

**CHILDREN'S
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
2017**



**A CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN!**

**St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lakewood, Colorado
Sunday, December 24, 2017, 6:30 pm**

Processional Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful
LSB #379:1-3

(the congregation will rise at the singing of the first stanza)

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him, Born the king of angels:
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Highest, most holy, Light of light eternal,
Born of a virgin, A mortal He comes;
Son of the Father Now in flesh appearing!
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God, All glory in the highest.
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Welcome and Trinitarian Invocation

P Sing to the Lord a new song:

C **Sing to the Lord a new song!**

P Sing to the Lord, bless His name:

C **Proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day.**

P Declare His glory among the nations:

C **His wonders among all peoples.**

P Oh worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness:

C **Tremble before Him, all the earth.**

P Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad:
C Let the sea roar, and all its fullness.
 P Let the field be joyful, and all that is in it:
C Then all the trees of the woods will rejoice before the Lord.
 P For He is coming, for He is coming to judge the earth:
C He shall judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with His truth.

Prayer

Congregational Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
 LSB #357 sts.1,4-6

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
 And ransom captive Israel
 That mourns in lonely exile here
 Until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,
 Free them from Satan's tyranny
 That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save
 And give them vict'ry o'er the grave.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Thou Key of David, come
 And open wide our heavenly home:
 Make safe the way that leads on high
 And close the path to misery.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
 And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
 And death's dark shadows put to flight.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

Introduction

Pastor

PART ONE: A CHILD IS COMING!

Recitations

[Joshua] Throughout the Old Testament, the prophets predicted the coming of the Messiah. The Savior was first foretold in the Garden of Eden, by God Himself. As the time for the coming of the Christchild grew nearer and nearer, the predictions concerning His birth became clearer and clearer. Finally, God even revealed the name of the tiny village in which the Savior would be born!

[Zachary] When Adam and Eve first fell into sin, they brought sin and death upon all human beings. But even there in the Garden of Eden, God promised to send a Savior – the Seed of the woman – who would conquer Satan and sin: “And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel” (Genesis 3:15).

[John] The Prophet Isaiah foretold the coming of the Messiah. Even though the advent of the Christchild was still hundreds of years away, Isaiah rejoiced in His birth!: “For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:6).

[Nicholas] Toward the end of the Old Testament, the Prophet Micah spoke of the little shepherd village where the Savior would be born: “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting” (Micah 5:2).

Song by the Children and Congregation

Once in Royal David's City
 Worship Supplement #710

(Children, stanzas 1-3; Congregation, stanza 4)

1 Once in royal David's city Stood a lowly cattle shed,
 Where a mother laid her baby In a manger for His bed:
 Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

2 He came down to earth from heaven, Who is God and Lord of all,
 And His shelter was a stable, And His cradle was a stall;
 With the poor and mean and lowly Lived on earth our Savior holy.

3 And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His own redeeming love;
For that child so dear and gentle, Is our Lord in heav'n above,
And He leads His children on, To the place where He is gone.

4 Not in that poor, lowly stable
With the oxen standing by
Shall we see Him, but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high.
Then like stars His children, crowned,
All in white, His praise will sound!

PART TWO: THE CHILD ARRIVES!

Recitations

[Emily] The centuries passed. When the time was just right, all the prophecies were fulfilled, and God sent His Son to earth in the form of a human baby. In this Child lay all mankind's hope of salvation! "When the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons." Galatians 4:4-5.

[Jaydin] All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: 'Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,' which is translated, "God with us." Matthew 1:23.

[Brooke] The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned. Matthew 4:16.

[Mary Anna] For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. John 3:16.

Children's Song

O Jesus So Sweet, O Jesus So Mild

LSB #546

O Jesus so sweet, O Jesus so mild!
For sinners You became a child.
You came from heaven down to earth
(Congregation) human flesh through human birth.
O Jesus so sweet, O Jesus so mild!

O Jesus so sweet, O Jesus so mild!
With God we now are reconciled.
You have for all the ransom paid,
Your Father's righteous anger stayed.
O Jesus so sweet, O Jesus so mild!

O Jesus so sweet, O Jesus so mild!
Joy fills the world which sin defiled.
Whate'er we have belongs to You;
O keep us faithful, strong, and true.
O Jesus so sweet, O Jesus so mild!

The Christmas Gospel – Luke 2:1-16

Recitations

[Zachary] And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

[Nicholas] 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:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

[John] And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. 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.

[Emily] And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 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.

[Jaydin] And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

[Mary Anna] And this shall be a sign unto you; ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

[Brooke] And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

[Joshua] 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. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

Choir Song

Praise God, the Lord, Ye Sons of Men

PART THREE: A SAVIOR FOR ALL PEOPLE!

[Joshua] The shepherds saw the Child in the manger, and marveled at the blessing God had bestowed on them. But they didn't stop there, for such glad tidings must be shared. As the shepherds blazed abroad the news of a Savior, may we too share the Gospel of salvation through faith in Christ with as many as we can!

The Christmas Gospel – Luke 2:17-20

(read in unison by the
Congregation)

Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.

Congregational Hymn

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

LSB #358, selected stanzas

From heav'n above to earth I come
To bear good news to ev'ry home;
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,
Whereof I now will say and sing:

“To you this night is born a child
Of Mary, chosen virgin mild;
This little child, of lowly birth,
Shall be the joy of all the earth.

“This is the Christ, our God most high
Who hears your sad and bitter cry;
He will Himself your Savior be
From all your sins to set you free.”

Welcome to earth, O noble Guest,
Through whom the sinful world is blest!
You came to share my misery;
That You might share Your joy with me.

Were earth a thousand times as fair
And set with gold and jewels rare,
It would be far too poor and small
A cradle for the Lord of all.

Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
Within my heart, made clean and new,
A quiet chamber kept for You.

My heart for very joy must leap,
My lips no more can silence keep;
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue
That sweetest ancient cradle-song:

Glory to God in highest heaven,
Who unto us His Son has given!
While angels sing with pious mirth
A glad new year to all the earth.

PART FOUR: HE IS MY SAVIOR!

[Pastor] At Christmastime we recall the coming of our Savior as a little Child. It's important to remember, though, that He did not remain a Child. He grew and matured, and took on the heavy task of redeeming us from our sin. Even on this joyous night, we remember not only the cradle, but also the cross. Through the faith that the Holy Spirit has given to each Christian, the redemption Jesus won on that cross has now become our personal possession. Let us now join our hearts together in confessing our faith in Christ Jesus, the Savior of the world — the Savior of us all:

Confession of Faith

I Believe

- ◆ I believe that Jesus Christ is true God and that He was begotten of the Father from eternity.
- ◆ I believe that Jesus Christ is also true man and that He was born of the virgin Mary.
- ◆ I believe that Jesus Christ is my Lord and that He redeemed me, a lost and condemned person.
- ◆ I believe that Jesus purchased and won me from all sin, from death, and from the power of the devil.
- ◆ I believe that He redeemed me, not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and His innocent suffering and death.
- ◆ I believe that He redeemed me that I should be His own and live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and joy.
- ◆ I believe that Jesus died for me on the cross, that He rose from the dead, and that He lives and reigns through all eternity.
- ◆ I believe that He has gone into heaven to prepare a place for me and that He will return to earth on the Last Day to receive me to Himself, that where He is, there I may be also. This is most certainly true.

Christmas Eve Offering

The Christmas Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Song by the Choir

Fields are Peaceful and White

The Benediction

Recessional Hymn

Joy to the World

LSB #387

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room
And heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love.

Announcements

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Children of St. Paul Participants

Nicholas Peters
Jaydin Peters
Brooke Peters
Joshua Ruegge
Zachary Ruegge
Emily Ruegge
John Sprengeler
Mary Anna Sprengeler

A hearty welcome to all worship guests and a thank you for joining us in the celebration of the birth of our Savior. We hope the Christmas Gospel presented this evening has been a blessing to you. Please join us again tomorrow morning for our Christmas Day service at 9:30 am. You are also invited to worship with us each Sunday at the same time. Best wishes for a blessed and happy Christmas!

Christmas gift bags will be distributed to the children following the service tonight (distribution to take place in the church basement).

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Member congregation of
the Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC)

