

## GET READY FOR ONLINE WORSHIP

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2021 – 4:00 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/](http://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, 4:00 pm

**Prelude:** *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

**Diane Rauser & Dave Vagts**

**Welcome**

**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.**

## Hymn of Praise

ELW 289

1. *Upper 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.**

**Children's Sermon:**

**Grace Heimerdinger-Baake**

- <sup>2</sup>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.
- <sup>3</sup>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.
- <sup>4</sup>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.
- <sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
- <sup>6</sup>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.
- <sup>7</sup>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  
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**

**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 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. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called with justice and with righteousness Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>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.

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before 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; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

<sup>15</sup>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." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told

them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The 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*

## **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**

**Special Music:**

**Allison Muehr**

## **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!**

## Offering 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 our thanks and praise.**

## Eucharistic Prayer

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. **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 Communion:**

<i>Infant Holy, Infant Lowly</i>	<b>ELW 276</b>
<i>Away in a Manger</i>	<b>ELW 277</b>
<i>It Came Upon a Midnight Clear</i>	<b>ELW 282</b>

## **Blessing**

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

## **Candles**

*The light of Jesus Christ shines and spreads in the world. We share the light and sing Silent Night. 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 your glow sticks at any time. When all the candles are lit, Silent Night, Hymn 281 will be sung.*

**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.

### **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.**

### **Closing Hymn: *Joy to the World***

**ELW 267**

1. Joy to the, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her king:  
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.
2. 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.

3. No more let sin and sorrow grow  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found  
far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as, far as the curse is found.

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

## **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Christ is with you! **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude:** *Go Tell It on the Mountain*

**Luke Miller**

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