

And Joseph also
went up from Galilee
out of the city
of Nazareth
into Judea
unto the city
of David
which is called
Bethlehem,...



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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CHRISTMAS EVE 2025

4:00 pm, 6:00 pm, 8:00 pm

WELCOME

PRELUDE Angels We Have Heard on High Traditional
with Ila Rondeau, Viola

CAROL 283 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"
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!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest: [Refrain]

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: [Refrain]

RESPONSIVE READING: Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7

R: The people walking in darkness, have seen a great light;

C: on those living in the land of deep darkness, a light has dawned.

R: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.

C: And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

R: Of the greatness of his government and peace

C: there will be no end.

R: 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.

C: The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray: 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.

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2: 1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. 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. He went to be registered with Mary,

to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 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.

ANTHEM

4:00pm This Christmas by The Futures
Children's Choir with Hope Katterhenrich, Soloist

6 and 8pm: The Wexford Carol arr. by Robert Wetzler
Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE Luke 2: 8-14

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth 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 heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

CAROL 289 "Angels We Have Heard on High"

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.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song? [*Refrain*]

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

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:15-20

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." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

ANTHEM

4:00pm	Savior of the Nations, Come Celebration Ringers	arr. by Cathy Mocklebust
6 and 8pm	Away in a Manger Chancel Choir with Ila Rondeau, Viola	arr. by Walter Pelz

SERMON

4:00pm	Vicar Billie Fisch
6:00 and 8:00pm	Pastor Patti Morlock

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Response:

P: Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

OFFERTORY: *Berceuse Noel*

arr. by Noel Rawsthorne

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: HYMN 186

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

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 our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy...

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY HOLY HOLY

The musical score is written on five staves in G-clef (treble clef) with a common time signature (C). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff begins with a square symbol, likely a copyright or publisher's mark. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,". The second staff continues: "Lord God of pow'r and might, heav-en and earth are". The third staff: "full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est." The fourth staff: "Bless - ed, bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the". The fifth staff: "Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est." The score includes various musical notations such as quarter notes, half notes, eighth notes, and rests, with some notes beamed together. A triplet of eighth notes is marked with a "3" above it in the second staff.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
Lord God of pow'r and might, heav-en and earth are
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed, bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORDS 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.

DISTRIBUTION

Communion will be served continuously today. All baptized believers who trust that Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and wine are encouraged to partake in communion. Children and adults who do not receive the meal are invited forward for a blessing. If you cannot come forward but wish to receive the sacrament, please let a greeter know and a server will bring the sacrament to you. If you require grape juice as a substitute for the wine, please let the servers know.

PRAISE BAND

4:00pm: Hallelujah (Christmas Version)/O Holy Night

by Cloverton

Performed by David Shrum, Kirsten Lovell, and Nick Grossman

**I've heard about this baby boy, Who's come to earth to bring us joy
And I just want to sing this song to you.
It goes like this, the fourth, the fifth, The minor fall, the major lift
With every breath I'm singing Hallelujah**

Chorus:

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelu-u-u-u-jah

A couple came to Bethlehem, Expecting child, they searched the inn
To find a place for You were coming soon
There was no room for them to stay, So in a manger filled with hay
God's only Son was born, oh Hallelujah
(Chorus)

The shepherds left their flocks by night,
To see this baby wrapped in light
A host of angels led them all to You
It was just as the angels said, You'll find Him in a manger bed
Immanuel and Savior, Hallelujah
(Chorus)

A star shone bright up in the east, To Bethlehem, the wise men three
Came many miles and journeyed long for You
And to the place at which You were,
Their frankincense and gold and myrrh
They gave to You and cried out Hallelujah
(Chorus)

I know You came to rescue me, This baby boy would grow to be
A man and one day die for me and you
My sins would drive the nails in You,
That rugged cross was my cross, too
Still every breath You drew was Hallelujah
(Chorus)

Fall on your knees, O hear the angel voices
O night divine, O night when Christ was born
O night, O holy night
O night divine

COMMUNION MUSIC: Carols of the Season

with Ila Rondeau, Viola and Mark Meuser, Piano

Please stand for the prayer, candle lighting, and carol

PRAYER AS THE CANDLES ARE LIT

P: Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all we do and say; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

CANDLE LIGHTING CAROL 281 "Silent Night, Holy Night!"

**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.**

(verse 2 in unison)

**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!**

(verse 3 in harmony)

**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.**

SCRIPTURE John 1:1-5

P: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the very beginning. Through him all things came into existence, and without him there was nothing. That which came to be received life in him, and the life was the light of the human race. The light shines in the darkness, And the darkness cannot overcome it.

BENEDICTION

CAROL 267 "Joy to The World"

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.

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.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace to serve the newborn King.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing arr. by David Cherwien



The Rev. Patti Morlock, Pastor
The Rev. Jeff Morlock, Guest Pastor
Vicar Billie Fisch, Pastoral Intern
Mark Meuser, Director of Music
Susan Locey, Celebration Ringers Director

Serving Today

Communion Assistants

4pm: Karen Bentley, Joel Baughman
6pm: Linda Wagner, Ann Jones
8pm: Rita Orahood, Barb Hill

Altar Guild

Set Up: Lynda Berry, Dee Harlor,
Shelia Holcomb, Dellno and Betty
Lewis

4pm: David and Lisa Stallard
6pm: Dee Harlor
8pm: Dellno and Betty Lewis

Readers

4pm: Karrie Clark
6pm: Ann Jones
8pm: Christine Hank

Ushers

4pm Dave Clark, Tom Corbin,
Tom Lang, Dave Sweeley
6pm: Bill Diehl, Dennis Imbrock,
Steve Marcum
8pm: Don Carducci, Steve Marcum,
Larry Peterson, Larry Sutton

Acolytes

4pm Cordelia Wanner, Lukas Althoff
6:00pm: Eva Counts, Addy Gottshall
8:00pm: Corban, Truman Allman

Greeters

4pm: Beth Katterhenrich, Carol Rich
6pm: Bill and Linda Diehl
8pm: Lois Moore, Wilma Phillips

*If you have ordered a poinsettia and wish to collect it,
we ask that you please leave it in place, if possible,
until after the Christmas Day service.*