

Thursday, December 24, 2020

Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Eve



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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TUNE YOUR RADIO TO: 88.1 FM

PARKING LOT PROTOCOLS

- Please Stay in your vehicle until we gather for the candlelight singing of Silent Night in front of the Fellowship Hall windows
- Please adhere to the 6-foot Social Distance rule and wear Masks when outside of your cars.
- There will be no public access to bathrooms

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Thursday, December 24, 2019

4:00pm

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ENTRANCE HYMN: "Oh, Come All Ye Faithful"

[Muske Family]

Oh, come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him born the king of angels:

Refrain

Oh, come, let us adore him, oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God in the highest: *Refrain*

Ye Lord we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus to thee be glory given.

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing. *Refrain*

CHRISTMAS DIALOG

Jesus Christ is the Light of the world!

He is the Light no darkness can overcome.

At darkest night we gather to celebrate the great light of our salvation.

With the heavenly host we sing, "Glory to God in the highest heaven."

In Christ, God's Word is made flesh and lives among us.

With the shepherds, we will tell of the wonders we have seen and heard.

HYMN "Angels We Have Heard on High" *[John Koziol & Praise Band]*

1. Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song? *Refrain*
3. Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king. *Refrain*

GREETING and PRAYER

May the grace and truth of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

(A brief silence)

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading: Psalm 96

¹O sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

²Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.

³Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples.

⁴For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be revered above all gods.

⁵For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the LORD made the heavens.

⁶Honor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

⁷Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

⁸Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts.

⁹Worship the LORD in holy splendor; tremble before him, all the earth.

¹⁰Say among the nations, "The LORD is king! The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved. He will judge the peoples with equity."

¹¹Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; ¹²let the field exult, and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy ¹³before the LORD; for he is coming, for he is

coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with his truth.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God

HYMN: “Go, Tell It on the Mountain” *[Muske Family]*

Refrain

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev’rywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching o’er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. ***Refrain***

The shepherds feared and trembled, when lo above the earth,
Rang out the angel chorus, that hailed our savior’s birth. ***Refrain***

Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. ***Refrain***

Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth 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 heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God

HYMN: “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

[Muske Family]

Oh, 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 shine in everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary and gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts, the glorious love of heav'n.
No one deserves God's coming; but, in this world of sin,
where yearning souls long to be whole, 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!

SERMON

The Prayers

Wonderful Counselor, increase our joy as the church gathers on this holy

night to sing of our dear Savior's birth. May the story of salvation live in the hearts of all who sing of its wonders. God of grace,

Hear our prayer.

Mighty God, you have broken the yoke of sin's burden through the birth of your Son. Comfort those whose burdens distract them from the deeper peace of this holy night and grant them a restful mind. God of peace,

Hear our prayer.

Everlasting Father, uphold all who are in sorrow or need of your divine goodness and mercy (*especially*). We remember with thanksgiving all who have died and who now rest in your peaceful light. God of love,

Hear our prayer.

Gracious God, bathe us always in the light of your Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

You may now exit your car and gather in front of the Fellowship Hall windows. Please wear a mask and social distance. You may bring a candle or flashlight. There will be a limited supply of battery-operated candles available. You may also remain in your car and listen to the music.

[Terry Bird "Silent Night" intro]

Hymn of Light: "Silent Night, Holy Night!" *[John Koziol & Praise Band]*

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, heav'nly 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 your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

The candles are extinguished. Return to your cars.

Distribution of Communion

Please wait until the Pastor invites us all to commune together.

Words of Institution

Holy God,

Creator of all and Source of life, at the birth of time your word brought light into the world. In the fullness of time, you sent your Word, born of Mary, to shine in our darkness and to make us your daughters and sons.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his birth and life among us, his death and resurrection, we await his coming again when all things will be restored in him.

By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup, that, held and nourished by you, we may live as your children, shining with the light of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Invitation to Communion

The Word is revealed in a manger, in simple bread and wine.
Come meet Christ in this meal.

You may now share in bread and wine.

BLESSING

May the Lord God, who has called you out of darkness to be servants of light, grant you the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, and the peace of the Christ Child. In the name of Almighty God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

DEPARTURE HYMN: "Joy to the World" [John Koziol & Praise Band]

All- Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive its King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing.

Women- Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy.

Men- No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found.

All- He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love.

*There will be a container to return the candles and
dispose of your trash when you leave.*

**BLESSINGS TO EVERYONE ON THIS WONDERFUL
CHRISTMAS EVE. GO PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS —
CHRIST THE SAVIOR IS BORN!!**



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