



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
8:00 P.M. - DECEMBER 24, 2019
SIERRA EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

* = *Please stand as you are able*

GATHERING

Prelude "The Birthday of a King"

(W. H. Neidlinger, arr. Dino Karsonakis)

* Gathering Hymn

"Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful" ELW #283; vss. 1-3

1 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!

2 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*

3 Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
in the highest: *Refrain*

*** Opening Dialog (from Isaiah 9)**

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

**C: those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.**

L: For a child has been born for us,

C: a son given to us;

L: authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named:

**C: Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

L: His authority shall grow continually,

**C: and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.**

L: He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness

from this time onwards and for evermore.

C: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

*** Prayer of the Day**

L: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

L: Let us pray... (*brief silence*) 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.

C: Amen.

WORD

Second Reading: Titus 2:11-14

Pew Bible, Pages 969

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.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

*** Gospel Acclamation ELW #289; vs. 1 & Refrain
“Angels We Have Heard on High”**

**1 Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains.**

Refrain

**Gloria in excelsis Deo;
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

*** Christmas Gospel: Luke 2:1-20**

In 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.

* Gospel Acclamation ELW #289; vs. 3 & Refrain
“Angels We Have Heard on High”

3 Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn king. Refrain

Refrain
Gloria in excelsis Deo;
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Children’s Time

Choir Anthem “A Gentle Christmas Blessing” (*Sorenson*)

Sermon Pastor Mark Perry

Moment of Silent Reflection

Christmas Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God,
who brought all creation to birth,
providing, nurturing,
and cherishing all that is made.

We believe in Jesus Christ:
God born among us as a fragile baby,
embodying both love and the need for love,
and calling us to rest in God
with the trust of a tiny child.

**We believe in the reconciliation
of the world to God, through Christ.
Hunted at birth
and humiliated at death,
Christ entered our fearful darkness
so that we might enter his glorious light
and share the life of his resurrection.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
breathed into us at our birth,
always drawing us on to be born again,
encouraging, exhorting, comforting,
nourishing our growth
and inspiring our living.**

**And we believe that the gathering of believers today
offers a glimpse of the face of God
and the hope of the Kingdom to come
in the love and service we offer each other and to our world.
Amen.**

*** Pastoral Prayers**

MEAL

Offering

Offering Music "O Holy Night" (Adolphe Adam)

*** Offertory Prayer**

P: Let us pray...

**All: Generous God,
you have given us life, this community,
and these gifts of the earth
that become the meal of your grace.**

Move in our hearts,
that we might use your gifts
to bring hope and blessing wherever we go,
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

* Holy Communion / Words of Institution

* Lord's Prayer (*traditional version*)

Communion Distribution

(All are welcome to commune by means of intinction at one of two stations. Please follow the usher's directions. A wafer is given to you to dip into either the purple wine or white grape juice. Please ask the server if you need a gluten free wafer. You are also welcome to receive a blessing; please keep your hands folded if that is your desire)

Communion Songs

“Love Has Come”

ELW #292

- 1 Love has come—a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

- 2 Love is born! Come, share in the wonder.
Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of his mother;
what is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers;
Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.

3 Love has come and never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas;
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

ELW #282

- 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, good will to all,
from heav'n's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.
- 2 Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heav'nly music floats
o'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hov'ring wing,
and ever o'er its babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.
- 3 And you, beneath life's crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow:
look now, for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing;
oh, rest beside the weary road
and hear the angels sing!

4 For lo! The days are hast'ning on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the song
which now the angels sing.

“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!

Post-Communion Prayer (*Please remain seated*)

Candle Lighting

The pastor, taking a large candle, lights it from an altar candle, which symbolizes Christ, the Light of the world. The ushers light their candles from the pastor's candle, then light the candle of each worshiper nearest the aisle. The lit candle is never tilted, but is always held upright when lighting your neighbor's candle.

“Silent Night, Holy 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.

Candle Light Blessing “For Unto Us a Child is Born” (Hadden)
Sung by soloist first, then congregation joins in.

For un - to us a child is born Un - to

3 us a son is giv - en. And the gov - ern - ment shall

6 be u - pon His Shoul - der and His name shall be called won - der - ful coun - sell - or. The migh - ty

9 GOD The ev - er - last - ing Fa - ther and the

12 prince of peace is He.

Closing Blessing

(Please extinguish candles as we begin singing)

* Hymn “Joy to the World” ELW #267; vss. 1-3

1 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.

2 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.

3 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.

* Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Share the joy of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God!

Postlude “Voluntary on Sending Hymn” (B. Hayes)