



Christmas Eve Worship 2023

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

A Christmas Eve Worship Service
Sunday, December 24, 2023 – 6:30 pm

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
Lakewood, CO

Welcome to this special evening service in which we commemorate the birth of Jesus, God's precious Christmas gift. It's good that you are able to come here tonight. God is pleased to listen to our hymns of praise and promises to bless us whenever we listen to His Word, that is, the Holy Bible. If you are a guest and have any questions about our church, we and our pastor are happy to help you. Please sign our Guest Book as a remembrance of your visit. The Lord grant you a blessed, happy, and healthy Christmas and New Year!

Order of Service

Processional Hymn

Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful
TLH 102 (1-2)

Oh, come, all ye faithful, triumphantly sing;
Come, see in the manger our Savior and King!
To Bethlehem hasten with joyful accord;
Oh, come, let us adore Him, Oh, come, let us adore Him,
Oh, come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

True Son of the Father, He comes from the skies;
To be born of a virgin He doth not despise.
To Bethlehem hasten with joyful accord;
Oh, come, let us adore Him, Oh, come, let us adore Him,
Oh, come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Welcome & Invocation

P Welcome to all in the name of Christ Jesus our Savior. We ask for the Spirit's blessing on our worship as we conduct this service in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Let us pray: Heavenly Father, of whose love the angels sang when Jesus was born in Bethlehem and through whom we have learned the song "Glory to God in the highest," accept our worship and hymns of joy. As we celebrate the coming of Your Son, grant that in Him we may learn to know Your love, to follow Him in obedience, and to offer ourselves to You in all things, that our lives may reflect His light and thus shine before others, that they might see our good deeds and praise Your holy name; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

Responsive Reading

P All praise to Thee, eternal God,
C **Who, clothed in garb of flesh and blood,**
P Dost take a manger for Thy throne,
C **While worlds on worlds are Thine alone.**
P A little Child, Thou art our Guest,
C **That weary ones in Thee may rest;**
P Forlorn and lowly is Thy birth,
C **That we may rise from heaven to earth.**
P All this for us Thy love has done;
C **By this to Thee our love is won;**
P For this our joyful songs we raise,
C **And shout our thanks in ceaseless praise.**

Pastor's Address

THE ANNOUNCEMENT

Scripture Reading – Luke 1:26-38

John

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God."

And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

Congregational Hymn

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come
LSB 358 (1-2)

From heav’n above to earth I come To bear good news to ev’ry home:
Glad tidings of great joy I bring, Whereof I now will say and sing.

“To you this night is born a child, Of Mary, chosen virgin mild;
This little child, of lowly birth, Shall be the joy of all the earth.

THE BIRTH

Scripture Reading – Luke 2:1-7 [KJV]

Jesse

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.

Song by the Children & Choir

Away in a Manger
(Children, sts.1-2, Children & Choir, st.3)

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.

Choir Anthem

To Us a Child of Hope is Born

TLH 106 (4-6)

To us a Child of hope is born, To us a Son is given
And on His shoulder ever rests, All power in earth and heaven.

His name shall be the Prince of Peace, The everlasting Lord,
The Wonderful, the Counselor, The God by all adored.

His righteous government and power, Shall over all extend;
On judgment and on justice based, His reign shall have no end.

Children's Recitation

Mary Anna & Jacob

Coming down from heaven above, Jesus came to us in love.
God Himself became a child, Mary's baby, sweet and mild.

Congregational Hymn

Of the Father's Love Begotten

LSB 384 (1-2)

Of the Father's love begotten Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending He,
Of the things that are, that have been, And that future years shall see
Evermore and evermore.

Oh, that birth forever blessed, When the virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, Bore the Savior of our race,
And the babe, the world's Redeemer, First revealed His sacred face
Evermore, and evermore.

THE ANGELS

Scripture Reading – Luke 2:8-13 [KJV] & Psalm 98

Joshua

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."

Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him. The LORD has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations. He has remembered his steadfast

love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises! Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody! With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD! Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who dwell in it! Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills sing for joy together before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

Congregational Hymn

Angels We Have Heard on High
LSB 368

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.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be, Which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

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.

Recitation

Mary Anna

Angels filled the sky with light, Singing out into the night;
God has sent His Son for all, Find Him in a cattle stall.

How glad we'll be to find it so! Then with the shepherds let us go
To see what God for us has done, In sending us His own dear Son.

Choir Song (in small groups)

From Heaven Above
LSB 358 (4,7,8,11,12)

He will on you the gifts bestow Prepared by God for all below,
That in His kingdom, bright and fair, You may with us His glory share.

Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes, And see what in the manger lies.
Who is this child, so young and fair? It is the Christ Child lying there.

Welcome to earth, O noble Guest, Through whom the sinful world is blest!
You came to share my misery That You might share Your joy with Me.

Instead of soft and silken stuff You have but hay and straw so rough,
On which as King, so rich and great, To be enthroned in royal state.

And so it pleases You to see This simple truth revealed to me:
That all the world's wealth, honor, might, Are weak and worthless in Your sight.

THE SHEPHERDS

Scripture Reading – Luke 2:14-20 [KJV]

Joe

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.

Congregational Hymn

To Shepherds As They Watched by Night

TLH 103 (1-2)

To shepherds as they watched by night Appeared a host of angels bright;
Behold the tender babe, they said, In yonder lowly manger laid.

To Bethlehem, in David's town, As Micah did of old make known;
'Tis Jesus Christ, your Lord and King, Who doth to all salvation bring.

Recitation

Jacob

The shepherds marveled at the Word,
Their minds were shocked, their hearts were stirred.
They ran to see this wonder new; The Savior born for me and you.

And when they saw the promised Lord, Their joy and adoration soared.
They spread the news both far and wide Across the quiet countryside.

Congregational Hymn

From Heaven Above

LSB 358 (5,9,10)

These are the signs that you shall mark: The swaddling clothes and manger dark.
There you will find the infant laid By whom the heav'ns and earth were made.

Ah, Lord, though You created all, How weak You are, so poor and small,
That You chose choose to lay Your head Where lowly cattle lately fed!

Were earth a thousand times as fair And set with gold and jewels rare,
It would be far too poor and small A cradle for the Lord of all.

Reading (Pastor)

From heaven above, our Lord came down To wear for us a thorny crown.
He died to save us from our sin, He rose again, our life to win!

The angels came, great news to tell, The shepherds saw Immanuel.
Now we can share the truth we know As messengers wherever we go.

From heaven above, the angels sing. On earth below, our praises bring.
Our Lord has come, with us to dwell. Now we go out, Good News to tell!

Choir Carol

O Little Town of Bethlehem

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.

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;
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord, Immanuel!

Scripture Reading – Philippians 2:5-8 & John 1:1-14

Zachary

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

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 was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, 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 have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Congregational Carol

Joy to the World
LSB 387

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 ...

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

Altar Prayer & Lord's Prayer

The Benediction

Closing Hymn

From Heaven Above
LSB 358 (13-15)

Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child, Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
A quiet chamber set apart For You to dwell within my heart.

My heart for very joy must leap; My lips no more can silence keep.
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue, That sweetest, ancient cradle song:

Glory to God in highest heav'n, Who unto us His Son has giv'n!
While angels sing with pious mirth A glad new year to all the earth.

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Service Participants

Children: Jacob Cornish, Grade 2
Mary Anna Sprengeler, Grade 5

Narrators: Jesse Cornish Zachary Ruegge
Joseph Cornish John Sprengeler
Joshua Ruegge

Organist: Lisa Sprengeler

Liturgist: Pastor Schuetze

Choir: Lisa Chiappetti Carroll Rankin
Sharlene Chiappetti Pastor Schuetze
Jesse Cornish John Sprengeler
Shelly Cornish Lisa Sprengeler
Carly Mess Mike Sprengeler

Violinists: Emily Ruegge
Joshua Ruegge
Lisa Sprengeler



*Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise
to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence
with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him
with songs of praise!*

Psalm 98:4-6



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

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

Tomorrow	Dec 25	9:30 am	Christmas Day
Sunday	Dec 31	9:30 am	New Year's Eve



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