



Christmas Eve - December 24, 2020
4 PM Worship - Broadcast

Zion & Silver Creek Lutheran Churches
Thief River Falls, Minnesota

PRELUDE

GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP

“Christmas Amazing Grace”

Senior Choir

OPENING HYMN “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

1. Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn king;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.”
Joyful, all you nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts 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, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel! *Refrain.*

3. Hail the heav’n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light & 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.*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

C: 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 in the last 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, one God, now and forever. Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE “Angels We Have Heard on High”

1. Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo;
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav’nly song? *Refrain.*

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

FIRST READING Isaiah 9:2-7

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

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 among the nations
and God's wonders among 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.**
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 peoples with equity."**
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 coming, O LORD,
for you come to | judge the earth.**
¹³You will judge the | world with righteousness
and the peoples | with your truth.

SECOND READING Titus 2:11-14

¹¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.
The word of the Lord... Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL John 1:1-14

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

SONG “O Holy Night” Shawna Spears, Trista Spears, Laura Fay

SERMON Pastor Ale Tulu

SONG “O Come and See the Baby” Senior Choir

HYMN “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

1. O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

2. For Christ is born of Mary,
And, gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king,
And peace to all the earth!

3. How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming;
But, in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

4. O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
Oh, come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel!

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

HYMN "What Child Is This"

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary!

2. 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!

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Night of Silence"

Vocalists- Joel & Laura Rude

(as lights are dimmed, please turn on your candles)

HYMN "Silent Night, Holy Night!"

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

(Please turn off candles)

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN "Joy to the World"

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n 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 the curse is found.

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

POSTLUDE

OUR THANKS to those assisting in Christmas worship today at 4 PM:

Organ: Phyllis Dalager

Acolytes: Elizabeth Arett

Worship Assistant: Millie Reiersen

Reader: Madison Crane

Tech assistant: Edward Arett

Choir director: Laura Rude

Thank you to all those who contributed their musical gifts to our worship

CHRISTMAS EVE BROADCASTS are sponsored in memory of Ione Sparby by Wally Sparby.

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS FROM THE STAFF

Ministers: *Every Member of the Congregation*

Ale Tulu, *Associate Pastor* 681-1866 alezion@mncable.net

Madison Crane, *Youth & Family ministry* rzyouthfam@gmail.com

Linda Hamrick, *Office Manager* 681-3296 ziontrf@mncable.net

Sandy Knutson, *Parish Nurse* parishnurse21@hotmail.com

David Lee, Tiffany Sterry, *Custodians*

*As the Christ child was born into this world,
may the peace and joy of Christmas be born in you this holy season!*





POINSETTIAS *are shared by the following families:*

- ♦ In memory of Joe & Ginny Armstrong by *Ellison & Wayne families*
- ♦ In memory of Suzy Ellison by *Ellison family*
- ♦ In memory of Janice Henrickson by *Geno Henrickson & family*
- ♦ In memory of our beloved Laney Theodora Ricki Holtan from *Mommy, Daddy, Declan & Estee*
- ♦ In memory of Harold & Mary Dupree by *Ron & Ruth Ostby*
- ♦ In memory of Rudy Rude by *Helen Rude & family*
- ♦ In memory of Nicole Knutson, Elda & Clinton Knutson, Art & Lilah Christianson by *Rodney & Sandy Knutson*
- ♦ In memory of Laney Holtan by *Grandma Deb & Grandpa Dale*
- ♦ In memory of Lorae Johnson by *Ray & Kathy Wagner*
- ♦ In memory of Loved Ones by *Del & JoAnn Offerdahl*
- ♦ In memory of Alfred Hanson and Allen Cwikla by *Alvina Hanson, Pam Cwikla, and Jerod & Meg Kolden*
- ♦ Merry Christmas from *the Cornell family*
- ♦ In memory of Laurel & Ardith Schuster, Delwin W. & Joan Schob by *the Schob family*
- ♦ In memory of Ron Engen by *the Engen Family*
- ♦ In memory of Loved ones by *the Joppru Family*
- ♦ In memory of Loved ones by *the Bruggeman Family*
- ♦ In honor of our family and friends by *Amber Holtan, Pat, Tristan & Alex Hanson*
- ♦ In memory of Grandma & Grandpa Hed, and Grandpa Jim by *Devin, Shawna, Trista, Grant & Dana Spears*
- ♦ In memory of Our Angels now in heaven by *Mike & Becky Philipp family*
- ♦ In memory of Cody Lundgren by *Charles & Tami, Alex, Parker Lundgren and David & Karen Kirkeby*

Thank you for sharing poinsettias for our Christmas Worship.

GOSPEL MESSAGE

December 24, 2020

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD, CHRISTMAS EVE

To You This Day

Luke sets the stage for Jesus' birth by placing it within the royal history of the Roman Empire: "In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus" (Luke 2:1). Prior to this chapter, Luke tells us the story is also set in the days of King Herod. World history is often told as a story of powerful rulers and wealthy people. We frequently have the impression that these people are the ones who truly matter. Most of us do not see ourselves in the pages of history, common folks living ordinary lives.

Luke, however, is writing a very different kind of history in the gospel story. While the story is set in the times of particular kings and emperors, these powerful men aren't the focus of the story. Instead of sending out the royal birth announcement for the King of kings in a gold-embossed birth letter to Herod, Augustus, and other so-called important people, God first shares the news of the newborn Messiah and Savior with shepherds camped out for the night in lonely fields. Lowly Mary and humble Joseph hunker down in the back of a crowded house where the animals eat. Jesus, the royalty of God, is born into a world barely aware—except for a few nobodies who are invited to notice.

Along with the shepherds, you also are invited to notice. "You" is the operative word in the shepherds' story. "To you is born this day . . . a Savior" (Luke 2:11). In the story, "you" refers to shepherds, the last people one would expect to be the first to receive news of Jesus' birth. But today, in this divine night, in this sacred story, in this liturgy of the nativity, "you" is *you*. To *you* is born a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord. You are receiving the royal announcement because God brings good news to common folks living ordinary lives. This lovely, lonely night is for you because Christ is God's love for *you*.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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