“Silent Night”

LSB 363

(The congregation is encouraged to sing in 4-part harmony)

1. Si - lent night Ho - ly night All is calm all is bright
2. Si - lent night Ho - ly night Shep - hers quake at the sight
3. Si - lent night Ho - ly night Son of God, love's pure light

5
Round yon vir - gin moth - er and child Ho - ly In fant so ten - der and mild
Glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far Heav'n - ly hosts sing Al - le - lu - ia
Rad - iant beams from your ho - ly face With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace

9
Sleep in heav - en - ly peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace
Christ the Sav - ior is born Christ the Sav - ior is born!
Je - sus Lord at your birth Je - sus Lord at your birth.

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Prayers & Lord's Prayer

P: O Wisdom, proceeding from the Most High, pervading and permeating all creation, mightily ordering all things:

C: Come and teach us the way of wisdom.

P: O Lord, ruler of the house of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the burning bush and gave him the Law on Sinai:

C: Come with an outstretched arm and redeem us.

P: O Root of Jesse, standing as a sign before the peoples, before whom all kings are mute, and to whom the nations will bow:

C: Come quickly to deliver us.

P: O Key of David and scepter of the house of Israel, You open and no one can close, You close and no one can open:

C: Come and rescue the prisoners in the shadow of death.

P: O Dayspring, splendor of light everlasting:

C: Come and enlighten those who sit in darkness.

P: O King of the nations, the ruler we long for, the cornerstone uniting all people:

C: Come and save us all, whom You have made.

P: O Emmanuel, our God with us, the Savior of the nations:

C: Come and save us, Lord. Amen.

P: Lord, in a world still affected by the darkness of sin, teach us to pray:

C: 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.

Note: Please extinguish your candles. Continue to hold them upright until wax has hardened. Return them to an usher as you exit after the service. Thank you.

Blessing

P: May the light of Christ dispel all darkness from your life, and may the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn

“Joy to the World”

LSB 387

1 Joy to the World, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.

3 No more let sins and sorrows 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.

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† Serving Our Lord and His People †

Preacher: Pastor Kurt Ebert **Organist:** Rhonda Hansen

Special Music: Calvary Chorale & Calvary Handbells, Jacqueline Wiernicki, Jennifer Daake

Press Creator: Steve Bardonner **Projectionist:** Phil Hendershott

Christmas Day Worship

December 25 at 10:00 a.m. with Communion (*Onsite only*)

Foundations of Faith

Want to find out more about Calvary, our Christian faith, & our ministries?

Join us **starting Jan 19 at 9:25 a.m.** for a six-week Bible study opportunity for connection, fellowship, and spiritual growth.

Contact Kara Hiatt (connections@clcs.org).

***Participants will have the opportunity to become a part of the Calvary family.*

Weekly Worship & Bible Study

Traditional Worship - Saturdays 5:30 p.m. & Sundays 8:00 a.m.

Contemporary Worship - Sundays 10:45 a.m.

Children's Sunday School & Adult Bible Studies 9:25-10:25 a.m.

The staff of Calvary Lutheran Church and School wish you a blessed Christmas!

"For God so loved the world, He sent His only begotten Son." (John 3:16)



Christmas Poinsettias

given to the Glory of God by...

Bob & Diana Langhammer

Larry & Sara Jupin

Elise Wolf

Joe & Lisa Pluckebaum

Art & Joy Wehrmeister in memory of Harold Laut & Judy Kirkland

Charlie & Betty Bardonner

Duane & Sherri Lytle in memory of Mabel Schwark and in honor of Our Children & Grandchildren

Gerald Kiesling in memory of my parents, Walter & Ruth Kiesling

Denise Fix

Carol Phillips

Larry & Erin Woempner in memory of George & Catherine Woempner

Steve & Gloria Vandivier

Jake & Kyle Allen

Hendershott & Fisk Families in loving memory of Sam & Lorraine Hendershott

Jim & Kristen Schwark in memory of August & Mabel Schwark and John Dietel

Bill, Chrissi, Fritz, & Anton Laut in memory of Our Fathers & Grandfathers

Jeanne Gilbert in memory of Pat Gilbert, Brice & Margaret Prince

Janet Laut, in memory of Harold Laut

Nellie Delk in memory of Curt and Tony Delk

Judy Morrison in honor of Gertrude Heiden

Steve & Pattie Bardonner in honor of Our Savior's Birth

**Thank you for helping to beautify our church
in celebration of the birth of Jesus, our Savior!**

Those who purchased poinsettias may pick them up and take them home after the 10:00 a.m. service on Christmas Day.

