

Shepherd of the Bay Lutheran Church
December 24, 2025 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:00pm

Welcome to worship this Christmas Eve! Tonight we tell what might be the most famous story of all time, the story of Jesus' birth. While it's a story that happened long ago, it is a story that gets relived in our presence this evening, and in our lives forever. It's the story of God coming among us to show us a love beyond our imagination. It's a love that gives us life now and life forever. It's a story that is not just for us, it's a story for all people.



Prelude to Christmas Eve

The Holly and the Ivy

Pastorale in F (BWV 590A)

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Weinachts Sonatina

Charlotte Bogda, violin, Judy Jackson, piano

Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her (BWV 700)

Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her (BWV 606)

Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her

Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow

James Honig, trumpet

Still, Still, Still

Randall Manges, organ and Judith Jackson, piano

arr. Herbert Sumsion (Oecomuse, 1989)

Johann Sebastian Bach

arr. Lloyd Larson Traditional French Melody

Carl Reinecke, arr. Hans Sitt

Johann Sebastian Bach

Johann Sebastian Bach

Friedrich Wilhelm Zachow

arr. Marianne Kim, (Lorenz Publishing Co. 2016)

arr. Paul Manz (Morning Star Music, 1987)

CHORAL INTROIT

Come and Sing the Christmas Story

Sanctuary Choir

trad. Welsh melody, arr. Allen Pote

(2007 Hope Publishing Company)

(Assembly responses in **bold**)

The assembly stands.

CALL TO WORSHIP

On this holy night, we come,
dazzled and awe-struck,
ready to sing alongside the angels.

On this holy night, we come,
eager and hopeful,
ready to journey alongside the shepherds.

On this holy night, we come,
quietly and tenderly,
ready to worship alongside Mary.

On this holy night, we come,
singing, trusting, believing, proclaiming:
good news is louder than fear.

Let us worship our good news, with-us God.

GATHERING HYMN

HYMN 283 O Come, All Ye Faithful

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.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of yesterday, today, and tomorrow,

we long to catch a glimpse of your Spirit.
We cup our ears to hear the sound of the angel chorus.
We turn our eyes toward the sky to see if we can find your star.
We lean forward in our seat to see if we can feel your presence in our midst.
We long to catch a glimpse of your Spirit, O God.
So on this quiet night,
on this holy night,
on this joyful night,
reveal yourself to us once more.
Speak to us through the music and the children.
Speak to us through starlight and candlelight.
Speak to us through these ancient words once again.
We long to catch a glimpse of you.
Amen.

The assembly is seated.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

...

P: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

CHOIR

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

Randall Manges, organ

VOM HIMMEL HOCH, arr. Robert Benson (2003 Augsburg Fortress)

SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14

...

P: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

The assembly stands.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Repeat alleluia

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20

C: Glory to you, O Lord

...

P: The Gospel of the Lord **C: Praise to you, O Christ**

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

The assembly stands.

HYMN OF THE DAY

HYMN 270

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

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 P
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. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Holy One,

tonight is a night for good news.

Tonight is a night for candles in the window and joyful music in the air.

Tonight is a night for family around the table, and children too excited to sleep.

Tonight is a night for Christmas caroling and storytelling.

Tonight is a night for good news.

And we are so grateful for that.

We are so grateful for the good-news moments you sprinkle throughout our days.

However, we also pray for those, both inside and outside this room, who struggle to hear the good news over the sound of their fear.

For despite the joy of this evening,

we are well aware that we live in a world with plenty of reasons to be afraid.

We are afraid of the divisions that rack our country.

We are afraid of messing up our relationships, or losing the ones we love.

We are afraid of climate change and of saying the wrong thing.

Add fears that resonate with your community or the week.

Everywhere we look, we have reasons to be afraid. And if we're honest, that fear can cling to us.

So tonight, with-us God, we ask for your presence among us.

So just like the shepherds on that first Christmas, may we hear the voice of angels.

May you fill our hearts with a holy hope.

And may we know, deep in our bones, that your good news is louder than fear.

And until the day when every reason to be afraid has been washed away, we ask that you would continue to inspire courage, conviction, and hope in us.

Point our hearts toward sources of joy.

Remind us of the good news of this night, and may we always hold onto some portion of the wonder, the mystery, and the joy found here.

With hope, we lift our voices together to pray in the name of Jesus, whose coming is sure.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Gesu bambino* Pietro A. Yon

Alicia Doudna, violin Judith Jackson, piano

The assembly stands

COMMUNION DIALOG

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,
 that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,
 almighty and merciful God, through our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ.
 In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened
 the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vis - ion of your glo - ry,
 that be - holding the God made vis - - i - ble,
 we may be drawn to love the God whom we can - not see.
 And so, with all the choirs of an - gels,
 with the church on earth and the hosts of heav - en,
 we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

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Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
 power and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, whom you sent in this end of the ages to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

He is your Word,

inseparable from you.

Through him you created all things,
and in him you take delight.

He is your Word,

sent from heaven to a virgin's womb.

He there took on our nature and our lot

and was shown forth as your Son,
born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary.

It is he, our Lord Jesus, who fulfilled all your will

and won for you a holy people;

he stretched out his hands in suffering

in order to free from suffering those who trust you.

It is he who, handed over to a death he freely accepted,
in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one,
to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous,
to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection,
taking bread and giving thanks to you, said:

Take and eat; this is my body, broken for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This is my blood poured out for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, then, his death and resurrection,

we lift this bread and cup before you,

giving you thanks that you have made us worthy

to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

And we ask you:

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your Church;

gather into one all who share this bread and wine;

fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth,

that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ.

Through him all glory and honor are yours,

Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,

in your holy Church both now and forever.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Friends, did you ever have a moment growing up when you walked into the school cafeteria, panned the faces in the crowd, and wondered if you were going to have a place to sit?

Did you ever have a moment, maybe as a new student or at the start of a new school year, when fear nibbled at the back of your mind because you weren't sure where you belonged?

I imagine, at some point or another, most of us have experienced that kind of fear. But here at this Table, you never have to wonder.

Here at this Table, there is enough room, enough food, enough love for everyone.

Here at this Table, Jesus is standing up on his chair, waving his hands over his head, saying to each of you, "I saved you a seat!"

Here at this Table, you are wanted and welcomed. You are safe and loved.

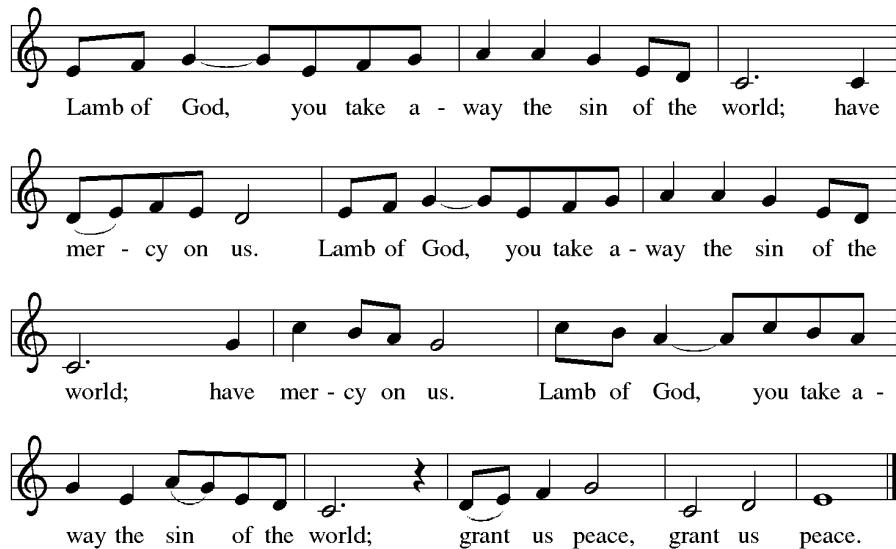
Here at this Table, you belong.

So my friends, there is no need for fear here, for this is a joyful feast.

And you are invited. Come. All are welcome.

About Communion: This is Christ's table and meal of grace! All are welcome! Ushers will guide you forward. Receive the bread (gluten free available); wine or white grape juice is received from a cup from the gold tray. If you have difficulty coming forward for the distribution, please let one of the ushers know and they will ask the pastor to bring you communion in the pew. Children may come forward for a blessing.

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

SPECIAL MUSIC. *Lo! How a Rose e'er Booming* from The Christmas Story, Op. 10, Hugo Disler

Marcia Eischen, Sharon Johnson, Sandy Reisenauer, Pat Skogsbakken, Sue Szabo, Cheryl Becht, Ruth Ann Hjelle, Mary Perdue, Scott Henry, Joe Meagan, John Skogsbakken, Erik Torkelson

HYMN 274 On Christmas Night

HYMN 289 Angels We Have Heard on High

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Loving God,
In a world racked with fear, you gather us together.
You set the table. You meet us here.
You nourish our bodies as you nourish our spirits.
You remind us that this is a joyful feast, and that fear cannot win every time.
So with renewed courage,
 with renewed hope,
 with renewed conviction,
 send us out into the world.
Help us to feed others as you have fed us.
With gratitude we pray.

Amen

CANDLE LIGHTING

HYMN 281 **Silent Night**

BENEDICTION

In a fearful world, may you look for God's spirit.
May you reach for each other's hands.
May you choose courage whenever you can.
And in all things, may you remember that good news is louder than fear.
In the name of the one who calls,
 the one who sends, and the one who journeys with—
go in peace and be not afraid.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

HYMN 267 **Joy to the World**

DISMISSAL

Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *In dulci jubilo* (BWV 729) Johann Sebastian Bach

Merry Christmas! We're so glad you are with us to hear the age-old story and to worship the newborn king with us. Whether you have been here for years or walked in for the first time today, whether you are young or old or somewhere in between, whether you are blue collar, white collar, pink collar or buffalo plaid collar, you are welcome here. We are a community that relishes God's rich love and grace and seeks to live as followers of Jesus in our lives and in our community. You are always welcome to join us.

Pr. Jim Honig

Please join us for weekly worship:
Sundays 9:30am Worship & Sunday school
10:30am coffee & fellowship

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