

# Christmas Eve Worship

Wednesday, December 24, 2025  
4:00 p.m.

First Lutheran Church  
Pastor Bryan Anderson



## We Prepare for the Christmas Story

**Opening Hymn** (*congregation stands*)

“Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful” (No. 45)

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*

## **Responsive Reading**

P: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light,

C: **those who lived in a land of darkness, on them light has shined.**

P: For a child has been born to us, a son given to us, authority rests upon his shoulders,

C: **and he is named Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

P: What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

C: **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.**

P: And there will be no more night, they need no light of lamp or sun,

C: **for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.**

P: Jesus said, “I am the light of the world.”

C: **The Lord is my light and my salvation!**

## **Prayer** (*in unison*)

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that  
we might faithfully walk in the light of Jesus and on the last day awake to the brightness of his glory.  
We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who came at Bethlehem and who is now and  
forever the Light of the world. Amen (*congregation is seated*)

## **We Hear the Christmas Story**

### **Mary and Joseph Register at Bethlehem    Luke 2:1-5**

#### **Hymn “O Little Town of Bethlehem”    (No.41)**

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.

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

### **Jesus is Born and Laid in a Manger    Luke 2:6-7**

#### **Hymn “Away in a Manger”    (No. 67)**

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.

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 till morning is nigh.

### **Angels Bring Good News    Luke 2:8-14**

#### **Hymn “Hark the Herald Angels Sing” (No. 60)**

Hark the herald angels sing, glory to the new born king,  
peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.  
Joyful all you nations rise, join the triumph of the skies,  
with angelic hosts proclaim, Christ is born in Bethlehem.

Refrain: Hark the herald angels sing, glory to the newborn king!

Christ by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin’s womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, hail incarnate deity,  
pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel. *Refrain*

Hail the heaven 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*

### **The Shepherds See the Child    Luke 2:15-16**

## Hymn “What Child Is This” (No. 40)

What child is this, who laid to rest, on Mary’s lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet, with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this, is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing,  
haste, haste, to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

## The Shepherds Tell the Good News      Luke 2:17-20

### Christmas Message

### We Respond to the Christmas Story

#### **Great Thanksgiving** (*congregation stands*)

P: The Lord be with you. (*spoken*)

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

P: It is indeed right that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, Holy Father, through Christ our Lord. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new vision of your glory. As we behold the God made flesh, may we be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and sing:

#### “Good Christian Friends Rejoice.” (No. 55)

Good Christian friends rejoice, with heart and soul and voice, now ye hear of endless bliss,  
Jesus Christ was born for this! He has opened heaven’s door, and we are blest forevermore.  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

### Words of Institution

#### **Lord’s Prayer** (*in unison*)

**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** (*be seated*)

### Communion

(*All who are baptized and believe that Jesus Christ is present in this meal for forgiveness may commune.*)

#### **Blessing** (*congregation stands*)

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: **Amen**

### We Share the Brightness of the One Who is Light of the World

P: In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. And God said, “Let there be light!”

C: **Jesus Christ is the light of the world, the light no darkness can overcome.**

P: It was foretold, "A star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel."

C: **Jesus Christ is the light of the world, the light no darkness can overcome.**

P: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light, those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them the light has shined.

C: **Jesus Christ is the light of the world, the light no darkness can overcome.**

### **Lighting of the Candles**

*(The ushers will light the candles of those who are along the aisles. Please then carefully light your neighbor's candle down the pew. Lit candles should be kept upright as the flame is passed. When all the candles are lighted and the lights turned down we sing.)*

### **Candle Hymn**

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, heavenly 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.

*(Please extinguish your candle as the lights return.)*

### **Benediction**

P: May the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, beam forth in your hearts, illumine your minds, and shine brightly in your serving hands, through the one who is the Light of the World!

C: **Amen! Glory to God in the highest!**

### **Closing Hymn "Joy to the World" (No. 39)**

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive its king, let every heart, prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

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

### **Dismissal**

P: Go in joy, celebrate the birth of Jesus!

C: **Thanks be to God!**



You are invited to use our QR code for online giving.

Offering is also received in the plates at the entrance to the sanctuary.

**A very Merry Christmas to all!** We give thanks for all who join in worship this afternoon especially guests.

**Poinsettias** may be taken home by those who purchased such in honor or memory of loved ones after the Christmas Day Service tomorrow.