



Christmas Eve - December 24, 2023
4 PM Worship

Zion Lutheran Church, ELCA, 505 Main Avenue North
Thief River Falls, Minnesota

Prelude Jubilate Campana
Call to Worship "There is a Rose" Senior Choir
Invocation

Gathering Song "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

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| 1 O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him,
born the king of angels:
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord! | 3 Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
in the highest:
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord! |
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L The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the son of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

L Let us pray.

C Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all we do; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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.

⁶**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.

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.

Word of God, Word of life. Thanks be to God.

Welcoming the Gospel: “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!

GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. To us is born a Savior.

Jesus Christ our Lord.

Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. To us is born a Savior.

Jesus Christ our Lord.

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 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. To us is born a Savior.

Jesus Christ our Lord.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. To us is born a Savior.

Jesus Christ our Lord.

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: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” To us is born a Savior.

Jesus Christ our Lord.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” To us is born a Savior.

Jesus Christ our Lord.

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.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. To us is born a Savior.

Jesus Christ our Lord.

When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. To us is born a Savior.

Jesus Christ our Lord.

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. To us is born a Savior.

Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Gospel of our Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

Children are invited to come forward during the hymn for the Children's Sermon.

Celebrating the Gospel: "I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve"

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| 1 I am so glad each Christmas Eve,
the night of Jesus' birth!
Then like the sun the star shone forth,
and angels sang on earth. | 3 I am so glad each Christmas Eve!
His praises then I sing;
he opens now for ev'ry child
the palace of the king. |
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Children's Sermon

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

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| 1. Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo;
Gloria in excelsis Deo. | 3. 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. |
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Sermon Pastor Kristin Ostercamp

The Offering is brought forward during the hymn. Thank you for all the ways you share the news of the Christ Child through gifts of your time, talent, and treasure.

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

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| 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!"
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!" | Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!
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! | 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.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!" |

L Let us pray for the whole people of God and for all people according to their needs.....For the increase of peace among the nations, let us pray to the Lord.

C Christ the Lord, bring peace on earth.

L For the spread of the joyful news that the Savior has come, let us pray to the Lord.

C Christ the Lord, bring joy to the world.

L For the poor and those who find no room, let us pray to the Lord.

C Christ the Lord, bring help to the poor.

L For the renewal of the whole church in unity, let us pray to the Lord.

C Christ the Lord, bring renewal to the church.

L For the light of Christmas to shine on us all, let us pray to the Lord.

C Christ the Lord, bring us the light of your truth.

Other petitions will be offered here.

L Rejoicing in your birth and trusting in your mercy, O Christ, Light of the world, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

While standing in silence and darkness, we turn on our candles. The light of the Christ shines in our lives bringing hope and peace in all the world.

Gospel of the Incarnation John 1: 1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Response to the Gospel of the Incarnation

L Arise, shine, for Your light has come,

C and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

L Jesus said, "I am the light of the world."

C Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

L And again Jesus said "Let your light shine before others."

C That they may see our good works and give glory to our Father in Heaven.

“Night of Silence”

Joel & Laura Rude; Andrew Helgeland, Violin; Missy Borgen, Piano

Hymn “Silent 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.

The Lord’s Prayer

L May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the Peace of the Christ Child be yours this Christmas; and the blessing of the Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

Please turn off the candles as the Hymn begins.

Sending 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.

Dismissal

Go into the world knowing Christ and making him known.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

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

Ushers: Dean & Pam Joppru

Organ: Marie Longo

Piano accompanists: Laura Rude, Missy Borgen

Reader: Shawna Spears

Acolytes: Kayla Peterson, Connor Hart

Special Music: Senior Choir: Laura Rude-director; Jubilate Campana: Missy Borgen, Director

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



*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:



- ◆ In memory of Harley Knutson, Vernon & Lillian Kees, Harold Kees, Jeremy Kees, & Jonelle DeFrang *by Vivian Knutson & family*
- ◆ In memory of Harold & Mary Dupree *by Ron & Ruth Ostby*
- ◆ In memory of Rick Ostby *by Ron & Ruth Ostby and Mike, Lisa, Ella & Lucy Heuer*
- ◆ In memory of Cody Lundgren *by David & Karen Kirkeby and Charles, Tami, Alex & Parker Lundgren*
- ◆ In memory of Lorae Johnson *by Lindsay Henrickson*
- ◆ In memory of Cliff & Jeanette Reiersen, Matt & Ethel Mickelson *by Dr. Craig & Marcy Mickelson*
- ◆ In memory of our brother, Marty Reiersen, *by Dr. Craig & Marcy Mickelson*
- ◆ In memory of our sons, Rodney & Ronald Leskiw *by Wanda & Gerald Schuster*
- ◆ In memory of our beloved Laney Theodora Ricki Holtan *from Mommy, Daddy, Declan, Estee, & Calla*
- ◆ In memory of Eileen Rhen *by Russell Rhen*
- ◆ In memory of Don Narverud & Susan Narverud *by Carol Narverud & family*
- ◆ In memory of Richard Melby *by Judy Melby & families*
- ◆ In memory of Shari Larson, Clarence Amiot, Bertil & Clara Bakke, Dennis Bakke, Jeanette Weber, and in honor of Vernice Nelson *by Betty Amiot*
- ◆ In memory of Brady Lee *by Thane & Kristi Mundell & family*
- ◆ In memory of Nicole Knutson, Elda & Clinton Knutson, Art & Lilah Christianson *by Rodney & Sandy Knutson*
- ◆ *In memory of Janine Kalsnes and Milt Burstad by Della Burstad.*
- ◆ In memory of Alvin & Nina Halvorson, Lynn & Evelyn Albaugh & Bruce Halbert *by Arvid, Evelyn, Aaron, Alissa, Hailee & Avyn Halvorson*
- ◆ In memory of Loved ones *by the Joppru Family*
- ◆ In memory of Loved ones *by the Bruggeman Family*
- ◆ In memory of Katherine Westbrook & Jean Scholar *by Sandy & Chad Fladeland*
- ◆ In memory of Laurel & Ardith Schuster, Delwin W. & Joan Schob *by the Schob family*
- ◆ In memory of Sheldon Nomeland, Bernard Picolet, and our grandparents *by Wayne, Jeri, Abbie & Alex Nomeland*
- ◆ In memory of Rudy Rude *by Helen Rude & family*
- ◆ In memory of Jerry Jenson and John Seaverson *by Ruby Jenson*
- ◆ In memory of Lloyd & Alice Seaverson *by family*
- ◆ In memory of David Morken *by his family*
- ◆ In memory of Shari Larson *by her family*
- ◆ In memory of our loved ones Gwen Hanson & Laney Holtan, *by the Hanson family*
- ◆ In memory of Grandma & Grandpa Hed & Grandpa Spears *by the Spears family*
- ◆ In memory of Janice Henrickson *by Geno Henrickson & family*
- ◆ In memory of Terry A. Olson *by LaDawn Olson & family*

*Thank you for sharing your poinsettias for Christmas!
Please pick them up by Sun. Dec. 31st.*