A detailed illustration of the Nativity scene. Mary is seated in the center, holding the infant Jesus in a manger. Joseph stands to the left, holding a glowing candle. Three wise men kneel in front of the manger, offering gifts. A shepherd stands to the right, holding a staff. A donkey and an ox are visible in the background. The scene is set in a stable with a dark, rocky entrance. The sky is dark blue with stars.

HIS NAME  
SHALL BE  
CALLED

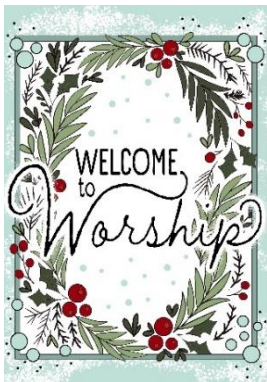
*Christmas Eve*

Candlelight Service

# FAITH and ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCHES

## Christmas Eve 2024 Candlelight Service

4:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.



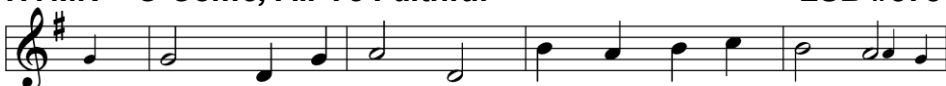
**WELCOME VISITORS:** We extend a warm welcome to all our visitors today. We pray that your worship with us is rewarding.

Please be sure to sign your name and address in our guest register, located in the narthex. If you are looking for a church home we would like to invite you to be a part of our Bible Based Church family.

### RINGING OF THE BELLS

#### HYMN "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

LSB #379



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,



come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le - hem;  
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!



Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:  
Glo - ry to God — In — the — high - est:

*Refrain*



O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,



O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

## INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen!**

Pastor: Unto Us A Child Is Born! Unto to us a Son is Given!

**People: He is Christ The Lord!**

Pastor: Come let us Adore Him!

**People: Christ Our Savior Is Born!**

## HYMN "O Little Town of Bethlehem" LSB #361



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!  
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is giv'n!



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;  
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of His heav'n.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.  
No ear may hear His com - ing; But in this world of sin,



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.  
Where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.

Text and tune: Public domain

Pastor: No ear may hear His coming,

**People: but in this world of sin,**

Pastor: Where meek souls will receive Him still,

**People: The dear Christ enters in.**

## THE CONFESSION OF SINS

**P:** On this holy night, we gather as the shepherds did on the night that Christ was born, in both silent awe and joyous praise of our great God, the Maker of heaven and earth. As we consider the birth of our Savior, we recognize our great need for Him. We confess before God and one another that we are by our very nature sinful and unclean. We examine our lives according to the perfect Law of God, and recognize

our many failings against God and one another. Indeed, we sin and we all fall short of the glory of God. In humble adoration, we bow before Jesus, the sinless Lamb of God, who was sent to be our substitute, sacrifice, and the atonement for all our sins, as well as the sins of the whole world. Let us silently and privately confess our sins unto God our Savior.

*A moment for silent and private confession  
and personal reflection*

**C** **God, forgive me, a sinner...**  
(singing)

4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.  
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;  
O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text and tune: Public domain

## THE ABSOLUTION

**P** Upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto you. And in the stead and by the command of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Rejoice! Because of the wonders of His love, God, through His Son Jesus Christ, has paid the full price for all your sins. Your sins are entirely forgiven and washed away by Christ's sacrifice on Calvary. By grace, through faith in Jesus Christ, God gives you the greatest gift of eternal life.

**C** Amen! Precious Jesus, You were conceived for me. You were born in a manger for me. You grew up for me. You suffered and endured so much for me. You died for me, even on a cross. You overcame sin, death, and the devil for me. Thank You for Your great sacrifice. Thank You for Your great love for me. Thank You for the greatest gift of the forgiveness of all my sins and the gift of eternal life. There is now no condemnation for me. Because You, Almighty God, remember my sins no more. Now dear Lord Jesus Christ, Savior and Friend, please work so mightily in me to produce real fruit in keeping with real and daily repentance. Amen!

**HYMN OF RESPONSE “Joy to the World”**

**LSB #387**



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her  
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -  
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him  
 ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
 ground; He comes to make His bless - ings



room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture  
 plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing  
 flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
 joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, Far as, far as the curse is found.

Text and tune: Public domain

**THE COLLECT PRAYER**

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And with you, His servant.
- P** Let us pray.
- C** Almighty God, in our joyful remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, grant us to

receive Him so faithfully as our Redeemer, that we may with sure confidence behold Him when He shall come to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen!

✧ GOD SPEAKS TO US THROUGH HIS HOLY WORD ✧

- P** “I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways.”
- C** “I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.” *Psalm 119:15-16*

**THE OLD TESTAMENT**

*Isaiah 9:2-7* **ESV**

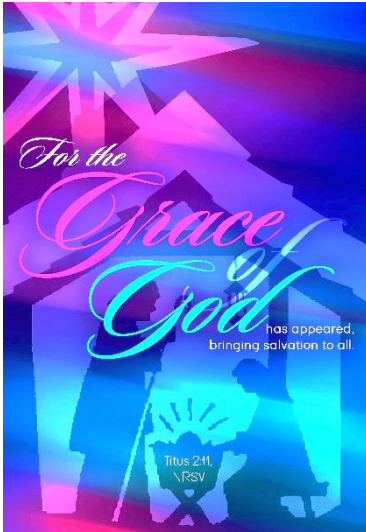
<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. <sup>3</sup> You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. <sup>4</sup> For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. <sup>5</sup> For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle

tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup> Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.



- P** “And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it, not as the word of men,
- C** “**but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe.**”  
*(1 Thess. 2:13)*

## MUSICAL OFFERING



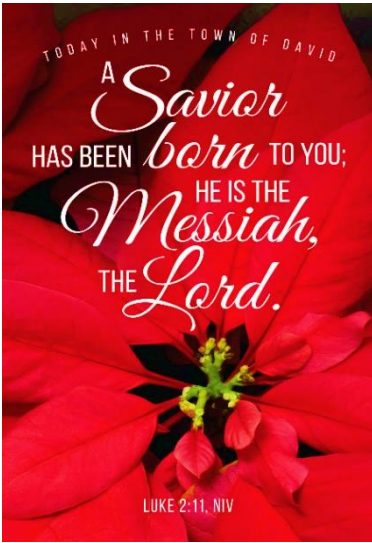
### **EPISTLE LESSON *Titus 2:11-14* ESV**

<sup>11</sup> For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, <sup>12</sup> training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, <sup>13</sup> waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup> who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

### **THE HOLY GOSPEL**

### ***Luke 2:8-20* KJV**

<sup>8</sup> And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. <sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, <sup>14</sup> Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup> And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup> And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. <sup>19</sup> But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

- P** “a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, “Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts at which you nursed!”
- C** “**But he said, “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!”** (Luke 11:28)

Unto Us  
a Child is Born





**SERMON HYMN “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” LSB #380**



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new - born King;  
2 Christ, by high - est heav’n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
3 Hail, the heav’n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!”  
Late in time be-hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir-gin’s womb.  
Light and life to all He brings, Ris’n with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see, Hail the in-car - nate De - i - ty!  
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the an-gel - ic host pro-claim, “Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!”  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!  
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec-ond birth.



Hark! The her-ald an-gels sing, “Glo-ry to the new-born King!”

Text and tune: Public domain

**✠ SERMON ✠**

**✠ AS THE WISEMEN DID, SO TOO WE BRING OUR  
FINEST TREASURES TO THE SON OF GOD ✠**

**✠ PRAYER OF THE CHURCH ✠**

**✠ 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.**

## ✧ LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES ✧

*The Pastor will pass the flame from the Christ Candle to the ushers, who will distribute it down the center aisle to the congregation. Pass the flame to the person next to you, tipping only the unlit candles.*

*Service will continue when all candles have been lit.*

## ✧ CHRISTMAS HYMN MEDLEY ✧

### ***“It Came upon the Midnight Clear”***

**LSB #366**



1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, That glo-rious song of old,



From an-gels bend-ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold:



“Peace on the earth, good-will to all, From heav’n’s all-gra-cious king.”



The world in sol-emn still-ness lay To hear the an-gels sing.

Text and tune: Public domain

### ***“Away in a Manger”***

**LSB #364**



1 A-way in a man-ger, no crib for a bed,  
3 Be near me, Lord Je-sus; I ask Thee to stay



The lit-tle Lord Je-sus laid down His sweet head.  
Close by - me for-ev-er and love me, I pray.

The stars in the sky — looked down where He lay,  
 Bless all the dear chil - dren in Thy ten - der care,  
 The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
 And take us to heav - en to live with Thee there.

Text and tune: Public domain

**“Angels We Have Heard on High”**

**LSB #368**

1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;

And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
 Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

*Refrain*

Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -

- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text and tune: Public domain



## "The First Noël"

1. The first No - el the an - gel did say was to  
cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay, in fields where  
they lay keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's night that  
was so deep. No - el, No - el, No - el, No -  
-el, born is the King of Is - ra - el.

The musical score for "The First Noël" is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is simple and consists of a single line of music. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

## "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen"

1. God rest ye mer - ry, gen - tle - men, let noth - ing you dis - may; Re -  
-mem - ber Christ our Sav - iour was born on Christ - mas Day, To  
save us all from Sa - tan's pow'r when we were gone a - stray. O  
ti - dings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and  
joy, O ti - dings of com - fort and joy.

The musical score for "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is a single line of music. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

## **“What Child Is This”**

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is  
sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While  
shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is  
Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "What Child Is This". It consists of five staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. The melody is simple and suitable for children's voices. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables across lines. The score ends with a double bar line.

Text and tune: Public domain

## **“O Holy Night”**

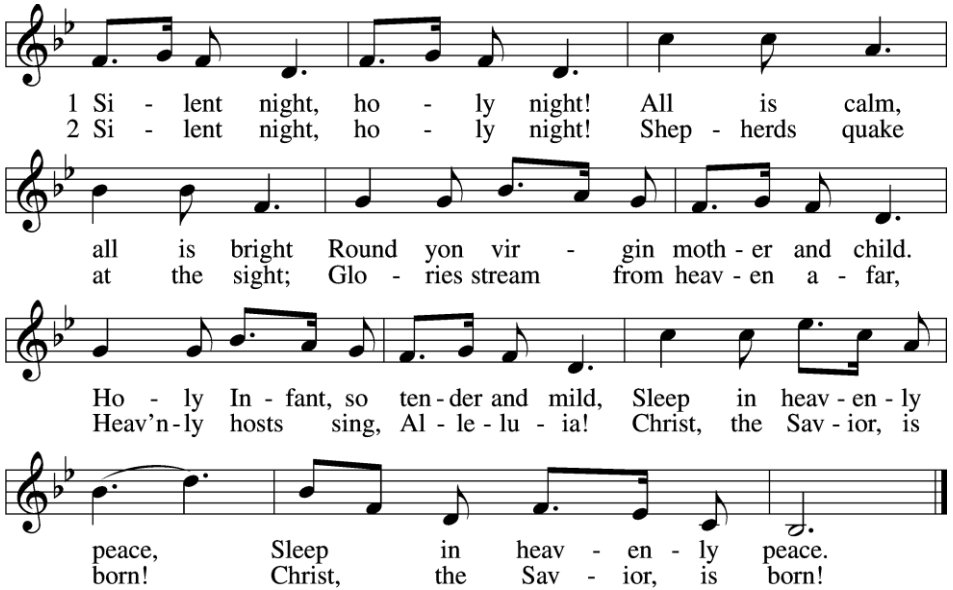
**O holy night, the stars are brightly shining,  
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth;  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining  
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn;  
Fall on your knees, Oh, hear the angel voices!  
O night ivine, O night when Christ was born!  
O night divine, O night, O night divine!**



# “Silent Night, Holy Night”

LSB #363

(Choir sings opening selection in German)



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,  
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake  
all is bright Round you vir - gin moth - er and child.  
at the sight; Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,  
Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, Sleep in heav - en - ly  
Heav'n - ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is  
peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!

Text and tune: Public domain

(Please continue to hum the tune  
of Silent Night while the Benediction is given.)

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.

**C** (singing)

**“Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!”**

**P** Go forth in peace and serve the Lord!

**C** Amen!

## “We Wish You a Merry Christmas”

Congregation Sings:

**We wish you a Merry Christmas,  
We wish you a Merry Christmas,  
We wish you a Merry Christmas,  
And a Happy New Year!**

**Good tidings we bring to you and your kin;  
Good tidings for Christmas, and a blessed New Year.**

**We wish you a Merry Christmas,  
We wish you a Merry Christmas,  
We wish you a Merry Christmas,  
And a Happy New Year!**

*Candles may now be extinguished.  
We ask that you please keep your candle upright  
to avoid dripping wax on the floor or yourself.  
Ushers will dismiss the congregation by row.*



**Special thanks to all who supported the  
Poinsettia Fund** to help decorate the sanctuary  
and narthex for the Advent and Christmas season.

- † In memory of Bruce Hein from Carol Hein
- † In memory of Otto & Selma Porath from Mark Porath
- † In memory of Danna Koebe from James Koebe
- † In memory of Lloyd & Doris Grueneberg and Leonard & Lavine Woller from the Leon Bartelt family
- † In memory of Earl & Ruth Zuelsdorff and Ron & Marlene Zuelsdorff from Ed & Connie Stiver
- † In memory of Timothy Pagel from Gene & Karen Pagel
- † In memory of Bruce & Judy Schield from Matt & Sarah Thomas
- † In memory of Louise Fox from Gerhard & Sally Hannemann
- † In memory of Cindy Salzman and LeRoy & JoAnn Sense from Sherrie White
- † In memory of LuAnn Ruhbusch from Rev. William Ruhbusch
- † In memory of James Schlueter from Judy Schlueter
- † Gift from Chris & Deb Stogbauer
- † Gift from Barry & Cindy Krenz
- † Gift from an anonymous person

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup>And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup>to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup>And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths and laid Him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup>And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. <sup>10</sup>And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!"

<sup>15</sup>When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup>And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup>And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup>And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

LUKE 2:1-20

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