

**Tuesday, December 24, 2024**

**Christmas Eve**



**BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO**

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**Pastor Sarah Stadler**

**St. John's Lutheran Church of Cedarbrook  
Aitkin, MN**

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Darlene Christensen 320-279-0097

Church Secretary: Mary Braun

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

***MISSION STATEMENT***

*We will LIVE and SERVE through FAITH*

*we will ACT with LOVE and KINDNESS*

*we will GIVE hope and SUPPORT to all.*

# CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Sunday, December 24, 2024 - 3:00pm

## CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION

### WELCOME

Merry Christmas!

Merry Christmas!

### GATHERING CAROL: "O Come, All Ye Faithful" #283 ELW



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



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!  
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!



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:  
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

*Refrain*



Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,  
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.  
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

### GREETING

The grace of Jesus, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

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 Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

(Please be seated)

## FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.

<sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

<sup>4</sup>For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

<sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup>For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup>His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Word of God. Word of Life ~ **Thanks be to God**

## PSALM: Psalm 96

*(read responsively)*

<sup>1</sup> Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

<sup>2</sup> **Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.**

<sup>3</sup> Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples.

<sup>4</sup> **For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be revered above all gods.**

<sup>5</sup> For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the LORD made the heavens.

<sup>6</sup> **Honor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his**

**sanctuary.**

<sup>7</sup> Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

**<sup>8</sup>Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts.**

<sup>9</sup> Worship the LORD in holy splendor; tremble before him, all the earth.

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

<sup>11</sup> Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

**<sup>12</sup>let the field exult, and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy**

<sup>13</sup> before 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.

(Please stand for the Gospel)

**Gospel: Luke 2:1-14**

**Glory to you, O Lord**

<sup>1</sup> In those days Caesar Augustus declared that everyone throughout the empire should be enrolled in the tax lists. <sup>2</sup> This first enrollment occurred when Quirinius governed Syria. <sup>3</sup> Everyone went to their own cities to be enrolled. <sup>4</sup> Since Joseph belonged to David's house and family line, he went up from the city of Nazareth in Galilee to David's city, called Bethlehem, in Judea. <sup>5</sup> He went to be enrolled together with Mary, who was promised to him in marriage and who was pregnant. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. <sup>7</sup> She gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped him snugly, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guestroom. <sup>8</sup> Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. <sup>9</sup> The Lord's angel stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were absolutely terrified. <sup>10</sup> The angel said, "Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people. <sup>11</sup> Your savior is born today in David's city. He is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This is a sign for you: you will find a newborn baby wrapped snugly and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> Suddenly a great assembly of the heavenly forces was with the angel praising God. They said, <sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors."


**The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ**

**CAROL:**

**“On Christmas Night”**

**#274 ELW**

*(verse 1)*



1 On Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing to hear the news the  
an - gels bring. On Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing to  
hear the news the an - gels bring: news of great joy, news of great  
mirth, news of our mer - ci - ful king's birth.

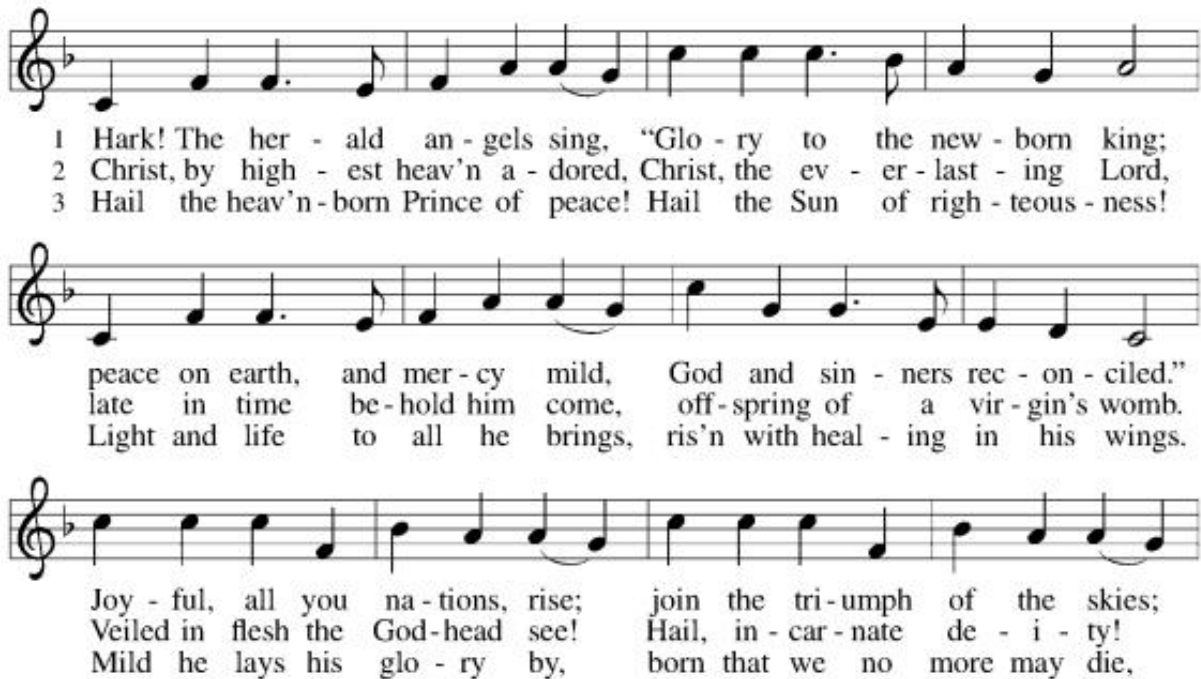
**FAITH IN MOTION**

**SERMON**

**HYMN Of The DAY:**

**“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”**

**#270 ELW**



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 you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!  
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
 Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!  
 born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



*Refrain*  
 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Gracious God, you come from heaven above into the midst of our world.

**Fill our hearts with the joy of the angels at your birth.**

You come from heaven above to the lowliest of human conditions.

**Send us to all those in need, those who are sick, hungry, and grieving, to be your hands and feet.**

You come from heaven above to walk the way of the cross.

**Guide us to follow your path of forgiveness, grace, and peace.**

You come from heaven above to become flesh and live among us.

**May we see your glory, full of grace and truth. Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Please be seated for the passing of the offering plate  
 (hymn will be sung during the passing of the plate)*

## OFFERING CAROL: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" #279 ELW

*(verses 1 & 4)*

1 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.

4 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!

**OFFERING** - *Please stand as the ushers bring the offering to the altar.*

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

God of abundance,

**receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.**

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

## **INVITATION to COMMUNION**

A child has been born for us, a Son given to us. Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

## **DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**Communion Hymns:**      *(sung during distribution)*

**“What Child is This”**

**#296 ELW**



- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?
- 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
- 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?  
Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;  
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir-gin sings her lul-la-by;



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!  
 joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar-y!

**“I’m So Glad Each Christmas Eve” #271 ELW (verses 1,2,4,5)**



*Jeg er så glad hver ju-le-kveld, ti da blev Je-sus født;*  
 1 I am so glad each Christ-mas Eve, the night of Je-sus' birth!  
 2 The lit-tle child in Beth-le-hem, he was a king in-deed!  
 3 He dwells a-gain in heav-en's realm, the Son of God to-day;  
 4 I am so glad each Christ-mas Eve! His prais-es then I sing;  
 5 And so I love each Christ-mas Eve, and I love Je-sus too;



*da lys-te stjer-nen som en sol, og eng-ler sang så sødt.*  
 Then like the sun the star shone forth, and an-gels sang on earth.  
 For he came down from heav'n a-bove to help a world in need.  
 and still he loves his lit-tle ones and hears them when they pray.  
 he o-pens now for ev-'ry child the pal-ace of the king.  
 and that he loves me ev-'ry day I know so well is true.

**THE TABLE BLESSING**

May the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in God's grace.

**Amen.**

**COMMUNION PRAYER**

*Merciful God,*

**we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy. Amen.**



# LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

## John 1:1-14

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

*(Pastor gives light to the ushers; they in turn give light to the first worshipper in each pew, who passes it on. The lighted candle is never tilted but is always held upright when giving light to another. Please extinguish your candle when you see the Pastor extinguish hers.)*

**HYMN:**                    "*Silent Night*" (sung while lighting candles)                    **#281 ELW**



	Stil - le	Nacht,	hei - li - ge	Nacht!	Al - les	schläft,	
1	Si - lent	night,	ho - ly	night!	All	is	calm,
2	Si - lent	night,	ho - ly	night!	Shep - herds	quake	
3	Si - lent	night,	ho - ly	night!	Son	of	God,



	ein - sam	wacht	nur	das	trau - te,	hoch - hei - li - ge	Paar.		
	all	is	bright	round	yon	vir - gin	moth - er	and	child.
	at	the	sight;	glo - ries	stream	from	heav - en	a - far,	
	love's	pure	light	ra - diant	beams	from	your	ho - ly	face,



Hold - er Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher  
 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  
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your



Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.  
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

**BLESSING**

May we be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, and the everlasting peace of Jesus now and forever.

**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN**

**"Joy To The World"**

**#267 ELW**



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



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  
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



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.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is born!

Thanks be to God.

*It has been great having you join us for worship!*

*Please come again.*

## **SERVING THIS NIGHT**

Greeters: Larry & Carol Pantsari

Ushers: Chuck & Elsa Carlson

Lector: Karen Carron

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>: 9:00 am   xx  

Online:   xx



## POINSETTIA Donations



<u>Name</u>	<u>In Memory/Honor of</u>
Char & Roy Berg	Parents
Maynard & Kathy Berland	Berland Family
Judie Birk	Family
Libby Brown	Family
Chuck & Elsa Carlson	Parents
Lee & Barb Forrester	Family
Dennis Hennessy & Julie Swaggert	Family
Del & Dianne Jones	Jack Spetz
Darrell Kelly	Family
Carolyn Morris	Jerry
Dorothy Mundinger	Loved Ones
Pr. James Muske	Family
Wayne & Janice Olson	Family & Friends
Darlene Ryan	Joe Ryan
Jenny Schuett	Loved Ones
Gary & Brenda Sjerven	Dad's who've passed
Penny Sjoquist	Family
Dick & Sue Stebbins	Loved Ones
Dave & Joanne Stueven	Family
Sylvia Tapelt	Sister
Bev Wedig	Al, Jen & Travis

*Thank you to those who have made donations for the beautiful flowers to decorate our sanctuary!*