



Welcome to worship at Spirit of Christ!

If you are worshipping inside, please choose chairs that work for the number of people in your family.

If you are worshipping outside, you're welcome to sit wherever you are comfortable inside or outside of your car. Tune your vehicle radio to 96.5 FM to hear the service.

Christmas Eve Worship

December 24th, 2021

Welcome

Call to Worship and Invocation

- P** Beloved in Christ, with delight we prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels. Our hearts and minds travel to Bethlehem to see Mary and Joseph with Jesus in a manger. We listen to the story of God's saving acts and celebrate the birth of this Holy Child. Let us glorify God for glad tidings of great joy for all people.
We praise you, God the Father.
- C** **You love the world by sending your only-begotten Son to live with us, and to become human flesh and blood.**
- P** We praise you, God the Son.
- C** **You came into this world to give your life for us, that we might have the gift of eternal life.**
- P** We praise you, God the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Your presence among us and your dwelling in us give us the life and light of Christ.**
- P** We worship in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

The advent wreath is lit.

Now We Sing, Now Rejoice

LSB 386

- 1** Now sing we, now rejoice,
Now raise to heav'n our voice;
He from whom joy streameth
Poor in a manger lies;
Not so brightly beameth
The sun in yonder skies.

**Thou my Savior art!
Thou my Savior art!**

- 2** Come from on high to me;
I cannot rise to thee.
Cheer my wearied spirit,
O pure and holy Child;
Through thy grace and merit,
Blest Jesus, Lord most mild,
Draw me unto thee!
Draw me unto thee!
- 3** Now through his Son doth shine
The Father's grace divine.
Death was reigning o'er us
Through sin and vanity
Till He opened for us
A bright eternity.
May we praise him there!
May we praise him there!

Stand

Confession and Absolution

Isaiah 9:2

- P** Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
- C** **We confess to you that we are sinful by nature and we sin by choice. We break the peace of your good creation and defy the boundaries you set for your creatures. We can only be rescued by the life, death, and resurrection of your Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus. For his sake, we ask for your mercy and forgiveness. Fill us with your Holy Spirit that we may follow Jesus all our days.**
- P** In the baby Jesus born in Bethlehem, the almighty Creator God became human to bring humanity into a relationship of love with himself. For the sake of Jesus, God makes eternal peace with you. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by 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**

Prayer of the Day

- P** Let us pray. Father of all, on this silent, holy night you have given to all people the gift of infinite worth, your only-begotten Son, Jesus. Grant that he who was heralded by angels and welcomed by shepherds may be born in our hearts by faith, and that we may grow in your grace as we follow him with all humility; through the same Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

Sit

Gradual

Isaiah 9:6; Psalm 98:1a

I Men and boys **II** Women and girls

P To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

C **and the government shall be upon his shoulder.**

P And his name shall be called

II Wonderful Counselor,

I Mighty God,

II Everlasting Father,

C **Prince of Peace.**

P Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things.

The first candle of the advent wreath is lit.

What Child Is This

LSB 370

1 **What child is this, who, laid to rest,**
 On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
 While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
 Haste, haste to bring him laud,
 The babe, the son of Mary!

2 **Why lies he in such mean estate**
 Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
 The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you;
 Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
 The babe, the son of Mary!

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. 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, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. 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.

P This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The second candle of the advent wreath is lit.

Angels We Have Heard on High

LSB 368

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

*ref Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

- 2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly song? *Refrain*

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

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:8-14

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. 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. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

P This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

The third candle of the advent wreath is lit.

Away in a Manger

LSB 365

- 1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
- 2 The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Epistle Reading

Philippians 2:5-11

- ⁵ In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:
⁶ Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;
⁷ rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.
⁸ And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross!
⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,
¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

The fourth candle of the advent wreath is lit.

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

LSB 393

- 1** Infant holy,
Infant lowly,
For his bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing,
Little knowing
Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging,
Angels singing,
Bells are ringing,
Tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child is Lord of all!
- 2** Flocks were sleeping,
Shepherds keeping
Vigil till the morning new
Saw the glory,
Heard the story,
Tidings of a Gospel true.
Thus rejoicing,
Free from sorrow,
Praises voicing,
Greet the morrow:

**Christ the child was born for you!
Christ the child was born for you!**

Stand

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:15-20

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." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. 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 Gospel of our Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

The Christ candle is lit.

Angels from the Realms of Glory

LSB 367

- 1** Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth. *Refrain*
- ref* *Come and worship, come and worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King.*
- 2** Shepherds in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
Yonder shines the Infant Light. *Refrain*
- 3** Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations,
Ye have seen His natal star. *Refrain*
- 4** Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In His temple shall appear. *Refrain*

Sit

Homily

Presentation of the Offering

Offertory Prayer

P Let us pray. Lord of Christmas,

C **We are mindful of the supreme gift that you gave us in the manger at Bethlehem. Humbly we offer our gifts of service and possessions in joyful thanksgiving for the love you have shown us. Accept these gifts for the sake of your son who was born to us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Creedal Statement

P We confess together the first creedal statement of the Christian church:

C **Jesus is Lord!**

Prayer of the Church

P To us a child is born, to us a son is given; let us pray for the people he came to save.

Wonderful Counselor, you order all things with your wisdom: help the Church to reveal the mystery of your love and fill her with the Spirit of truth:

C **Word made flesh, be born in us again.**

P Mighty God, the government is on your shoulders: guide the leaders of the nations and bring in your kingdom of justice and righteousness:

C **Word made flesh, be born in us again.**

P Everlasting Father, you call us to live together in unity: protect by your mercy all your children, bless our families and renew our communities:

C **Word made flesh, be born in us again.**

P Prince of Peace, you bring reconciliation through the cross: by your healing power give to all who suffer your gift of wholeness and peace:

C **Word made flesh, be born in us again.**

P Let us commend the world, to which Christ came, to the mercy and protection of God.

C **Amen.**

Stand

Eucharistic Liturgy

P Lord God, Heavenly King, we give you thanks and praise on this holy eve when, in your goodness, you showed your supreme love for us by sending forth your only begotten Son, our Savior, to be born of a virgin, to save us all from sin.

Before you formed the heavens and the earth, he was your Word. In him you made all things. In him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell.

Yet he did not count equality with God as a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself to take the form of a servant, being born in our own likeness, even as a baby, lying in a manger.

For all these things, we give you thanks and herald his coming with the song

of the angels:

C **Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace and goodwill to all people.**

P Eternal God, your Son, Jesus Christ, came to us in your name and showed your steadfast love for us. All that he did was by your will. All that he did was in your name. When we saw him, we saw the Father, for he was the image of the invisible God.

C **Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

P For love of you, O Lord, and for love of us, he offered himself up to death on a cross, that we might be saved from sin and death. Yet you did not let the powers of darkness prevail over him, but raised him from the dead to sit at your right hand in glory. And now you have given to us who believe in him the promise of resurrection and eternal life.

C **Hosanna in the highest!**

P On the night before he died, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." After supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: "This is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me."

C **On this holy evening, O Lord, we remember your humble birth in a manger. We proclaim your death and resurrection. We await your coming in glory.**

P Send now your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine. As Christ is Emmanuel, God with us, so fill our communion with his eternal presence, that we might know the joy and peace of his coming, have our faith renewed, and be strengthened in our hope for his return.

C **O Word made flesh, be born in us again.**

P Accept our prayers and praises, O Father, through your Son, our Savior, who was born this night, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, we give all honor and glory from generation to generation.

C **Amen.**

P As our Savior has taught us, we are bold to say:

Lord's Prayer

Distribution

We believe that as we partake of the bread and wine in Holy Communion, Jesus the Messiah is feeding us with his own true body and blood. In eating his body and drinking his blood we receive the promise that our sins are forgiven, and that we will therefore live eternally with God.

We also believe that this eating and drinking is a confession of our faith. If you share our faith, and particularly if you share our understanding of Christ's Real Presence in this meal, you are welcome to receive Christ's body and blood for your benefit. If you do not confess the understanding of the Christian Faith as expressed by the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, you may still come to the altar to receive a blessing. Please fold your hands to indicate that you will not be receiving the sacrament.

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

LSB 374

- 1 Gentle Mary laid her child
Lowly in a manger;
There he lay, the Undefined,
To the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place,
Can he be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race
Who have found his favor.

- 2 Angels sang about his birth,
Wise Men sought and found him;
Heaven's star shone brightly forth
Glory all around him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight,
Heard the angels singing;
All the plains were lit that night,
All the hills were ringing.

- 3 Gentle Mary laid her child
Lowly in a manger;
He is still the Undefined
But no more a stranger.
Son of God of humble birth,
Beautiful the story;
Praise his name in all the earth;
Hail the King of glory!

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.

- 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 blessèd angels sing.

3 All you, beneath your heavy load,
By care and guilt bent low,
Who toil along a dreary way
With painful steps and slow:
Look up, for golden is the hour,
Come swiftly on the wing,
The Prince was born to bring you peace;
Of him 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.

On Christmas Night All Christians Sing

LSB 377

1 On Christmas night all Christians sing
To hear the news the angels bring,
On Christmas night all Christians sing
To hear the news the angels bring,
News of great joy, news of great mirth,
News of our merciful King's birth.

2 Then why should men on earth be so sad,
Since our Redeemer made us glad,
Then why should men on earth be so sad,
Since our Redeemer made us glad,
When from our sin he set us free,
All for to gain our liberty?

3 When sin departs before his grace,
Then life and health come in its place,
When sin departs before his grace,
Then life and health come in its place;
Angels and men with joy may sing,
All for to see the newborn King.

4 All out of darkness we have light,
Which made the angels sing this night,
All out of darkness we have light,
Which made the angels sing this night:
"Glory to God and peace to men
Now and forevermore. Amen."

Sharing of the Light

At this time, we light our candles to symbolize the sharing of God's light through Christ. Ushers will light the candles of those seated on the center aisle. Please pass the flame by tipping the unlit candle toward the lit candle.

Stand

Silent Night, Holy Night

LSB 363

- 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 thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Benediction

- P** Lord, let your servants depart in peace, as you have promised.
Our eyes have seen the salvation you have prepared for all people.
Your Christ is a light to the world and gives glory to your people Israel.
The light of the world lives in you.
The light of the world shines on you. The light of the world announces
God's favor to you and gives you eternal peace.
- C** Amen. Glory to God in the highest, and to his Christ.

Sending

- P** Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
C Thanks be to God!

We extinguish our candles



Christmas Day Worship Service
December 25, 2021
9 a.m.

Worship Service
Sunday December 26, 2021
9 a.m.



SPIRIT of CHRIST
Lutheran Church

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**Our Mission: To live in love for God and one another reaching out to all people,
proclaiming and sharing the love of Christ.**

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