

Christmas Eve



“And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.”

Luke 2:20

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Council Bluffs, IA
December 24, 2024
7:00 p.m.

Welcome to all members and guests! We are pleased to have you with us on this sacred night. Guests, please sign the guest register in the narthex. If you need assistance, please ask one of the ushers.

Prayer before worship:

O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Those serving us:

Liturgist and Preacher: Rev. Nathan Sherrill

Pianists: Rev. Timothy Frank, Elizabeth Johnson, Mark Johnson, Sarah Ruth Johnson

Instrumentalists: Bradley Adams, Brett Allen, Amelia Guill, Rachel Johnson, John Timm

Prelude:

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

arr. Valerie Floeter

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

arr. Valerie Floeter

O Come, All Ye Faithful

arr. Kowalchyk/Lancaster

It Came upon a Midnight Clear

arr. Kowalchyk/Lancaster

Angels We Have Heard on High

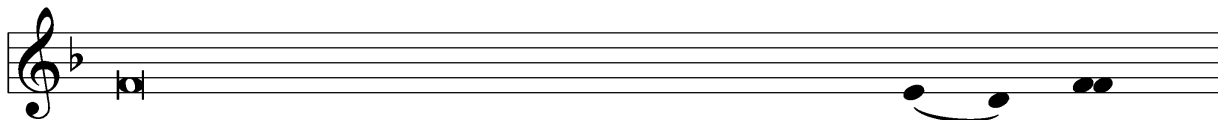
arr. Valerie Floeter

Of the Father's Love Begotten

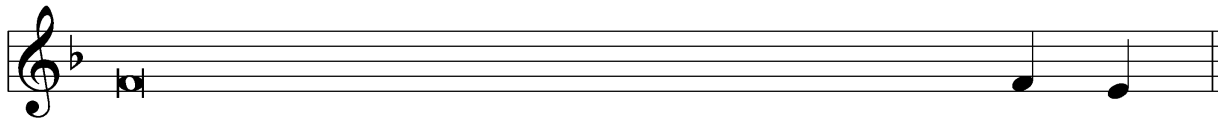
arr. Valerie Floeter

Service of Light

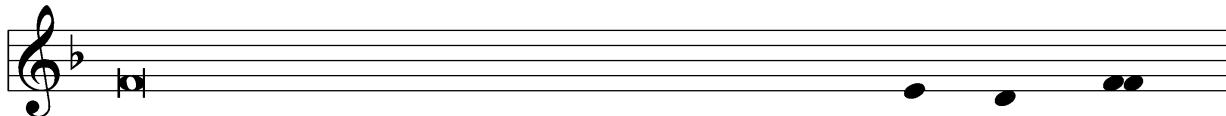
Please stand and face the processional cross. Candles are lit during the opening liturgy.



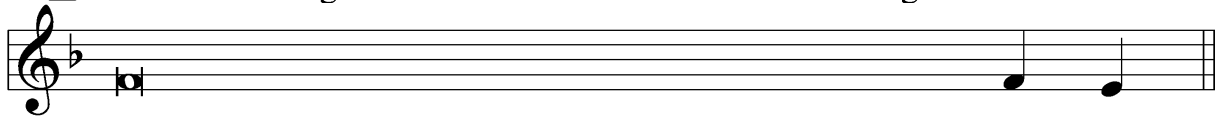
L The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.



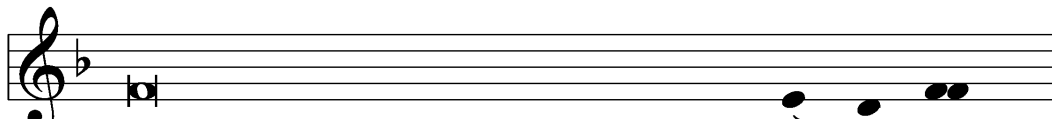
C The light shines in the darkness,
but the darkness has not understood it.



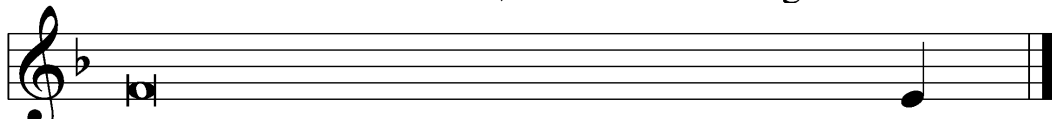
L On those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.



C We have seen His glory, the glory of the
one and only Son who came from the Father.



L For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.



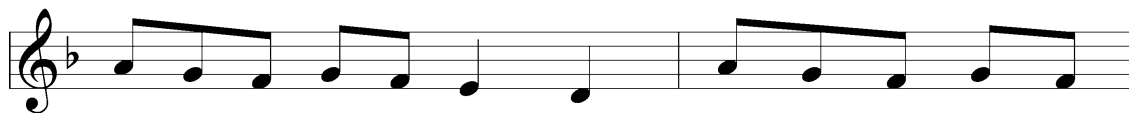
C In Him was life, and that life was the light of men.

Phos Hilaron

LSB 244



L Joy - ous light of glo - ry:



C of the im - mor - tal Fa - ther; heav - en - ly, ho - ly,



bles - ed Je - sus Christ. We have come to the



set - ting of the sun, and we look to the eve - ning light.



We sing to God, the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it:



You are wor - thy of be - ing praised with pure voic - es for -



ev - er. O Son of God, O Giv - er of life:



the u - ni - verse pro - claims Your glo - ry.

Thanksgiving for Light

LSB 245

L Blessèd are You, O Lord our God, king of the universe, who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ; may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for You are merciful, and You love Your whole creation and we, Your creatures, glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



C A - men.

Blessing of the Creche

L We joyfully confess that for us men and for our salvation our Lord Jesus Christ came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man, thus fulfilling the word of the prophet Isaiah, “a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel.” Let this crèche remind us that the Lord Jesus came into our flesh and is truly our Savior.

L Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

L Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, You caused Your only-begotten Son to be born of the blessed virgin Mary for our salvation. Bless this crèche, which shows the wonders of that sacred birth, that all who behold it may ponder and adore the mystery of His holy incarnation and may joyfully partake in His divine grace unto life eternal; 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.

Congregational Hymn: 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.

Text: Public domain

*Please extinguish your candles.
You may be seated.*

Readings

Reading

Isaiah 7:10–14

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹“Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹²But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” ¹³And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”

After this and subsequent readings:

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Choir: Sussex Carol*Text: LSB 377; Setting: Peter Niedmann*

Congregational Hymn: It Came upon the Midnight Clear LSB 366

Reading

Isaiah 9:2–7

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. ³ You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. ⁴ For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵ For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Choir: Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Text: LSB 393; Setting: Mark Shepperd

Congregational Hymn: Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

LSB 359

Reading

1 John 4:7–16

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

Choir: God Loves Me Dearly

John A. Behnke

LSB 392; Setting:

Congregational Hymn: All My Heart Again Rejoices LSB 360

Reading

Luke 2:1–7

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.



Choir: Away in a Manger

Text: LSB 364; Setting: Michael D. Costello

Reading

Luke 2:8-14

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch

over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths 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,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

Congregational Hymn: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

LSB 380

Reading

Luke 2:15–20

¹⁵When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Congregational Hymn: Go Tell It on the Mountain

LSB 388

Sermon: “Go tell it!”

Luke 2:20



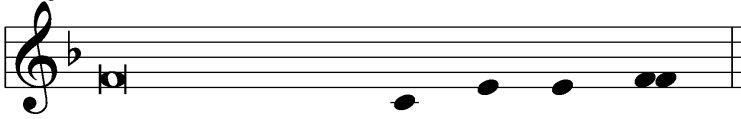
Offering: Angels We Have Heard on High

Setting by Dale A. Witte

Congregational Hymn: Angels We Have Heard on High

LSB 368

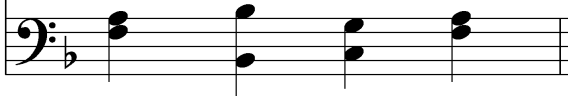
Stand



L In peace let us pray to the Lord:



C Lord, have mer - cy.



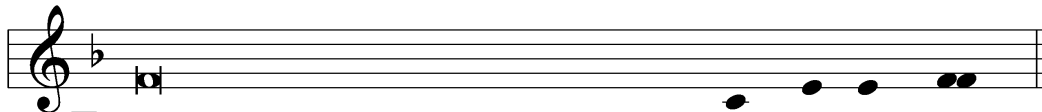
- L** For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- L** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- L** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- L** For [*names of synodical and district presidents*], for all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- L** For [*name of president or monarch*], for all public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- L** For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- L** For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- L** For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- L** For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

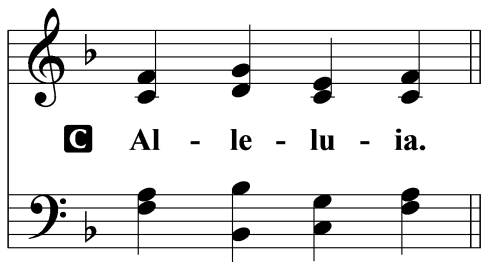
L For . . . [*additional bids for prayer may be inserted here*] . . . let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

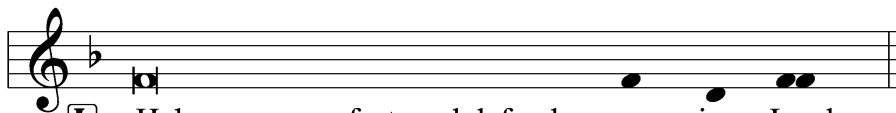
The prayers then continue:



L For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:

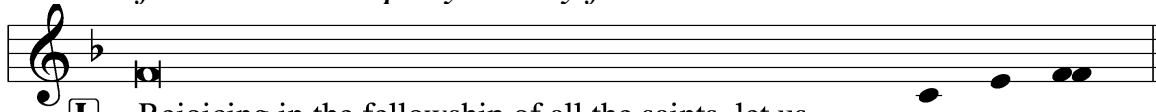


C Al - le - lu - ia.



L Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.

Silence for individual prayer may follow.



L Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord:



C To You, O Lord.

Collect of the Day

L O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven; 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.

Collect for Peace

L O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

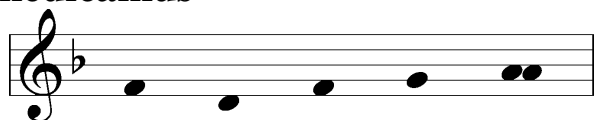
C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 251

Benedicamus

LSB 252



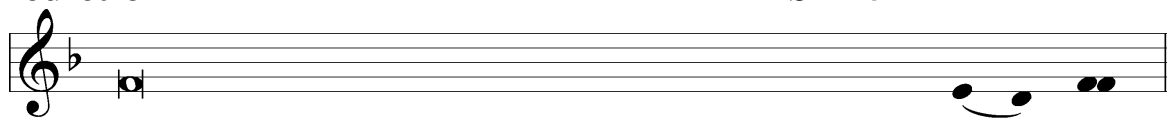
L Let us bless the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

LSB 252



P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and pre - serve you.



C A - men.

Hymn of Departure: Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising *LSB 375*

Postlude: Christmas Medley

arr. Lee

Marcum

Acknowledgments

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Poinsettias Given to the Glory of God



Jim & Jane Beno

In Memory of Our Loved Ones.

Dale & Julia Burris

In Memory of John & Pat Montgomery and Earl & Elnora Johnson.

Susan Jones & Creighton Paul Catlett

In Memory of Ray and Norma Tyrrell.

Matt & Elizabeth Escritt

In Memory of Lois Escritt, Jack & Maribeth French, Bob Opal, Caleb & Lily Escritt.

Bob & Dianna Finch

In Memory of Paul, Jo Ann, & Susie Taylor & Robert Finch.

Anthony & Shirley Gust

In Memory of Albert & Gladys Noelle, and Lawrence & Dorothy Gust.

Lois Hanusa

In Memory of Ted P. & Eunice Hanusa and Martha Hanusa.

Tristan & CC and Erika & Mark Harris

In Honor of "Grandma" Gertrud Rossbund.

Mary Ann Hanusa & Charlie Johnson

In Memory of Ted & Eunice Hanusa, and Charles & Ula Johnson.

Paul & Michael Johnson

In Memory of William & Helen Thacker, William & Genevive Johnson.

In Memory of Norma Johnson and Stephen Johnson.

Donald & Marsha Kadereit

In Memory of Don & Norma Kadereit and Bill & Helen Steer.

Bruce Klein

In Memory of Ruth Knickman.

In Memory of Marie A. Klein and Elsie Andersen.

Pastor David & Debbie Klinge

In Memory of Katie Klinge (daughter-in-law) who died of cancer this year.

Adam Kort

Given by Adam Kort.

Steve & Denise Krohn

In Honor of Our Loved Ones.

Bill & Kathleen Kruse

In Memory of Parents & Grandparents. In Honor of the Birth of our Savior.

Bob & Dianne Machmuller

In Memory of our parents, and in honor of our children and grandchildren.

Dan & Michelle McKee

In Honor of Our Family.

Kathy & Jay Meldrum

In Honor of The Righteous One.

Deb, Jarod, Ashley, Jordan, Savannah Mohling

In Memory of Carol Isaac, Edwin & Louise Loontjer, Jacob & Martha Isaac.

Andy & Jo Raymond

In Memory of MaryAnn Wege. In Honor of Bob Wege. In Honor of all of our pastors: Sherrill, Frank, Tews, & Lindau. We are grateful to God for our church family and all of our good pastors!

Bambi Heckerman & Louise Rettig

In Memory of Tom Rettig.

Mike & Penny Rollins

In Honor of Family.

Bob & Kathy Seipold

In Memory of Bert & Mary Jean Seipold and Bob & Marjorie Glyn.

In Honor of Our Lord Jesus.

Jan Steenbock

In Memory of Virgil Steenbock & other loved ones. In honor of my children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Wendy Storey

In Memory of William Storey.

Amy Termuende

In Honor of Gustav & Alice Termuende, Milton & Rosa Grages.

In Honor of Ed & Eileen Termuende.

Jeff & Rhonda Thomas

In Memory of Ed Hornbeck, Easton Lane, Alvin & Eula Blankenship.

Tom & Sue Trede

In Memory - Elven & Jane Steenbock, Roger Maness, Ann McClelland, Ted Trede.

William Wege

In Memory of MaryAnn Wege and Ronald Wege.

Wendell Volkens

In Memory of Jean Volkens.

Shirley Walker & Family

In Memory of Wes Walker, Jeffrey Foster, Parents, brothers, sister.