

# FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Missouri Synod

## The Nativity of Our Lord – Christmas Eve

December 24, 2022

5:00\* & 7:00 pm

\*livestreamed on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)



### AS WE GATHER

“All is calm, all is bright.” Is it really? We sing those words from the hymn “Silent Night, Holy Night” every Christmas Eve. Yet the world in which we live is in so many ways neither calm nor bright. War, violence, shootings, unending anxiety: these are anything but calm and bright.

Yet we sing. Why? Because the calmness and brightness of which we sing on Christmas Eve comes not from politics or laws or humanity’s ability to overcome obstacles; it comes from God. “Glory to God in the highest,” sings the multitude of angels to the shepherds, “and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased” (Luke 2:14).

In Christ, we are given peace beyond human understanding, peace flowing from God to us, peace that comes from God’s self-sacrificing love. So filled with hope, we join the angel chorus and sing of the peace found only in Jesus.

[Rev. Eric J. Edwards](#) † [Rev. Christopher Beck](#) † [Rev. Liwei Sui](#)

2200 S. High Street, Bloomington, IN † 812-332-1668 † [office@faithbtown.org](mailto:office@faithbtown.org)

# ✠ ✠ ✠ PREPARATION ✠ ✠ ✠

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC – *Of the Father's Love Begotten* (arr. Wilbur Held)

## OPENING VERSES *from the books of Isaiah, John and Matthew*

- P** The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.
- C** **Those who dwell 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.**
- P** The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son and they will call Him Immanuel – which means, "God with us."
- C** **Immanuel, God is with us. It is in His name that we worship, live, and hope.**

## INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Let us go to the city of David and worship and adore Christ the Lord!**

## HYMN OF INVOCATION – LSB 380 – Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



- 1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;  
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God - head see, Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty!  
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!  
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.



Hark! The her-ald an-gels sing, "Glo-ry to the new-born King!"

Tune and text: Public domain

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Tonight we remember our Lord who was born to save us from sin and death. As we hear the angelic announcement of His birth in Bethlehem we are reminded of His death in Jerusalem. We are called to remember that looming in the background of the manger is the shape of a cross.

This Child was born to die for you and for me; for the sins and the salvation of the world. In Him we place all our hope and trust, for He removes our fears. We are sinners in need of a Savior. Silently, let us reflect on and repent of our sins. Let us also rejoice in the One named Jesus, who came to save us from our sins.

*(silent reflection)*

**P** Let us confess our sins.

**C** Lord, have mercy on us and hear our prayer. We are lying in the corruption of our own sin. We have not fully placed our trust in You. Yet we are the reason You came to earth. Forgive us for those sins of which we are aware and those which are known only to You. Forgive us. Save us. Turn us away from our sins to follow in Your perfect ways. Amen.

*All sing:*



O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;



Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.



We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;

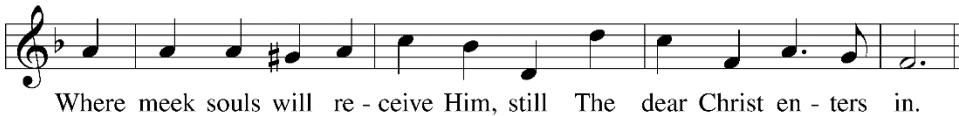
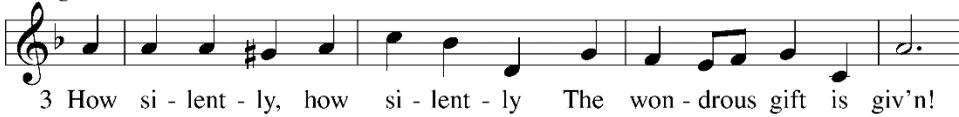


O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

**P** The name “Jesus” means “Savior.” He was given this name because He came to save His people from their sins. His Word and work have been completed perfectly for you and me. Receive your Savior’s full forgiveness along with His promises to remember your sins no more. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen! So be it! By the grace of God, I am forgiven.**

*All sing:*



† † † **WORD** † † †

### COLLECT OF THE DAY

**P** Let us pray. 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.**

**OLD TESTAMENT – Isaiah 9:2-7** – The promise of David’s heir and Lord calls for great rejoicing.

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,  
on them has light shone.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult  
and every garment rolled in blood  
will be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> 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.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**



## GRADUAL HYMN – LSB 368 – 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;

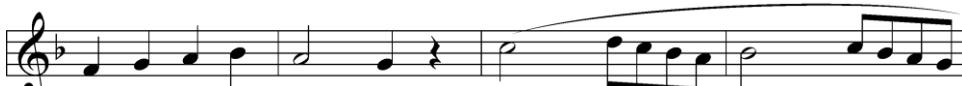


And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
 What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav' n - ly song?  
 Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

*Refrain*



Glo - - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -



- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text and tune: Public domain

## EPISTLE – Titus 2:11-14 – Christ sanctifies us and gives us hope.

<sup>11</sup> For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, <sup>12</sup> training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, <sup>13</sup> waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup> who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.



*For the grace of  
 God has appeared,  
 bringing salvation  
 for all people.*

Titus 2:11, ESV

## ALLELUIA – LSB 381 – Let Our Gladness Have No End – *All sing:*



1 Let our glad - ness have no end, al - le - lu - ia!  
4 In - to flesh is made the Word, al - le - lu - ia!



For to earth did Christ de - scend, al - le - lu - ia!  
He, our ref - uge and our Lord, al - le - lu - ia!



*Refrain*  
On this day God gave us Christ, His Son, to save



us; Christ, His Son, to save us.

Text and tune: Public domain

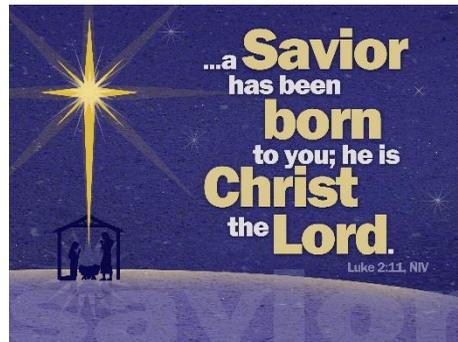
## HOLY GOSPEL – Luke 2:1-20 – The Savior is born!

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

**C** Glory to you, O Lord!

<sup>1</sup> In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup> And 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, <sup>5</sup> to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup> And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup> And 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.

<sup>8</sup> And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. <sup>10</sup> And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths 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,  
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

<sup>15</sup> When 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.” <sup>16</sup> And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup> And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup> And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to you, O Christ!

### HYMN OF THE DAY – LSB 366 – 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 All you, be-neath your heav-y load, By care and guilt bent low,  
4 For lo, the days have come to pass 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 a drea-ry way With pain-ful steps and slow:  
When down in-to the cir-cling years Came Christ as was 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 up, for gold-en is the hour, Come swift-ly on the wing,  
His word of peace shall to the earth God's an-cient prom-ise bring,



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.  
The Prince was born to bring you peace; Of Him the an-gels sing.  
And all who take this gift will hear The song the an-gels sing.

Text and tune: Public domain

**Liturgy and Hymns**  
reprinted from  
Lutheran Service  
Builder and used by  
permission: LSB  
Hymn License no.  
110001557.

**Scripture** – from  
The Holy Bible,  
English Standard  
Version®, © 2001 by  
Crossway Bibles, a  
publishing ministry  
of Good News  
Publishers. Used by  
permission. All rights  
reserved.

**Explanation of the  
second article** –  
from *Dr. Martin  
Luther's Small  
Catechism*, ©1988  
Concordia  
Publishing House.

### SERMON – *Silent Night?* – Luke 2:1-20

## CREED

**A** We confess our faith in the second article of the Apostles' Creed.

**C** **I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**A** What does this mean?

**C** **I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own, and live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, even as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.**

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**A** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs,

*(there is a time for silent prayer)*

that we may receive the angel's message with faith and share it boldly with others; let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**A** That we may live sober, upright, and godly lives, displaying our faith in words and deeds that testify to the Good News we have heard this night; let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**A** That we may treasure this good news in our hearts and hold it fast all the days of our lives; let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**A** That God may bless our Church and all her leaders; that God may bless our pastors and this congregation, and that we may do the good work of the kingdom with all our energy and conviction; let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**A** That God may continue to guide and lead our President and Congress and that He would keep safe in His care those who serve in the armed forces, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**A** That God may grant healing to the sick, relief for the suffering, hope to the grieving, and peace to the dying...and for all whom we name before the Lord in our hearts...let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

*(special prayers may be added)*

**A** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

**OFFERING** – *What Child Is This* (arr. Timothy Albrecht)



## ✠ ✠ ✠ CANDLELIGHTING ✠ ✠ ✠

### **RESPONSIVE READING**

**P** Arise, shine; for your Light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you...And nations shall come to your Light.

**C** **Jesus said, “I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”**

**P** You are the light of the world...Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

## LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

*The Pastor takes a candle and lights it from the Christ candle, which symbolizes Christ, the Light of the World.*

**A** The Light of Christ for the people of Christ.

**C** Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

*The ushers will light their candles from the Pastor's candle,  
and then they will light the candle of the worshiper nearest the aisle.  
Worshippers light their candles by **dipping the unlit candle**  
into the flame of the lit one.*



## LSB 363 – Silent Night, Holy Night

*After the extended introduction, please join in singing the hymn.*



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 Thy 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 Thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

## BENEDICTION

**P** May He who is the Light of the World lighten our darkness and give to each one of us the Light of life.

**C** Amen.

*The worshipers' candles may be extinguished when the Pastor's candle is extinguished.*

## SILENT PRAYER

POST-SERVICE MUSIC – *In Dulci Jubilo* (J. S. Bach)



**Thanks to our narthex instrumentalists:**  
*Asher Edwards, Jonah Grimes, Joshua Grimes, Noah Grimes, Carl Lenthe,  
Sam Poage, Nate Poage, Matthew Ross, Jonathan Schaefer*



## **Christmas Day**

9:15am – A Christmas Carol...study

10:30am\* (no 8am or 5pm) – **Worship** with Holy Communion

**New Year's Eve** – 5pm\*

**Worship** with Holy Communion

## **Sunday, January 1**

8 & 10:30\*am (no 5pm service) – **Worship**

9:15am – **Sunday School & Bible class**

\* Service will also be **livestreamed** on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)

The digital bulletin and more information – including any updates to this schedule – may be found at [faithbtown.org](http://faithbtown.org).

If you have any **urgent pastoral needs** throughout this next week please contact **Pastor Beck** ([pastorbeck@faithbtown.org](mailto:pastorbeck@faithbtown.org) or 812-508-6497) *through Tuesday*, or **Pastor Woelmer** ([rwoelmer@gmail.com](mailto:rwoelmer@gmail.com) or 812-361-4504) *next Wednesday through Saturday*.  
Pastor Beck will be back Sunday, and Pastor Edwards will return Monday.

The office email ([office@faithbtown.org](mailto:office@faithbtown.org)) will be monitored on a *limited basis only*.

Please use this for *non-essential* matters only.

Regular office hours will resume on Tuesday, January 3.