

CHRISTMAS EVE

THE
WORD
MADE
FLESH



Born in a Manger

A Traditional Service for Christmas Eve

Tuesday, December 24, 2024

“And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger”. Luke 2:7

Opening Hymn ... "Joy to the World" LSB 387

Invocation & Lighting of the Advent Wreath

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

(The center white candle and all four candles around the Advent wreath are lit.)

P: On this holy night, we light all four candles and the center candle, the Christ candle, on the Advent wreath. God's promise to send a Savior has been fulfilled. The Light of the World has come. Christ the Lord is born!

C: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!

P: The Son of God humbled himself to be born among us. The newborn Savior was wrapped in swaddling cloths and laid in a manger in Bethlehem. The infant King was worshiped by shepherds and praised by angels. Tonight, we join them in praising our Lord and King. To us a Child is born, to us a Son is given!

C: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!

Confession and Absolution

P: Let us confess our sins to God and ask his forgiveness for the sake of Christ our King.

C: Almighty God, we have sinned against you in our thoughts, words and actions. We turn away from your Word and your will for us. We listen to the temptations of the world around us. We choose to follow our own sinful desires. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.

P: God has had mercy on us. Jesus our Lord, whose birth we celebrate tonight, came to be our Savior. He suffered, died and rose up in triumph over death to redeem us. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

C: To us a Child is born, to us a Son is given!

Prayer of the Day

P: Lord Jesus, you are the almighty Son of God, yet you humbled yourself to be born among us, to be born in a stable in Bethlehem. You slept in a manger, a feeding trough for animals, while shepherds worshiped you and angels sang for joy at your birth. You came to be our Savior and through faith in your name, we have been adopted as children of God. On this holy night, receive our thanks and praise. Teach us in the power of the Spirit to follow in your footsteps, to live with humility as you did and to show to others the love that you have shown to us. Amen.

Hymn of Response ... "Away in a Manger" *LSB 364*

Old Testament Reading ... *Isaiah 9:6-7*

Epistle Reading ... *Galatians 4:4-7*

Gospel Reading, Part 1 ... *Luke 2:1-7*

Hymn ... "O Little Town of Bethlehem" *LSB 361*; vrs. 1-2

Gospel Reading, Part 2 ... *Luke 2:8-14*

Hymn ... "Angels We Have Heard on High" *LSB 368*; vs. 1-2

Gospel Reading, Part 3 ... *Luke 2:15-20*

Sermon Hymn ... "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child" *LSB 374*

Sermon

Apostles' Creed

Candlelighting

P: The light for our candles is taken from the Christ candle on the Advent wreath. Jesus the Light of the world has come! As we share that light, we remember that Jesus calls us to be lights in the world, to share the good news of salvation with others. As the light is passed down the aisle, always tip the unlit candle toward the burning candle. Keep the burning candle upright to prevent wax from dripping. The lights in the sanctuary will be dimmed as we sing and rejoice in our Savior's birth.

Hymn ... "Silent Night, Holy Night" *LSB* 363

Hymn ... "What Child Is This" *LSB* 370; vs. 1-2

Offering & Attendance/Involvement Cards

Prayers

P: *(after each petition)*... Jesus, Holy Child of Bethlehem,

C: You were born among us to save us.

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

P: And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

C: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

P: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. **C:Amen.**

Closing Hymn ... "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" *LSB* 380

*****Christmas Eve offerings** go to the John Wolf missionary family in Africa and also to the Adam Lehman missionary family in Puerto Rico.

Merry Christmas