



Be Born In Us Today Bringing Light

A Service for Christmas Eve

Saturday, December 24, 2022

*“For unto you is born this day in the city of David
a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:11*

Opening Hymn "Joy to the World" LSB 387

Invocation and Lighting of the Advent Wreath

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

(The three blue candles, the pink candle and the Christ candle are lit.)

P: On this holy night, we light the Christ candle on the Advent wreath as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Light of the world. The apostle John writes, "In him was life and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it".

C: Holy Child of Bethlehem, be born in us today. Fill our lives with your life and light.

P: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life".

C: Holy Child of Bethlehem, be born in us today. Help us by your Spirit to reflect your light and love in our lives.

Confession and Absolution

P: Let us confess our sins to God and ask his forgiveness.

C: Almighty God, we live in the light of our Savior, but we are still tempted by the darkness of sin. We follow our selfish desires. We turn from your Word to listen to the temptations of the world. We fail to love others as we should because we do not let Jesus' light shine through our lives. Have mercy on us. Forgive our sins and turn our hearts and minds to the light of Jesus.

P: God has had mercy on us. By his death and resurrection, Jesus, the Light of the world, has overcome the darkness of sin, death and Satan. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

C: Lord, lead us to live as children of light!

Prayer of the Day

P: Almighty God, at creation you spoke your Word and light shattered the darkness. On this holy night, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, the Word made flesh. In him, the light once again broke into the world made dark by sin. By his death and resurrection, Jesus brought to us life and light. Lead us, tonight and always, to walk by faith as children of light. We pray that Jesus' love will shine in our words and actions so

that through our witness, others will come to know and worship Jesus as Lord. On this night when we celebrate his birth, hear our prayers and accept our praise in Jesus' name. Amen.

Hymn "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come" *LSB* 358; vrs. 13-15.

Old Testament Reading ... *Genesis 15:1-6*
(after the reading)

P: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

4 PM Special Music "Breath of Heaven" Performed by Maggie Mehlhaff. Words and Music by Chris Eaton & Amy Grant.

Epistle Reading ... *2 Corinthians 4:1-6*
(after the reading)

P: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

P: Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

C: When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son. Hallelujah!

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

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

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

Hymn ... "Angels We Have Heard on High" *LSB* 368

Gospel Reading ... *Luke 2:15-20*
(after the reading)

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

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

Sermon

Hymn of Response ... "Once in Royal David's City" *LSB* 376; vrs. 1-2

Apostles' Creed

Offering & Attendance/Involvement Cards

Prayers

P: Lord and Savior, through your birth in Bethlehem, through your life, death and resurrection, you brought the light of hope to the world. Comfort those who are suffering through illness or

grief. According to your will, bring them healing and hope through the promises of your Word. Jesus, Light of the world,

C: Shine in us and through us. Teach us according to the wisdom of your Word and lead us by the Holy Spirit to reflect the light of your forgiveness and love.

P: Lord and Savior, Word made flesh, you are the Light no darkness can overcome. By your death and resurrection, you overcame the darkness of sin, death and the devil. You have brought us life and light, now and for all eternity. Jesus, Light of the world,

C: Shine in us and through us. Help us to be bold witnesses for you, so that others will come to trust in you for salvation and live in the light of your love.

P: Lord and Savior, through Baptism we were created anew as children of light, delivered from the domain of darkness and brought into your kingdom. Jesus, Light of the world,

C: Shine in us and through us. Lead us to walk in love and to serve others in your name.

P: Lord and Savior, Light of the world, hear our prayers and accept our praise. **C: Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

The Lighting of the Candles

Benediction

P: "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

C: And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

P: 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: "Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ". **C: Amen.**

Closing Hymn... "Silent Night" LSB 363

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