



7:00 p.m. ~ Christmas Eve

PRELUDE

“Little Drummer Boy/Pat-a-Pan”

Organ

arr. Diane Bish

WELCOME & RELATIONSHIPS of PEACE

OPENING HYMN “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

OPENING LITURGY

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

C: Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

P: For to us a child is born,

C: To us a son is given;

P: And the government shall be upon His shoulder,

C: And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

P: Of the increase of His government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over His kingdom,

C: 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.

P: Joined in worship on this sacred night, let us make confession to our heavenly Father, confident of His forgiveness for Jesus' sake.

[Moment of silent confession]

P: We confess together:

C: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, we gather on this night to celebrate the birth of the One who brings us peace. Yet, we are not at peace with You, with one another, or with ourselves. Our sinfulness can cause us to be filled with fear. For the sake of Jesus, the Child who was born and the Son who was given to redeem us from all lawlessness, purify us as Your people and make us zealous for good works.

P: The angel said to the shepherds, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people.” So, as God’s servant, I say to you, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy.” As a called and ordained servant in Christ’s church and with His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us join our voices with the multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

C: **“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!”**

RESPONSE “Angels We Have Heard on High”

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

ANTHEM

“Twas in the Moon of Wintertime”

arr. Susan E. Gescheke

Dona Nobis Pacem Handbells

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Psalm 110:1-4 [ESV]

The Lord says to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.” The Lord sends forth from Zion your mighty scepter. Rule in the midst of your enemies! Your people will offer themselves freely on the day of your power, in holy garments; from the womb of the morning, the dew of your youth will be yours. The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind, “You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.”

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

ALLELUIA VERSE

P: Alleluia! Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,

C: **And they shall call his name Emmanuel. Alleluia!**

HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 1:18-25 [ESV]

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew:

C: Glory to You, O Lord!

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. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. 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.

She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

R: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ!

STATEMENT of FAITH *the Apostles' Creed*

SERMON HYMN “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

SERMON “BEHOLD THE TRUE SAVIOR”

OFFERING CONNECT

OFFERTORY

“What Shall We Sing for the Child”

Voices of Peace

arr. Lloyd Larson

PRAYERS of the CHURCH

THE LORD’S PRAYER

THE PREFACE

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, our Savior, Christ the Lord, for You shone Your light into our dark world to bring salvation for all people, giving Yourself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and sin and to make us a people for Your possession. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

AGNUS DEI

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

CLOSING RESPONSE “Silent Night, Holy Night”

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

arr. Conner Licharz

Organ



PEACE LUTHERAN STAFF:

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