

# Christmas Eve Worship

December 24, 2024

5:30 pm

## Prelude

## Welcome

Good Evening and Merry Christmas everyone. Tonight, we gather as family and neighbors to celebrate once again our Lord's birth on this Holy Night. We gather together and hear the familiar story knowing that Jesus is also named Emmanuel. Tonight, as the Emmanuel God, we ponder who Jesus is and what God has done for us through him. We hear this story through Word and Song and come together as we celebrate his Holy Sacrament. Tonight, we give thanks as we declare our Call to Worship.

## Announcements

### Call to Worship and Confessional

P: After counting the weeks of Advent, we have come to our Christmas Eve Worship.

**C: 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. (Isaiah 9:2)**

P: The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. (John 1:9)

**C: And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)**

We begin in the name of the Father, our Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**  
Gathered in the name of Jesus, let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor.

**Gracious God, in Christ Jesus you come among us as a light shining in the darkness. We confess our failure to welcome this light. Forgive us and renew our hope, so that we may live in the light of your grace, and welcome the truth of your love in your Son, whose birth we celebrate this holy night. Amen.**

I bring you good news of great joy for all the people: To you is born a Savior, Christ the Lord. Your sins are forgiven in the name of † Jesus. **Amen.**

## Opening Hymn      ELW #267      "Joy to the World"

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king; let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n 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, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, 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, far as the curse is found far as, far as 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, and wonders of his love, and wonder, wonders of his love.**

*(copyright: Public Domain, One-License #M-402357)*

## **Apostolic Greeting**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

## **Hymn of Praise: ELW #289 "Angels We Have Heard on High"**

*(vss. 1&3)*

- (1) **Angels we have heard on high Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply Echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**
- (3) **Come to Bethlehem and see. Christ Whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King.  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

*(copyright: Public Domain, One-License #M-402357)*

## **Prayer of the Day:**

**Almighty God, you have 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.**

## **Children's Time** "The Candy Cane Story"

## **Old Testament Readings** Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 and Micah 5:2-4

### **Isaiah 9:2, 6-7**

<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>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.

### **Micah 5:2-4**

"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.”<sup>3</sup> Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor bears a son, and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites.<sup>4</sup> He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth.

## **Gospel Lessons**      Matthew 1:18-25 and Luke 2:1-20

### **Matthew 1:18-25** [ Joseph’s Story]

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” <sup>24</sup> When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; and he took her as his wife, <sup>25</sup> but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

### **Luke 2:1-20**                      [Mary’s Story]

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup> Joseph 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. <sup>5</sup> He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup> And 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.

<sup>8</sup> In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup> to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

<sup>15</sup> When 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.” <sup>16</sup> So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her

heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

## **Christmas Message**     “The Shoemaker’s Dream / A Christmas Story”

### **Hymn of the Day: ELW #277     “Away in the Manger”**

- 1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, The little Lord Jesus lay down His sweet head, The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay, The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**
- 2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky. And stay by my side until morning is nigh,**
- 3. Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay Close by me forever and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care And fit us for Heaven to live with Thee there.**

*(copyright: Public Domain, One-License #M-402357)*

## **Offering**

### **Offertory Hymn: ELW #290 “Go tell it on a Mountain”**

Refrain:     **Go, Tell It On The Mountain, Over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, Tell It On The Mountain That Jesus Christ is born.  
While shepherds kept their watching Over silent flocks by night,  
Behold throughout the heavens, There shone a holy light:  
Go, Tell It On The Mountain, Over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, Tell It On The Mountain That Jesus Christ is born.**

*(copyright: Public Domain, One-License #M-402357)*

## **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.**

## **Christmas Prayer of the Church**

Gracious, loving and merciful God, on this Christmas Eve, the light of your Word warms our hearts. Tonight, we are reminded of the gift of life and faith, as we gather with family and friends here at Calvary. Together, we open ourselves up to your Holy Spirit and give you thanks. We are grateful, Lord Jesus, that your story has become our story as we celebrate your birth this day. Lord, tonight, we remember the Song of Simeon, we pray: Now let your servant go in peace; your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of every people: a light to lighten the nations and the glory of your people Israel. We remember all of your people throughout the nations this night and we pray for peace and we remember in our

prayers for your healing presence for those in need that we know and name before and all who do not know. Be with us this Christmas season as we gather with family and friends and be with us as we close our current year and journey into the next. So with our prayers, we pray: Glory 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**

## **The 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 thanks and praise.**

## **Words of Institution**

Our Lord Jesus Christ, in the night in which he was betrayed, 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. This do in remembrance of me.

After the same manner also, he took the cup, and, when he had given thanks, he gave it to them saying drink all of it. This cup is the New Covenant in my blood, which is shed for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins; this do as often as you 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 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.**

## **Invitation to Communion**

Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.

## **Distribution Hymns: ELW #279 "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (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 sins and enter in, Be born to us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell:  
Oh, come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel!**

*(copyright: Public Domain, One-License #M-402357)*

## **ELW #296 "What Child Is This" (vss. 1 & 3)**

- 1. 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.**

3. **So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh, Come peasant, king to own Him;  
The King of kings salvation brings, Let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
Raise, raise a song on high, The virgin sings her lullaby.  
Joy, joy for Christ is born, The Babe, the Son of Mary**

*(copyright: Public Domain, One-License #M-402357)*

### **ELW #271 "I am so glad each Christmas Eve" (vss. 1, 2 & 5)**

1. **I am so glad each Christmas Eve, The night of Jesus' birth!  
Then like the sun the Star shone forth, And angels sang on earth.**
2. **The little Child in Bethlehem, He was a King indeed!  
For He came down from heaven above To help a world in need.**
5. **And so I love each Christmas Eve And I love Jesus, too;  
And that He loves me every day I know so well is true.**

*(copyright: Public Domain, One-License #M-402357)*

### **Communion Blessing**

Now may the Sacrament of our Lord Jesus whose birth we celebrate this Holy Night, strengthen you in your faith, now and always. Amen

### **Communion Prayer**

**God our Redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

### **Blessing**

May God bless you and keep you, † may our Lord Jesus grant you his love, grace and truth, and may his Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **Lighting of the Christmas Candles**

#### **Closing Hymn: ELW 281 "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 Heavenly 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 Thy holy face With dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth Jesus Lord, at Thy birth**

*(copyright: Public Domain, One-License #M-402357)*

## Dismissal

Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news. **Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

\*\*\*\*\*

## Announcements

- ✚ **Thank You Pastor Gerry Giese** for leading worship this evening.
- ✚ Calvary is looking for a volunteer (or volunteers) to represent Calvary on the **Welcome Committee**, which is where Calvary and four other Mankato ELCA churches are sponsoring a family of four from Nicaragua. Ariac and Andrea Cruz and their two boys have been in Minnesota almost two years. This committee meets monthly at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Contact Bob Diesch or Jolene Anderson for more information on the committee.
- ✚ **Prayers:** Please continue to keep our members and loved ones in your prayers, including Arlen, Lan-Shiang, Vivian, Ken, Deb, Ruth, Barry, Monica, Chloe, Jeff, Jenny, Dennis, Caroline, Paul, Jeannie and Gregg Nelson.

Calvary Lutheran Church  
19216 Rapidan Avenue  
Mankato, Minnesota 56001

Pastor  
Ministers: All Members

Church Phone: 507-278-3317  
E-mail: [office@calvaryrapidan.org](mailto:office@calvaryrapidan.org)  
Website: [calvaryrapidan.org](http://calvaryrapidan.org)  
Facebook: Calvary Lutheran Rapidan

Portions of the liturgy are from [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com) © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB141947

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Broadcast and other copyright permissions: One License M-401357.