

The Lutheran Church of the Savior
A Community of Faith: *Centered in Christ – Called to Serve*



Christmas Eve Worship

December 24, 2022 7:00 PM

The Lutheran Church of the Savior

426 Davis Road - Bedford, MA 01730

church@lcsavior.org

781-275-6013

<https://www.lcsavior.org>

Introit

Psalm 24:1, 3-5; antiphon: Psalm 2:7

I will tell of the decree:

The LORD said to me, "You are my Son;
today I have begotten you."

The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof,
the world and those who dwell therein.

Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?

And who shall stand in his holy place?

He who has clean hands and a pure heart,

who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear
deceitfully.

He will receive blessing from the LORD

and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

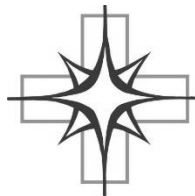
and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

I will tell of the decree:

The LORD said to me, "You are my Son;
today I have begotten you."



Christmas Eve Worship 2022 – 7:00 PM

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P In the still of the night, when all was dark and silent,

C the **Light of the world was born in Bethlehem.**

P To us a Child is born!

C **To us a Son is given!**

P The government will rest on his shoulders and he will be called...

C **Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace!** *Isaiah 9:6*

O Come, All Ye Faithful

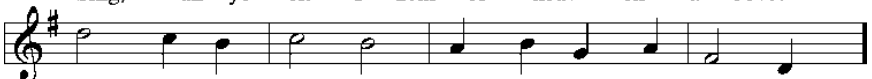
LSB 379 sts. 1–3



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,



come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le - hem;
Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!



Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
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!

Confession of our sins

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. *1 John 1:8*

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

1 John 1:9

P The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. *John 1:9*

C **He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.** *John 1:11*

Silence for personal confession and reflection

P Merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean.

C **We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

P We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves.

C **We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.**

P Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

LSB 361 sts. 1, 4



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!
4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;
Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to-night.
O come to us, a-bide with us, Our Lord Im-man-u-el!

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Absolution

P The angel proclaimed, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy!" *Luke 2:10* That Good News is yours again this night, as the Lord has indeed descended to us, has heard your confession, and now casts out your sin... Almighty God in His mercy has sent His Son to die for you, and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Christmas Eve Prayer

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Service of the Word

The Creation

Genesis 1:1–3, 26–28a, 31—2:3

¹In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ²The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

³And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

²⁶Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

²⁷So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

²⁸And God blessed them.

³¹And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

¹Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. ²And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done.

³So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

Angels from the Realms of Glory

LSB 367 sts. 1, 5



1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er
5 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,



all the earth; Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
Spir - it, Son, Ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing



Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth.
To the e - ter - nal Three in One.



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship;



Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

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The Fall and the Promise

Genesis 3:8–15

⁸And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." ¹¹He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹²The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." ¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

¹⁴The LORD God said to the serpent,

"Because you have done this,
cursed are you above all livestock
and above all beasts of the field;
on your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.

¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel."

The Prophecy

Isaiah 9:2–7

²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shined.

³You 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.

⁴For 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.

⁵For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For 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.

⁷Of 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.

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

LSB 359 sts. 1-2

1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing From ten - der stem hath
2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, The rose I have in
sprung! Of Jcs - sc's lin - cage com - ing As proph - cts long have
mind; With Mar - y we be - hold it, The vir - gin moth - er
sung. It came, a flow - 'ret bright. A - mid the
kind. To show God's love a - right, She bore to
cold of win - ter, When half - spent was the night.
us a Sav - ior, When half - spent was the night.

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The Birth of Jesus Foretold

Luke 1:26–38

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He 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, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵And 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. ³⁶And 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. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸And 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.

My Soul Rejoices

LSB 933

~ Women sing verse one ~ Men sing verse two



1 My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es— Sing the
 2 His arm now bar - ing, His strength de - clar - ing— Sing the



great - ness of the Lord! For God my Sav - ior Has shown me
 great - ness of the Lord! The proud He scat - ters, Their rule He



fa - vor— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! With praise and
 shat - ters— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! Op - pres - sion

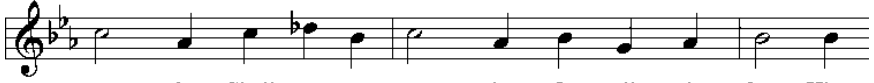
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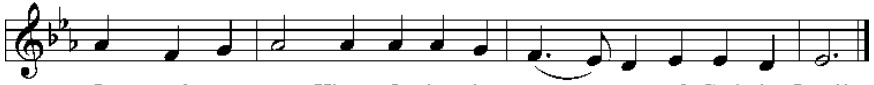
bles-sing, Join in con-fess-ing God, who is sole-ly Might-y and
halt-ed; The meek ex-alt-ed. Full are the hun-gry; Emp-ty, the



ho-ly— O sing the great-ness of God the Lord! His mer-cy
wealth-y— O sing the great-ness of God the Lord! Here is the



sure-ly Shall rest se-cure-ly On all who fear Him,
to-ken All that was spo-ken To A-br'ham's off-spring



Love and re-vere Him— O sing the great-ness of God the Lord!
God is ful-fill-ing— O sing the great-ness of God the Lord!

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The Prophecy Fulfilled

Luke 2:1–7

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And 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, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And 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.



What Child Is This

LSB 370 sts. 1–2

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is
2 Why lies He in such mean es-tate Where ox and ass are
sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While
feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The
shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is
si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall
Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar-y!
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar-y!

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The Announcement of the Good News

Luke 2:8–14

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰And 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. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

The Response of the Shepherds

Luke 2:15–20

¹⁵When 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.” ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Apostles' Creed

**☩ I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ☩ everlasting. Amen.**



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!"

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Sermon



Prayer of the Church

☐ The virgin has conceived and born a Son, Emmanuel has come. God is with us. As we celebrate the Nativity of our Lord, let us bring to Him our prayers for this, our church family, and for everyone in need.

P Let us pray for our lives of faith.
Lord Jesus, because of Your birth, we people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Fill us with joy this holy night as we celebrate that Your nativity, passion, and resurrection have lifted from us the burden of sin and broken the rod of Satan, our oppressor. Renew each of us in our baptismal faith so that we may love one another with the love You have shown to us. Send us Your Holy Spirit so that we renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives as we wait for Your return. To us a Child is born, to us a Son is given:

C Emmanuel, hear our prayer.

P Let us pray for children, mothers, fathers, and families.
Dearest Lord, You made Yourself part of an earthly family when You arrived to redeem us. Bless us all as we live as your children – single and married alike. Be with mothers and fathers as they care for their children. Comfort those who desire children but have none. Give to all fathers the willingness that You gave to Joseph to provide for their families, to protect them, and to teach them the Good News of great joy that is for all people. Give to mothers a caring heart like that of Mary. Watch over every expectant mother, and give protection to the unborn. To us a Child is born, to us a Son is given:

C Emmanuel, hear our prayer.

P Let us pray for those who travel.
Almighty Father, You protected Joseph and Mary as they traveled before Your Son's birth. Send Your angels now to watch over those who journey during this sacred season. Keep them safe, provide for all their needs, and grant them joyous homecomings. To us a Child is born, to us a Son is given:

C Emmanuel, hear our prayer.

P Let us pray for those who work to protect us.
Merciful Father, protect those who protect us, especially those who must work on this holy night. Guard our police officers, firefighters, paramedics, doctors, nurses, and all emergency workers. Be with the members of our military, especially those who are spending Christmas apart from their families. Strengthen each of them for their tasks, and give them joy in knowing that as they serve us they are serving You. To us a Child is born, to us a Son is given:

C Emmanuel, hear our prayer.

P Let us pray for those who need healing and help.
Gracious Lord, You came to save all people from their sins. Spare us also from the effects of our sins. Restore the health of all who are sick, injured, suffering, or recovering [*especially ...*]. Be with those who have suffered loss, those who are lonely at Christmas or who feel like no one cares. Give us an awareness of their need and a willingness to help. Assure them of Your love and mercy, and give to them a confident trust that You are always with them. To us a Child is born, to us a Son is given:

C Emmanuel, hear our prayer.

P Let us pray for those who live without faith in Christ.
Lord Jesus, as the shepherds spread the word concerning what had been told them about You, overcome our fears and open our mouths to all, telling them how You came and gave Yourself to redeem us from our sins, and to make a place for all with You. Give godly fervor and pure teaching to missionaries, chaplains, pastors, deaconesses, and all church workers as they proclaim Your Good News. Send Your Holy Spirit to bring unbelievers to repentance and faith, so that they, too, may rejoice in Your saving work. To us a Child is born, to us a Son is given:

C Emmanuel, hear our prayer.

P Celebrating Your Nativity, we commend ourselves and all those for whom we pray into Your gracious hands; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.**

*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 divine! O night when Christ was born.
O night divine! O night, O night divine.*

*Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming,
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.
So, led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
Here came the wise men from the Orient land.
The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger,
In all our trials born to be our friend.
He knows our need, to our weakness no stranger.
Behold your King! Before the lowly bend!
Behold your King! Your King! Before Him bend!*

*Truly He taught us to love one another,
His law is love and His gospel is Peace.
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother,
And in His name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
Let all within us praise His Holy name.
Christ is the Lord, then ever, ever praise we,
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim,
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim.*

The Light of the World Has Come

- P** On that first Christmas, when the angels appeared to the shepherds,
- C** **the glory of the Lord shone all around them.**
- P** When Christ was born, the glory of the Lord was revealed to all the world.
- C** **On this Christmas Eve, the glory of the Lord is all around us.**
- P** We see his glory, in the words of Holy Scripture that illuminate our lives.

The Scripture Reading

John 1:1-5, 14

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

¹⁴And 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.

Silent Night, Holy Night

LSB 363 sts. 1-3



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright Round yon
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep-herds quake at the sight; Glo - ries
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light Ra - diant



vir - gin moth-er and child. Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild,
stream from heav-en a - far, Heav'n-ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
beams from Thy ho - ly face With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,



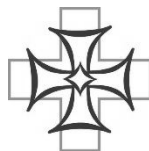
Sleep in heav - en - ly peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

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Benediction

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

G Amen.



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