

GET READY FOR ONLINE WORSHIP

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2021 – 7:30 pm

Welcome to worship! We join our hearts to pray, hear God's Word, and receive the Lord's Supper. As we worship, you are invited to join along in singing and speaking the congregation's part of the service. Whether you are by yourself or with others, you are joined by the Holy Spirit and connected with the whole congregation as one body of Christ.

8:15 am worship is livestreamed online at

www.youtube.com/c/ResurrectionLutheranChurchAnkeny/

HOW WE SHALL RECEIVE COMMUNION

Worshippers joining online are encouraged to have gathered both bread and wine or grape juice in the space where family members will gather for worship, so that everyone may participate in the full liturgy of the Eucharist. Even if you are alone in your home, please partake of the body and blood of Christ in the forms of bread and wine. We are together in the Body of Christ, by God's loving Spirit, even when we are not present with another in our own flesh.

Worshippers gathered in person will receive individually packaged communion elements from the ushers at the beginning of the service. Gluten-free element are available upon request. All pre-packaged elements include grape juice. Or you will be invited to the altar by household to receive communion at the table.

The Nativity of our Lord
Christmas Eve 2021, 7:30 pm

What Child is This?

Sam Califf

Prelude: *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

Diane Rauser & Dave Vagts

Welcome

Processional Hymn: *Congregation stands*

ELW 283

1. 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.

2. The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father, now in flesh appearing

Refrain

3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;

Refrain

4. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.

Refrain

Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
who sends the word with angels,
who is made flesh among all peoples,
and who breathes peace on all the earth. **Amen.**

In Christ, we are bold to name our sin and cry out for peace.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,
we confess our sin before you.
We replace compassion with competition.
We seek what is mighty while ignoring the meek.
We are quick to anger but slow to forgive.
We have not put on love in harmony with you.
Wrap us in the grace of your powerful Word.
Swaddle our hearts with your peace,
that all we do, in word or deed,
may reflect your love born among us.

Amen.

I bring you good news of great joy for all people:
God has come among us
in the child born of Mary, Christ the Lord.
✝ In Christ your sins are forgiven
and you are clothed in peace.

Amen.

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion
of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

Kyrie

**Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer.
We come to hear your living word; it saves us from despair.
Have mercy on us, Christ, and wash away our sin.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.
Have mercy on us, Lord, make sin and shame depart.
Renew us with your saving pow'r; create in us new hearts!**

1. *Higher Voices* Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing over the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo;
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

2. *Lower Voices* Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo;
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

3. *All* Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn king.
Gloria in excelsis Deo;
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Prayer of the Day

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 live in endless peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Choir Anthem

O Holy Night

FIRST LESSON – Isaiah 9:2-7

p.555

²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness —

on them light has shined.

³You 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.

⁴For 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.

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

⁶For 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.

⁷His 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 word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

PSALM 96

Refrain

God has done mar - vel - ous things.

I too sing prais - es with a new song!

¹Sing to the LORD | a new song;

sing to the LORD, | all the earth.

²**Sing to the LORD, bless the name | of the LORD;
proclaim God's salvation from | day to day.**

³Declare God's glory a- | mong the nations
and God's wonders a- | mong all peoples.

⁴**For great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised,
more to be feared | than all gods.**

⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they | are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have | made the heavens.

⁶**Majesty and magnificence are | in your presence;
power and splendor are in your | sanctuary. R**

⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families | of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD hon- | or and power.

⁸**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the | holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts | of the LORD.**

⁹Worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, | all the earth.

¹⁰**Tell it out among the nations: "The | LORD is king!**

**The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will
judge the peo- |
ples with equity." R**

¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the | earth be glad;

let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that
| is therein.

¹²**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your com- | ing, O
LORD,**

for you come to | judge the earth.

¹³You will judge the | world with righteousness
and the peoples | with your truth. R

Gospel Verse

Go tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and ev'rywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born.

GOSPEL: LUKE 2: 1-20

p. 832

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter. **Glory to you O Lord.**

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

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And 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!"

¹⁵When 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." ¹⁶So 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.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon: *Christmas Letters*

Pastor Beth Wartick

Hymn of the Day

ELW 270

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 th'angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"
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 th'incarnate Deity,
Pleased with in flesh with us to dwell,
Jesus our Emmanuel.

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 we no more may die.
Born to raise each child of earth,
Born to give us second birth.

Refrain

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,**

**God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the
virgin Mary, and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his
kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

**With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.**

Prayers of the People

Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Offering

Offertory

As the gifts are presented, the following offertory is sung.

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
Come, peasant, king, to own him.
The king of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!**

Offertory Prayer

Good and loving God,
we rejoice in the birth of Jesus,
who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace.
As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others.
With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven,
we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is indeed right... We praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy Lord most holy,

God of pow'r and God of might

Heav'n and earth reveal your glory.

Hail, hosanna, Lord of light!

Blessed be the coming savior.

Hail, hosanna, Lord of Light!

Eucharistic Prayer

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,

the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

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 for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup

we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us.

Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours,

Holy One of Israel,

Word of God incarnate,

Power of the Most High,

one God, now and forever.

Amen.

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

Communion

At God's table, we receive the gift of Jesus Christ given for us. All who are hungry for God's love are welcome at this meal. You may receive either red wine or white grape juice in the Lord's Supper. (Gluten-free bread is available.) People who are not able to come to the altar are invited to ask an usher to have one of the pastors bring communion to them.

Music during the Communion:

<i>Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence</i>	ELW 490
<i>Away in a Manger</i>	ELW 277
<i>It Came Upon a Midnight Clear</i>	ELW 282

Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen

Post-Communion Canticle

ELW 288

**Good Christian friends, rejoice
With heart and soul and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today;
Ox and ass before him bow,
And he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!**

God's love was revealed to us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that God loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

For it is the same God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

The lesson (John 1:1-4) is read as the church is darkened.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

Candles will be lighted from the aisle seats outward with people passing their light to others. Please tip unlighted candles into the lighted candles to avoid dripping. You may light artificial candles/glow sticks anytime. When all the candles are lit, Silent Night, Hymn 281 will be sung. Follow the direction of the song leaders.

Hymn: *Silent Night, Holy Night*

ELW 281

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,
Heavenly 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 your holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray. Almighty God, you have made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in true light of Jesus' presence and in the 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 now and forever. **Amen**

Blessing

The God of hope
fill us with all joy and peace in believing,
so that we may abound in hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
through Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh.
Amen.

Recessional Hymn: *Go Tell it on the Mountain*

ELW 290

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherd's kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night, behold,
throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo, above the earth rang out
the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born; and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

Dismissal

Filled with the joy of Christ's birth, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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