

A Child of Hope

A Service of Carols and Readings for Christmas Eve
for Children and Adults

Saturday, December 24, 2022 – 6:30 pm



**St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
Lakewood, CO**

Opening Hymn (Processional)

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 the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel! (*Refrain*)

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. (*Refrain*)

Call to Worship

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. To us a child is born:

C Come, let us worship Him.

P Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which will be to all people:

C For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

P The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us:

C Full of grace and truth.

P/C Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!

Prayer

Introduction (Pastor)

Part 1 – Why Do We Need a Child of Hope?

Narration

[Josh] Why do we need a Child of Hope? It is because we by nature we are lost, miserable sinners. God did not create us that way. When He created human beings, He made them in His own image, that is, *holy* and *righteous*, just as He is, as *perfect* children of God. When God made Adam and Eve He placed them in the Garden of Eden and gave them dominion over everything in creation. He gave them only one command: "Do not eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil." The Bible tells us what happened next in Genesis

chapter three:

Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden’?” And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, “You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.” Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

From man's perspective it may not seem that the sin of Adam and Eve was very great. All they did was take some bites of fruit picked from a tree! But their sin was serious in that they disobeyed God’s direct command. Up until that time, Adam and Eve were morally innocent. When they sinned, they became sinners by nature, and, because of their sin, death infected the human race. This is why we need a Child of Hope.

Children’s Song

I Am So Glad When Christmas Comes
Christian Worship #51 (1,2,5)

I am so glad when Christmas comes, The night of Jesus' birth,
When Beth'lem's star shone as the sun, And angels sang on earth.

The little child of Bethlehem, He was a king indeed!
For he came down from heav'n above To help a world in need.

And so I love each Christmas Eve, And I love Jesus, too;
And that he loves me ev'ry day I know so well is true.

Part 2 – God Promises the Child of Hope

Narration

[John] The sin of Adam and Eve changed everything. God gave them an idea of how their lives would change, telling them that from now on it would be difficult to make a living. Many sorrows and problems would come into their lives. Childbirth would be painful for mothers. Finally, at the end of their lives, they would die. But, would God leave them without hope? No! In the midst of all this sadness He gave to Adam and Eve – and to us – hope:

God told the devil: “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.

God repeated His promise to Abraham: “I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” Genesis 12:3.

To Jacob's son, Judah, God said: “The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh comes; and to Him shall be the obedience of the people.” Genesis 49:10.

God gave another promise to His people in the days of Moses: “I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near; a Star shall come out of Jacob; a Scepter shall rise out of Israel.” Numbers 24:17.

Choir Anthem

Hark the Glad Sound
Lutheran Service Book #349

Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes, The Savior promised long;
Let every heart prepare a throne And ev'ry voice a song.

He comes the prisoners to release, In Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before Him burst, The iron fetters yield.

He comes the broken heart to bind, The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of His grace To enrich the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, Thy welcome shall proclaim,
And heav'n's eternal arches ring With Thy beloved name.

Part 3 – God Repeats His Promise of a Child of Hope

Narration

[John] For hundreds and hundreds of years, people waited for the Child of Hope to be born. Along the way, God gave them many more prophecies to keep their hope alive. These prophecies appear in many places in the Old Testament. They tell us very specifically about the Savior whom God had first promised in the Garden of Eden.

The prophet Jeremiah wrote: “Behold, the days are coming,” says the LORD, that I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; a King shall reign and prosper, and execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell safely; now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.” Jeremiah 23:5-6.

God used more prophets to give His people additional details about the coming Savior, the Child of Hope:

[Jacob] Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel. Isaiah 7:14.

[Mary Anna] There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots. Isaiah 11:1.

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting.” Micah 5:2.

Congregational Hymn

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming
Lutheran Service Book #359 (1-3)

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming From tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming, As prophets long have sung.
It came, a flow'ret bright, Amid the cold of winter,
When half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, The rose I have in mind;
With Mary we behold it, The virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright, She bore to us a Savior,
When half spent was the night.

This flow'r, whose fragrance tender With sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor The darkness everywhere.
True man, yet very God, From sin and death He saves us,
And lightens ev'ry load.

Part 4 – The Child of Hope is Born

Narration

[Joe] Finally, when the time was right, the Child of Hope, Jesus, was born. The Apostle Paul writes in Galatians chapter four: "But 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." The Holy Spirit inspired the evangelist Luke to record for us the amazing story of Jesus' birth:

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 Judea, 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. 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. Luke 2:1-7.

Congregational Hymn

O Little Town of Bethlehem
Lutheran Service Book #361 (1,3-4)

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 given!
So God imparts to human hearts The blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming, But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still, The dear Christ enters in.

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!

Narration

The Christmas Story, Parts 2 & 3

[Jesse] 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 to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.” 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.”

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. Luke 2:8-20

Choir Anthem

Shepherd's Cradle Song
C.D. Schubert; Arr. H. Riemann

O sleep, my heav'n born Treasure, now, Sleep sound, O dearest Child;
While angel wings shall fan Your brow With breezes soft and mild.
We shepherds poor are here to sing A simple lullay to our King:
Lullaby, Lullaby, Sleep, sleep softly, lullaby!

See! Mary has, with mother's love, A bed for You outspread,
While Joseph stoops down from above And watches at Your head.
The lambs within the stall so nigh, That You may sleep, have hushed their cry.
Refrain

When You are grown, Your blood will be Poured out, mankind to save,
And men will nail You to the Tree And place You in the grave.
So sleep, my Baby, while You may To give You rest 'till that great day.
Refrain

Scripture Readings

[Sherman] 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 were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:1-5, 10-14.

Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure. 1 John 3:1-3.

Part 5 – The Child of Hope Gives Us Hope

Narration

[Zach] Yes, Jesus is the Child of Hope! God, in His great mercy, sent His only Son down to earth from heaven to live a perfect life in our place! He assures us that we have complete forgiveness for all our sins through faith in Jesus who died on the cross to atone for our sins. He assures us that we shall rise unto eternal life in heaven, just as Jesus rose from the dead on Easter morning. Our life on earth may be brief and filled with troubles, but Jesus gives us the

forgiveness of sins and the sure and certain hope of eternal life with Him in heaven!

[Jacob] 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.

[Mary Anna] Jesus said: "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die." John 11:25-26.

Children's Song

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.

Part 6 – Let Us Share the Child of Hope

Narration

[Zach] Has the Story of the wondrous Child of Hope come to an end? Tonight and tomorrow, many presents will be opened, used, and enjoyed. But, sooner or later, they will break or they will lose their charm. But God's gift of a Savior is not like worldly gifts. Jesus, our Child of Hope, brings us peace that lasts forever and calms all of our fears. This Gift of Love, Jesus, is not just for us. It is for all people of all times and all places. It is a gift God has given us to share with others, with family, friends, and everyone we meet.

Congregational Hymn

Joy to the World
Lutheran Service Book #387

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room And heaven and nature sing ...

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy ...

No more let sins and sorrows grow Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow Far as the curse is found ...

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

Christmas Eve Offering

Prayer / Lord's Prayer

Benediction

P May the God of Hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen!

Closing Hymn

Silent Night

Lutheran Service Book #363

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.

Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing, Alleluia.
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face, With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth. Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Announcements

+ +

Recitations

Jacob Cornish, Mary Anna Sprengeler

Narrations & Readings

Jesse Cornish, Joseph Cornish, Sherman Kettner,
Joshua Ruegge, Zachary Ruegge, John Sprengeler

Liturgist: Pastor Schuetze

Organist: Lisa Sprengeler

Children's Director: Suzannah Miller

Ushers: Bob Rankin, Wayne Ruegge

A Warm Welcome to our worship guests and a thank you for joining us in celebration of the birth of our Savior. We hope the Christmas Gospel presented this evening has been a blessing to you. Please join us again tomorrow for our Christmas Day worship service at 9:30 am. We also invite you to join us each Sunday for worship at the same time. The Lord grant you a blessed, happy, and healthy Christmas and New Year!

Children's Christmas Gift Bags will be distributed after the service to all the children who are here tonight. Enjoy!

Upcoming Services – The Twelve Days of Christmas begin tomorrow on the 25th. We will hold three services during this year's Christmas Season:

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|----------|--------|---------|----------------|
| Tomorrow | Dec 25 | 9:30 am | Christmas Day |
| Saturday | Dec 31 | 7:00 pm | New Year's Eve |
| Sunday | Jan 1 | 9:30 am | New Year's Day |



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Thomas Schuetze, pastor (303-428-5524)
Ed Chiappetti, president
Mike Sprengeler, Sunday School Superintendent

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