

# Christmas Eve

## Candlelight Worship Service

December 24th 1 PM, 3 PM, 5 PM & 9 PM



## OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

809 S Commercial St. Neenah, WI 54956

[our-saviors.org](http://our-saviors.org)

(920) 725-3956



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America

We are glad you are joining us for worship at  
**OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**You are Welcome here!**

Please fill out the **Pew Pads** for registering your attendance and communion participation. If you would like a pastoral call or want to join OSLC, please check those boxes and include contact information.

During the **Offering**, the ushers will pass the offering plates. In addition to placing gifts in the plates, this QR code can be used if you would like to give electronically through **Tithe.ly**



We have an open table for **Holy Communion** with two options to receive communion:

- 1) Come forward, at the direction of the ushers, to receive communion by **Intinction**. You will receive a wafer (gluten free available) and then dip it either in the wine (red) or grape juice (white).

Children and others not wishing to receive communion may come forward with their hands folded to receive a blessing. Otherwise, come forward with you palms open to receive a wafer.

- 2) Stay in your pew and use the **self-contained communion cups** (wafer on the top and grape juice on the bottom). These are located in the rear of the sanctuary as you walk in.

There are portions of the worship service when the **assembly is invited to stand**. Feel free to sit anytime during worship.

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# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## Prelude

## Welcome

### Carol: "O Come, All Ye Faithful" verses 1-3

ELW #283

*please stand as you are able*



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,



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!



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:

#### *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!

## **Christmas Dialog & Greeting**

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

**C The light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness has not overcome it.**

L Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

**C We have beheld Christ's glory,  
glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

L For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

**C In him was life,  
and the life was the light of all people.**

L May the grace and truth of Christ be with you.

**C And also with you.**

## **Prayer**

L Let us pray.

**C 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 only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

*you may be seated*

## Special Music

- 1 PM      “Hallelujah”      Izzy & Will Ricketts  
Words & Music by Leonard Cohen
- 3 PM      “Ding Dong Merrily on High”      Joyous Ringers  
16th century French carol  
Arranged by Michael A. Burkhardt
- 5 PM      “Lullaby”      Choir  
Words & Music by John Ness Beck
- 9 PM      “The First Nowell”      Annika Strasman, Flute  
17th century British carol  
Arranged by Douglas E. Wagner

## Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. <sup>3</sup>You 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. <sup>4</sup>For 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. <sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup>For 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. <sup>7</sup>His 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.

Carol: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" verses 1 & 3

ELW #270



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king;  
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."  
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

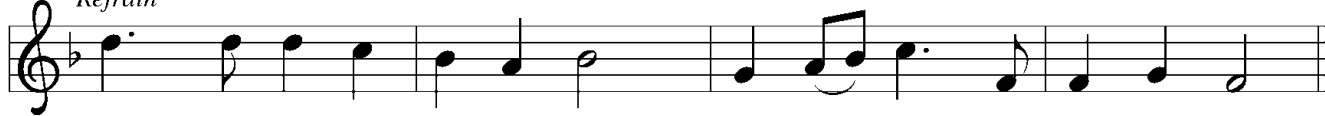


Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
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

## Reading: Titus 2: 11-14

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

## Carol: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" verses 1 & 2

ELW #279



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.  
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,



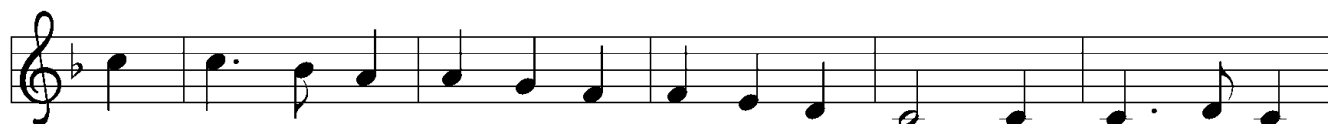
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!

## Reading: Luke 2:1-7

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph 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. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And 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.

### Carol: "Away in a Manger" verses 1 & 2

ELW #277



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord  
2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord



Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked  
Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look



down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.

Text: North American, 19th cent.

Music: AWAY IN A MANGER, James R. Murray, 1841–1905

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



## Reading: Luke 2:8-14

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

### Carol: "Angels We Have Heard on High" verses 1-3

ELW #289



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.

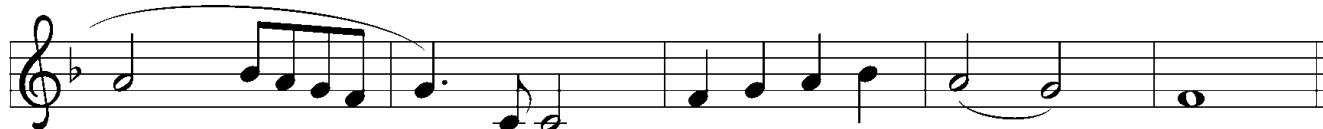
#### Refrain



Glo - ri - a



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



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

# Children's Sermon

## Sermon

Rev. Jon Strasman, Pastor

## Carol: "On Christmas Night" verses 1-4

ELW #274

*please stand as you are able*



1 On Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing to hear the news the  
2 Then why should we on earth be sad, since our re-deem-er  
3 When sin de-parts be-fore his face, then life and health come  
4 All out of dark-ness we have light, which made the an-gels



an-gels bring. On Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing to  
made us glad? Then why should we on earth be sad, since  
in its place. When sin de-parts be-fore his face, then  
sing this night. All out of dark-ness we have light, which



hear the news the an-gels bring: news of great joy, news of great  
our re-deem-er made us glad, when from our sin he set us  
life and health come in its place. An-gels re-joice with us and  
made the an-gels sing this night: "Glo-ry to God in high-est



mirth, news of our mer-ci-ful king's birth.  
free, all for to gain our lib-er-ty?  
sing, all for to see the new-born king.  
heav'n; peace on earth, and good-will. A-men."

## Prayers of the People

L God of grace,

C **Receive our prayer.**

L We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

## The Offering

*you may be seated*

*If you would like to make a gift to the church electronically,  
you can use this QR code. Thank you.*



## Special Music

- 1 PM “Night of Silence” Izzy Ricketts  
Words & Music by Daniel Kantor
- 3 PM “Mary, Did You Know?” Norah Spanbauer  
Words & Music by Mark Lowry & Buddy Greene  
Arranged by Lindsey Stirling
- 5 PM “In the Bleak Midwinter” Amber Okray  
Words by Christina Rossetti & Music by Gustav Holst  
Arranged by Patrick M. Liebergen

## Offering Prayer

*please stand as you are able*

C **God of heaven and earth,  
from the beginning, you have called forth life,  
in which you take delight.  
The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy.  
Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty,  
that we may join the chorus of creation  
to tell of your salvation from day to day.  
Amen.**

## Words of Institution

### The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

### Communion

**P** A child has been born for us, a Son given to us. Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

### Communion Song: "What Child Is This"

ELW #296



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?  
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?  
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?  
Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;

*Song continues on next page*



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898  
 Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

**Communion Song: "It Came upon the Midnight Clear"**

ELW #282



1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,  
 2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,  
 3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,  
 4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
 and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.  
 who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:  
 when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,



"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king."  
 A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,  
 look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;  
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.  
 and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.  
 oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!  
 and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810-1876  
 Music: CAROL, Richard S. Willis, 1819-1900

## Table Blessing

*please stand as you are able*

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ  
strengthen you and keep you always in God's grace.

C Amen

## Prayer after Communion

C Merciful God,  
we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food.  
Strengthened by this goodness,  
send us forth to announce your peace,  
comfort the afflicted,  
and share the good news of great joy.  
Amen.

## The Candlelight Service

*The main lights will be turned off.*

*The minister lights a candle from the Christ candle.  
The ushers light their candles from the minister's candle,  
then light the candle of each worshiper nearest the aisle.*

*The lighted candle is never tilted,  
but is always held upright when giving light to another.*

## Gospel of the Incarnation: John 1:1-14

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

**Carol of Light: “Silent Night, Holy Night”** verses 1-3

ELW #281



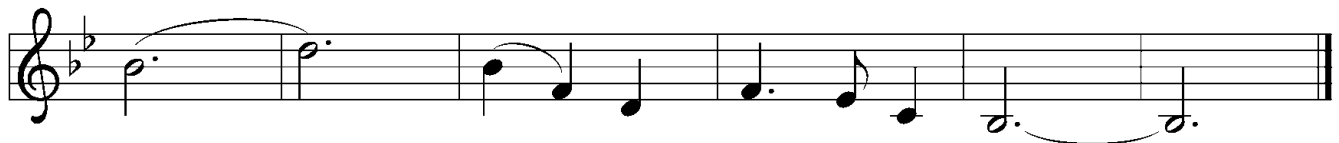
1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,  
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake  
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.  
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,  
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,



Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly  
 heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is  
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your



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

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792–1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885  
 Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1787–1863

*The main lights will be turned on.  
 Candles are extinguished.*

## Blessing

P May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the faithfulness of Joseph, the song of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi and the abounding joy of Jesus. God bless you and keep you, Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever.

C Amen.

## Sending Song: "Joy to the World" verses 1, 2 & 4

ELW #267

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the  
ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -  
room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing  
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his  
sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

## Dismissal

P Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim the good news.

C Thanks be to God.