

A night sky filled with stars, with a prominent bright star on the right side that has a long vertical light trail. Below the sky, a dark, silhouetted desert landscape with mesas is visible. The entire scene is framed by a white border and a black outer border.

*God and Savior*  
Matthew 1:18-25



## Welcome to worship at Spirit of Christ!

We are a member congregation of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. We gather here as the living body of Jesus Christ to be nourished and empowered by the Holy Spirit in what we call the “Means of Grace” — God’s gifts of Word and Sacrament. Through these Means of Grace, we receive the promise of the Gospel: that in the Spirit of Christ God forgives us, remakes us, and reigns in us. May the Lord bless your worship today!

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Christmas Eve Worship

December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025

### 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 loved 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.*

***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.

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;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Immanuel!

### **Confession and Absolution**

**P** Mighty God, Everlasting Father,

**C** We confess to you that we are sinful by nature, and that we sin by choice. We break the peace of your good creation and we defy the boundaries you set for your creatures. We are only rescued by the life, death, and resurrection of your Son, the Word made flesh. For Jesus 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, the almighty Creator God became human to bring humanity into a relationship of love with himself. Through 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*

*The first candle of the advent wreath is lit.*

### **First Reading**

*Isaiah 9:2-7*

- 2 The people walking in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
on those living in the land of deep darkness  
a light has dawned.
- 3 You have enlarged the nation  
and increased their joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as people rejoice at the harvest,  
as warriors rejoice  
when dividing the plunder.
- 4 For as in the day of Midian's defeat,  
you have shattered  
the yoke that burdens them,  
the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor.

5 Every warrior's boot used in battle  
and every garment rolled in blood  
will be destined for burning,  
will be fuel for the fire.  
6 For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.  
And he will be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
7 Of the greatness of his government and peace  
there will be no end.  
He will reign on David's throne  
and over his kingdom,  
establishing and upholding it  
with justice and righteousness  
from that time on and forever.  
The zeal of the LORD Almighty  
will accomplish this.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### *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!**

*The second candle of the advent wreath is lit.*

## **Second Reading**

*1 John 4:7-19*

<sup>7</sup> Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup> This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

<sup>13</sup> This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup> And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup> If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. <sup>16</sup> And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. <sup>17</sup> This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. <sup>18</sup> There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

<sup>19</sup> We love because he first loved us.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

## *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.

*Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

*Refrain*

*Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

*The third candle of the advent wreath is lit.*

## Third Reading

Titus 3:4-7

4 But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

LSB 380

1 Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!”  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With the\_angelic host proclaim,  
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!” *Refrain*

Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King!”

*Refrain*

2 Christ, by highest heav’n adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold Him come,  
Offspring of a virgin’s womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,  
Hail the\_incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Immanuel! *Refrain*

3 Hail, the heav’n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings,  
Ris’n with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by,  
Born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth. *Refrain*

*The fourth candle of the advent wreath is lit.*

*Stand*

## **Holy Gospel**

*Luke 2:1-20*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the second chapter.

**C** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

2 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. <sup>2</sup> (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup> And everyone went to their own town to register.

<sup>4</sup> So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. <sup>5</sup> He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup> and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

<sup>8</sup> And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to 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. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

<sup>13</sup> Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

<sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

<sup>16</sup> So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what

the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

**P** This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

### *Angels We Have Heard on High*

*LSB 368*

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

*Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

*Refrain*

*Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

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

*The Christ candle is lit.*

*Sit*

## Homily

## Presentation of the Offering

### Offertory Prayer

**P** Let us pray. Lord of Christmas:

**G** 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 gift born to us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Creedal Statement

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

**G** 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 which Christ entered 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 clutched 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 and 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 bless 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.*

## ***O Holy Night***

*Cami Baker  
(9:00 p.m.)  
LSB 374*

### ***Gentle Mary Laid Her Child***

- 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 blessed 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."**

**Dismissal**

**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*



**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,  
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