

December 24, 2021

Nativity of Our Lord



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Messiah Lutheran Church

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SERVICE of WORSHIP
Setting 2 from Lutheran Book of Worship

THE PRELUDES

THE INVOCATION

THE CHRISTMAS DIALOG (*from John 1*)

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.

Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

HYMN: "Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful"

45

Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful

1 Oh, come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! Oh,
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,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;

come ye, oh, 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!
Je - sus, to thee . . . be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

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:
Word of the Fa - ther, Now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain

Oh, come, let us a - dore him, Oh, come, let us a - dore him,

Oh, come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

CHERUB CHOIR: *Away in a Manger*

CHILDREN'S SERMON

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

² 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.

³ 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.

⁴ 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.

⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors
 and all the garments rolled in blood
 shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶ 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.

⁷ 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.

THE SECOND LESSON

Titus 2:11-14

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

CLARINET SOLO: *Gesu Bambino*

Anna Flowers

THE GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20

² In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ 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. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ 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. ⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ 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: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And 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!”

¹⁵ When 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.” ¹⁶ So 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.

HYMN: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

O Little Town of Bethlehem

41

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is giv'n!
 4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;

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.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of his heav'n.
 Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.

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,
 No ear may hear his com - ing; But, in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;

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!
 Where meek souls will re - ceive him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.
 Oh, come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

THE SERMON

VOCAL SOLO: *I Wonder as a I Wander*

Sarah McCutcheon

THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**
**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
and born of the virgin Mary,
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father,
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

THE OFFERING

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

**Lord Jesus, thank you for coming down into this world and into our
lives. Thank you for entering our darkness in order to bring us into
your light. Be born in us so we may share your love and your life in
all we say and do. Amen**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

♩ The Lord be with you.

The musical notation is on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The melody consists of the following notes: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (half).

♩ And al - so with you.

The musical notation is on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The melody consists of the following notes: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (half).

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

THE PREFACE

THE SANCTUS

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of

pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of your

glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is he who comes in the name

of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**
**Give us today our daily bread;
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us;
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**
**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen**

THE DISTRIBUTION

HYMN: "Away in a Manger"

Away in a Manger

67

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed, The lit - tle Lord
2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the poor ba - by wakes, But lit - tle Lord
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay Close by me for -

Je - sus laid down his sweet head; The stars in the sky . . . looked
Je - sus no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look
ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in

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.
your ten - der care And fit us for heav - en to live with you there.

HYMN: "It Came upon the Midnight Clear"

54

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

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.

What Child Is This

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;

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!

HYMN: "I Am So Glad This Christmas Eve"

69

I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve

1 I am so glad each Christ-mas Eve, The night of Je - sus' birth!
 2 The lit - tle child in Beth - le - hem, He was a king in - deed!
 3 He dwells a - gain in heav - en's realm, The Son of God to - day;
 4 I am so glad each Christ-mas Eve! His prais - es then I sing;

Then like the sun the star shone forth, And an - gels sang on earth.
 For he came down from heav'n a - bove To help a world in need.
 And still he loves his lit - tle ones And hears them when they pray.
 He o - pens now for ev - 'ry child The pal - ace of the king.

The score includes a treble and bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). Chords G, D, D7, Am, C, and G are indicated above the staff.

For use in the home

- 5 When mother trims the Christmas tree
 Which fills the room with light,
 She tells me of the wondrous star
 That made the dark world bright.
- 6 And so I love each Christmas Eve,
 And I love Jesus too;
 And that he loves me ev'ry day
 I know so well is true.

HYMN: "Angels We Have Heard on High"

71

Angels We Have Heard on High

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.

The score includes a treble and bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#).

Refrain

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for the Refrain of 'The First Noel'. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: 'Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o; Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.' The word 'Refrain' is written above the first system.

HYMN: "The First Noel"

56

The First Noel

1 The first No - el the an - gel did say Was to
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . . a star Shin - ing
 3 And by the light of that . . . same star Three .
 4 This star drew near to the . . . north-west, O'er .

cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; In fields where .
 in . . . the east . . . be - yond . . . them far; And to the . .
 Wise - Men came . . . from coun - try far; To seek for a
 Beth - le - hem . . . it took . . . its rest; And there it . .

they lay, keep - ing their sheep, On a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave . . . great light, And . . . so it con -
 king was their . . . in - tent, And to fol - low the
 did both stop . . . and stay Right, o - ver the

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for the hymn 'The First Noel'. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: '1 The first No - el the an - gel did say Was to / 2 They look - ed up and saw . . . a star Shin - ing / 3 And by the light of that . . . same star Three . / 4 This star drew near to the . . . north-west, O'er . / cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; In fields where . / in . . . the east . . . be - yond . . . them far; And to the . . / Wise - Men came . . . from coun - try far; To seek for a / Beth - le - hem . . . it took . . . its rest; And there it . . / they lay, keep - ing their sheep, On a cold win - ter's / earth it gave . . . great light, And . . . so it con - / king was their . . . in - tent, And to fol - low the / did both stop . . . and stay Right, o - ver the'.

Refrain

night . that was . . so deep.
 tin - ued both day . . and night. No - el, No - el, No -
 star . wher - ev - er it went.
 place . where Je - sus lay.

el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

HYMN: "Go Tell It On the Mountain"

Go Tell It on the Mountain

70

Refrain

Go tell it on the moun - tain, O-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;

Go tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born!

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er si - lent flocks by night, Be -
 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled When, lo, a - bove the earth Rang
 3 Down in a lone - ly man-ger The hum - ble Christ was born; And

hold, through-out the heav - ens There shone a ho - ly light.
 out the an - gel cho - rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
 God sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

Refrain

Silent Night, Holy Night!

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright Round yon
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep-herds quake at the sight; Glo - ries
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light Ra - diant

vir - gin moth - er and child. Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild,
 stream from heav - en a - far, Heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 beams from your ho - ly face, With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,

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

***THE CANDLELIGHT PRAYER**

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

THE BENEDICTION

Joy to the World

39

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive its
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs em -
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow Nor thorns in - fest the
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions

King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 ground; He comes to make his bless - ings
 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
 flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
 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.
 found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, And won - ders, won - ders of his love.

THE POSTLUDE: *And the Glory of the Lord* (from Handel's *Messiah*)