

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Larimore, ND
December 24, 2023

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: Who shall come, in the fullness of time, to gladden our hearts again?

ASSEMBLY: Who shall bring new joy to the world, and the poor and lonely defend?

LEADER: Who shall come on a cold winter's night, when the world is hushed and still?

ASSEMBLY: Only the silent stars keep watch, as a promise is fulfilled.

LEADER: Jesus, as a Child, newly born – He shall come to a stable rough with sod.

ASSEMBLY: 'Tis Jesus the Christ, Prince of Peace, the blessed Son of God!

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“Jesus said, ‘I am the light of the world...Whoever follows me will have the light of life and will never walk in darkness.’” (John 8:12)

Leader: What does each candle symbolize?

All: The first candle reminds us of the *promise* of the prophets that a Messiah would come. The second candle reminds us of *waiting* for the Messiah. The third candle reminds us that Christ is the *Prince of Peace*. The fourth candle reminds us of the *hope* we find in Christ.

LIGHT THE ADVENT CANDLE SONG

(we will sing this together)

- 1.) Light the Advent candle one, Now the waiting has begun, We have started on our way, Time to think of Christmas day.**
- 2.) Light the Advent candle two, Think of humble shepherd who Filled with wonder at the sight Of the star on Christmas night.**
- 3.) Light the Advent candle three, Think of heav'nly harmony, Angels singing "Peace on earth," At the blessed Saviour's birth.**
- 4.) Light the Advent candle four, Think of joy forevermore, Christ child in a stable born, Gift of love that Christmas morn.**

**Candle, candle burning bright, Shining in the cold winter night.
Candle, candle burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.**

GATHERING HYMN

Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful

1.) 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!

2.) 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*

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

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray. 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.

READING

ISAIAH 9:2-7

in the future he will honor Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan—² The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

³ You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder. ⁴ 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. ⁵ Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. ⁶ For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the greatness 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.

HYMN

O Little Town of Bethlehem

- 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.
- 2.) 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
men on earth!
- 3.) 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!

READING

TITUS 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to All people. ¹² It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

HYMN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1.) Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King! Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled." Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies; With angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem."

Refrain: Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!

2.) Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the son of righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings. Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die, Born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth. *Refrain*

READING

LUKE 2:1-7

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. ² (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) ³ And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. ⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) ⁵ To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. ⁶ And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. ⁷ And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

HYMN

Away in a Manger

1.) Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head; The stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

2.) The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes, But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes. I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky And stay by my cradle til morning is nigh.

READING

LUKE 2:8-20

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

HYMN

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

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

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

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

HOMILY/SERMON

THE CHRIST CANDLE

Leader: Why do we light a fifth candle?

All: The fifth candle shows that the waiting is over. Jesus Christ, the Messiah, has been born!

Tonight, we light the Christ candle, honoring the birth of God's Son, who is the light of the world. He came to shine that light in our lives, and through our lives, that darkness everywhere may be dispelled.

The first chapter of John's gospel reminds us that *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word 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 overcome it."*

LIGHT THE ADVENT CANDLE SONG

**5.) Light the Christmas candle now, At His crib we humbly bow,
Birthday candle(s) for the King, Let the alleluias ring.**

**Candle, candle burning bright, Shining in the cold winter night.
Candle, candle burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.**

HIGH FESTIVAL COMMUNION & OFFERING

Before we begin: If you have offering, please make sure to bring it up with you when the ushers dismiss your pew

At the birth of our Savior, shepherds lifted their eyes to a vision of angels, eastern star-watchers saw signs in the heavens, new parents raised their faces in praise for a child born in a stable. I invite us all to also lift our eyes, our hearts, our faces, and our voices, as we give thanks for the birth of Jesus and anticipate His coming again; and, may this feast become, for us, a true communion with one another and with Christ our Savior!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

On the night in which He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus, took bread, and when He had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples saying, *Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.* In the same way, after supper, He took the cup and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, *Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins; do this, as often as you shall drink it, in remembrance of me.*

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 debts, As we forgive our debtors; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, Forever and Ever. AMEN.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMNS

Christmas Carols will be played—please feel free to sing along on the first verse

SOLO

“O Holy Night”

Kevin Nelson

—Candles will be lit—

PRAYER

O Christ, as we hold our candles, we ask that You would So dwell within us, that we may go forth, with the light Of hope in our eyes, the fire of inspiration on our lips, Your Word on our tongues, and Your love, always, in Our hearts. Amen.

HYMN

Silent Night

1.) 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.

2.) Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight; Glories stream from heaven afar, heave'nly hosts sing, Alleluia! Christ, the Savior is born! Christ, the Savior is born!

3.) 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.

BLESSING

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience Of Joseph, the joy Of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. **AMEN.**

--Candles are extinguished--

SENDING HYMN

Joy to the World

- 1.) 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.
- 2.) Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains – repeat the sounding joy.
- 3.) 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.
- 4.) He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness – and wonders of his love.

DISMISSAL

LEADER: Christ is born! A Savior for the whole world.

ALL: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men!

Please drop off your candles at the back of the church as you leave

Poinsettias around the church

In Memory of: Harry Godsey
Given by: Tarah, Aaron, Corey,
Meredith, Brandon, Eric, Emily,
& Rachel

In Honor of: Mary Godsey
Given by: Evelyn, Adelaide,
Ruston, Vivianne, Julian, Lucelia,
Bode, Haddie, & Chase

In Honor of: Angie Berger
Given by: Shane, Shannon,
Morgan, Nathan, Lindsey,
Meredith, Brandon, & Eric

In Memory of: Don & Ardell
Meland
Given by: Terry & Susie Petsinger
Family

In Memory of: Our loved ones who
came before us
Given by: Robert & Camilla Stover
& Roberta Stover

In Memory of: Walter & Francis
Amundson
and Howard & Louise Struble
Given by: Amundsons and Normans

In Memory of: Lawrence & Darleen
Vansek
Gus & Dorothy Lightfoot, and Ron
Norman
Given by: Normans

In Memory of: Grandpa Albert
Given by: Luke & Meg

In Memory of: Albert Tuma
Given by: Joe & Lori Reinhold

In Memory of: Ivan & Hilda Knudson
Given by: Wayne & Sandra Knudson

In Memory of: Harold & Arlena
Heinrich
Given by: Wayne & Sandra Knudson

In Memory of: Thomas Matthew
Rankin
Given by: Gary & Sue Rankin

