



Christmas Eve
Concordia Lutheran Church
Sunday, December 24, 2023
Candlelight Service 4:00 pm



Christmas Eve

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Prelude

"Away in a Manger"

Opening Hymn

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"

Maroon Hymnal # 384

Psalm of the Day

P: When all was still, and it was midnight,

C: your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the royal throne.

P: Sing to the Lord a new song;

C: sing to the Lord, all the earth.

P: Sing to the Lord, praise his name;

C: proclaim his salvation day after day.

P: Declare his glory among the nations,

C: his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

P: For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;

C: he is to be feared above all gods.

P: Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;

C: let the sea be glad, and all that is in it;

P: Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them.

C: then the trees of the forest will sing for joy.

**ALL: 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**

P: When all was still, and it was midnight,

C: **your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the royal throne.**

The Salutation and Collect

P: The Lord be with you

C: **And with your spirit.**

P: Let us pray: O Lord, because you once caused this holy day to shine with the brightness of the true Light, grant that we who have known the mystery of that Light here on earth may come to the full measure of its joys in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

The First Reading - *The Curse and Promise in Eden*

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" The man said, "The woman you put here with me — she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." So, the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

Genesis 3:8-15

Hymn

"Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"

**Maroon Hymnal # 347
verses 1 & 2**

The Second Reading - *The Promise Given to Abraham*

When they reached the place God had told him, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son." Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided." The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time and said, "I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."

Genesis 22:9-18

Hymn

"Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"

**Maroon Hymnal # 347
verses 3 & 4**

The Third Reading- *The Child to Be Born the Prince of Peace*

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. You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as men rejoice when dividing the plunder. For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their

shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

Isaiah 9:2-7

Hymn

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

**Maroon Hymnal # 359
verses 1 & 2**

The Fourth Reading - *Bethlehem as the Birthplace of the Messiah*

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times. Therefore, Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor gives birth and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. And he will be their peace.

Micah 5:2-5a

Hymn

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

**Maroon Hymnal # 361
verses 1 & 4**

The Fifth Reading - *The Annunciation of the Birth of Jesus to Mary*

In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might

be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end." "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God." "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

Luke 1:26-38

Hymn *"The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came"* **Maroon Hymnal # 356**

The Sixth Reading - *The Holy Birth of Jesus in Bethlehem*

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Luke 2:1-7

Hymn *"What Child is This?"* **Maroon Hymnal # 370**

The Seventh Reading - *Angels Announce the Birth of the Messiah*

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to

them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Luke 2:8-20

Hymn

"Angels From the Realms of Glory"

**Maroon Hymnal # 369
verses 1, 2 & 5**

The Eighth Reading - *The Word of God Was Made Flesh*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Lord was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God — children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his

glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John testifies concerning him. He cries out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'" From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known.

John 1:1-18

Hymn *"O Come All Ye Faithful"*

Maroon Hymnal # 379
verses 1 & 2

A Devotional Reading

The Responsory

P: "Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord, "when I will raise up for David a righteous branch,

C: **and he shall reign as king and deal wisely,
and shall execute judgment and righteousness in the land".**

P: And this is the name by which he shall be called:

C: **the Lord is our righteousness.**

P: In those days Judah will be saved,

C: **and Israel will dwell securely.**

P: And this is the name by which he shall be called:

C: **the Lord is our righteousness.**

ALL: **Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.**

P: And this is the name by which he shall be called:

C: **the Lord is our righteousness.**

P: We wait for thy loving kindness, O Lord.

C: **In the midst of your temple.**

The Offering

Voluntary *"O Holy Night / Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring"*

Emily, Grace & Karina Giannotta

Prayers of the Church

The Lighting of the Candles

Pastor Sorensen will light a candle from the Christ Candle, as a symbol that Jesus is the light of the world. He will then light the candles of the ushers, who will pass down the center aisle, lighting the candles of those closest to the aisle. Please remember to tilt the unlit candle. When all candles are lit, we will sing Silent Night.

Hymn

"Silent Night"

Maroon Hymnal # 363

Ukulele : Jennifer Bjorklund

The Benediction

Postlude

"Angels We Have Heard on High"