

GOD LOVES ME DEARLY

A Christmas Eve Service for Children and Adults
December 24, 2019 – 6:30 pm
St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lakewood, CO

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Pre-service Music

Violinists: Josh & Emily Ruegge; pianist: Suzannah Miller

Opening Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful
Lutheran Service Book #379 (sts.1-3)

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:
Refrain: O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Highest, most holy, Light from Light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;
Son of God the Father now in flesh appearing! (*Refrain*)

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above.
Glory to God, all Glory in the highest. (*Refrain*)

Pastor

Opening Greeting & Prayer

Song by the Choir & Children

God Loves Me Dearly
Lutheran Service Book #392

Choir & Children: God loves me dearly, grants me salvation,
God loves me dearly, loves even me.
Therefore I'll say again, God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly, loves even me.

Choir: I was in slavery, sin, death, and darkness;
God's love was working to make me free.
Children: Therefore I'll say again, God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly, loves even me.

Choir: He sent forth Jesus, my true Redeemer;
He sent forth Jesus and set me free.
Children: Therefore I'll say again, God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly, loves even me.

Choir: Jesus, my Savior, Himself did offer;
Jesus, my Savior, paid all I owed.
Children: Therefore I'll say again, God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly, loves even me.

**Choir &
Children**

**Now I will praise You, O Love Eternal;
Now I will praise You all my life long.
Therefore I'll say again, God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly, loves even me.**

† † †

PART 1 – GOD LOVES US DEARLY

Narrator (Josh): In His Word God tells us how dearly He loves us even though we sin against Him every day.

John: This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. (1 John 4:10)

Emily: For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)

Lucas: The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. (Psalm 103:8)

Benjamin: We love Him because He first loved us. (1 John 4:19)

Mary Anna: Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. (John 15:13)

John: The LORD appeared to us in the past, saying: "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness." (Jeremiah 31:3)

Song by the Children & Choir

Jesus Loves Me
Lutheran Service Book #588
& *Bells Are Ringing*

**Jesus loves me! This I know, For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong; They are weak, but He is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me.
Yes, Jesus loves me. The Bible tells me so.**

**Jesus loves me! He who died Heaven's gates to open wide.
He has washed away my sin, Let His little child come in.
Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me.
Yes, Jesus loves me. The Bible tells me so.**

**Bells are ringing. Children singing.
Jesus is born. Jesus is born.
Happy birthday, Jesus! Happy birthday, Jesus!
We love You! We love You!**

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!

Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The babe, the son of Mary!

A Responsive Reading (Old Testament reminders of God's unfailing love)

- P** In Your unfailing love You will lead the people You have redeemed. In Your strength You will guide them to Your holy dwelling. Exodus 15:13.
- C** **The LORD's unfailing love surrounds the man who trusts in Him. Psalm 32:10.**
- P** The eyes of the LORD are on those who fear Him, on those whose hope is in His unfailing love. Psalm 33:18.
- C** **How priceless is Your unfailing love! Both high and low among men find refuge in the shadow of Your wings. Psalm 36:7.**
- P** Satisfy us in the morning with Your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days. Psalm 90:14.
- C** **The LORD delights in those who fear Him, who put their hope in His unfailing love. Psalm 147:11.**
- P** Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet My unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor My covenant of peace be removed," says the LORD, who has compassion on you. Isaiah 54:10.
- C** **May Your unfailing love rest upon us, O LORD, even as we put our hope in You. Psalm 33:22.**

Pastor's Address

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PART 2 – WE WERE IN SLAVERY, SIN, DEATH, AND DARKNESS

Narrator: We know that by nature we deserve God’s punishment because we are all sinners, but Jesus came to earth as a little baby to take our punishment away and bring us peace. We were in the slavery of sin, but God in His love made a plan to set us free. Now the door to heaven is open.

Cong: Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law. Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us.” (Galatians 3:10,13)

Narrator: In the book of Romans, God’s Word reminds us that we all are sinners.

Emily: There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23)

Narrator: King David writes in the Psalms:

Lucas: Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. (Psalm 51:5)

Narrator: We have all sinned, but God sent His Son to wash our sins away. He sent an angel to give this birth announcement to Joseph, concerning Mary:

Mary Anna: “She will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.” (Matthew 1:21)

Narrator: John the Baptist points us to our Savior when he says:

Benjamin: “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29)

Carol by the Choir & Children

O Little Town of Bethlehem
Christian Worship #66 (sts.1,3);

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 darkness shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

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.

Praise God, the Lord, with shouts of joy
Before His highest throne;
Today He opens heav'n again
And gives us His own Son, And gives us His own Son.

He serves that I a lord may be –
A great exchange indeed!
Could Jesus' love do more for me
To help me in my need? To help me in my need?

For us He opens wide
The door of paradise today.
The angel guards the gate no more;
To God our thanks we pay! To God our thanks we pay!

† † †

PART 3 – HE SENT FORTH JESUS, OUR REDEEMER

Narrator: Right after Adam and Eve committed the first sin, God promised to send a Savior to defeat Satan. For 4,000 years God gave many promises about Jesus. Jesus would come to earth to bring freedom from the devil, the wicked world, and our sinful flesh; He would take away sin; He would give eternal life instead of eternal death in hell; He would be a shining light in the darkness.

Cong: **But to you who fear My name the Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings. (Malachi 4:2)**

Narrator: God spoke to Satan in the Garden of Eden and told him that Jesus would destroy him:

Emily: “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.” (Genesis 3:15)

Narrator: Isaiah prophesied that the Savior would bring light into the world:

Mary Anna: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. (Isaiah 9:2)

Lucas: The Gentiles shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. (Isaiah 60:3)

Narrator: As Isaiah prophesied, he gave beautiful names for our Savior-God:

John: For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)

Narrator: 700 years before the Lord fulfilled His promise, Isaiah prophesied that Jesus would be born of a virgin. The promised Savior's name would be Immanuel, which means "God with us":

Benjamin: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel. (Isaiah 7:14)

Congregational Anthem

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Lutheran Service Book #357 (st.1)

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

† † †

PART 4 – JESUS OFFERED HIMSELF FOR US

Narrator (Zach): When God knew the time was right, He sent His Son to keep all of His promises. Jesus lived a perfect life for us and paid all we owed because of our sin. We know through God's Word that "The wages of sin is death—but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 6:23)

Cong: When the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. (Galatians 4:4-5)

The Christmas Story, Part 1

Luke 2:1-7

Lucas: And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

Benjamin: And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

Carol by the Choir & Children

Away in a Manger
Lutheran Service Book #365

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed.
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

The Christmas Story, Part 2

Luke 2:8-14

Emily: And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

Mary Anna: And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

Carol by the Congregation

Hark, the Herald Angels Sing
Lutheran Service Book #380

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

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 th' incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

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PART 5 – WE PRAISE THE LORD

Narrator: Now we follow the shepherds as they hurry to Bethlehem to see what the angel had told them. They would then share what they had seen with others and praise the Lord for His amazing love.

The Christmas Story, Part 3

Luke 2:15-20

John: And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, "Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us." And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

Narrator: When we see all that the Lord has done for us we want to be like the shepherds and praise Him all our lives for His amazing, everlasting love. We thank Him as we obey and serve Him in our lives, as we use our mouths to praise Him with the angels and tell others what He has done, and as we bring Him our offerings.

Carol by the Congregation

O Holy Night
(see pages 11 & 12)

PART 6 – OFFERING, PRAYER, AND BLESSING

Christmas Eve Offering

Spoken Prayer by All: Let me be Yours forever,
O Christ-child sweet and dear;
Uphold me with Your mercy,
And keep me always near.
From You I gladly all receive,
And what is mine to You I give,
My heart, my soul, and all I own.
Let these be Yours alone. Amen.

P This evening we have joined our hearts and voices together in proclaiming the joyous news about how God kept His promise to save us sinners. He does indeed love us dearly. We know that He is our dear Father and we are His dear children. We can therefore approach Him with confidence as He has taught us:

C 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.

Blessing

Closing Hymn

Joy to the World
Lutheran Service Book #387 (sts.1,4)

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 . . .

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

Announcements

† † †

A warm welcome to all of our worship guests and a thank you for joining us in the celebration of the birth of our Savior. We hope that the Christmas Gospel presented this evening has been a blessing to you. Please join us again tomorrow morning for our Christmas Day worship service at 9:30 am. We also invite you to worship with us each Sunday at the same time. Best wishes for a blessed and happy Christmas!



PARTICIPANTS IN TONIGHT'S SERVICE


- ◆ Pastor – Thomas Schuetze
- ◆ Organist – Ruth Greening
- ◆ Pianist / Children's Choir Director – Suzannah Miller
- ◆ Violinists – Joshua Ruegge, Emily Ruegge
- ◆ Narrations and Recitations – Joshua Ruegge, Zachary Ruegge, John Sprengeler, Emily Ruegge, Mary Anna Sprengeler, Lucas Bernthal, Benjamin Bernthal

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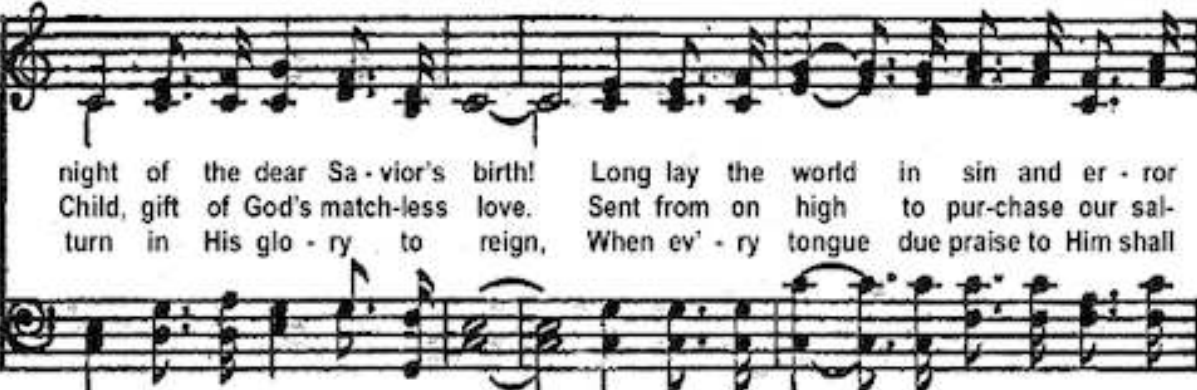
St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
2470 Wadsworth Blvd, Lakewood, CO 80214
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Member congregation of the
Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC)

O Holy Night



1. O ho - ly night! the stars are bright - ly shin - ing, It is the
2. With hum - ble hearts we bow in ad - or - a - tion Be - fore this
3. O day of joy, when in e - ter - nal splen - dor He shall re -



night of the dear Sa - vior's birth! Long lay the world in sin and er - ror
Child, gift of God's match - less love. Sent from on high to pur - chase our sal -
turn in His glo - ry to reign, When ev' - ry tongue due praise to Him shall



pin - ing Till He ap - peared, gift of in - fin - ite worth!
va - tion That we might dwell with Him ev - er a - bove.
ren - der, His pow'r and might to all na - tions pro - claim!



Be - hold the Babe in yon - der man - ger low - ly 'Tis
What grace un - told to leave the bliss of glo - ry And
A thrill of hope our long - ing hearts re - joic - es, For

God's own Son come down in hu - man form: Fall on your
 die for sin - ners guilt - y and for - lorn: Fall on your
 soon shall dawn that glad e - ter - nal morn: Fall on your

knees! Be - fore the Lord most ho - ly!
 knees! Re - peat the won - drous sto - ry! O
 knees! With joy lift up your voi - ces!

night di - vine — O night when Christ was born! O

night di - vine! O night, O night di - vine!