



St Michael's

L U T H E R A N C H U R C H

December 24, 2021
Christmas Eve Worship
4:30 p.m.



Christmas Eve Worship with Holy Communion

4:30 p.m. Service

ELW—*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*

ELW, “hymn” numbers are at the top of pages.

Plain text is read by the Pastor/Lector/Assisting Minister;

Items in bold by the congregation.

✝ GATHERING ✝

INTRODUCTION

On this long winter evening we gather to proclaim the coming of God’s promise. Isaiah announces that the people who walked in bleakness now are met by God’s unfailing light. In the familiar account of Christ’s birth, the evening sky is bright with the heavenly host singing, “Glory to God in the highest.” Amid our broken world we proclaim that the Prince of Peace is born among us. God comes to us in human flesh—so that we may be bearers of that divine love and peace to all the world.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

hymns at back of bulletin; join in singing as we gather

I am So Glad Each Christmas Eve p.13

Love Has Come p. 14

Angels from the Realms of Glory p. 15

Chapel Ringers

Joyful Angels Sing

French carol

arr. Brian Childers

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

St. Michael’s Singers

See Amid the Winters Snow

Dan Forrest

CALL TO WORSHIP

Sing to our God a new song;

Sing to our God all the earth.

Glory to God in the highest heaven,

Peace to God's people on earth!

The heavens are telling the glory of God,

Let the earth rejoice, let the trees of the forest sing for joy!

Glory to God in the highest heaven,

Peace to God's people on earth!

HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ELW 283



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!



come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain



Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH & CHRISTMAS CANDLE

O God, we hear the glad tidings of the angel voices,
we come to experience this good news of great joy for all the people.

Let the light of your peace break forth!

As the shepherds traveled to Bethlehem,
we have traveled here – excited, expectant, hopeful; a bit skeptical.

Let the light of your hope break forth!

As Mary heard your words and held them in her heart,
let the words of sacred scripture seep into our hearts,
to be treasured and pondered anew.

Let the light of your joy break forth!

O God of the Baby born in Bethlehem long ago,
and God of the Christ born among us this night
greet us again in the Word made flesh.

Let the light of your promise break forth!

We come into your presence with praise and thanksgiving.
We are here; we are ready, O God!

Let the light of your love break forth! Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you made this holy night to shine with the brightness of your light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and know the brightness of his glory. We pray in the name of this holy child, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

CHORAL ANTHEM

Children's Choir

Star of Wonder
Mark Patterson

✠ WORD ✠

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!

The people who walked in the bleak night have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep gloom — on them light has shined.

You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor,

you have broken as on the day of Midian.
For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
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.
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.

CHORAL ANTHEM

St. Michael's Singers

He is Born: Il est n , Divin Enfant
Donna Gartman Schultz

Chorus: He is born, the divine Christ child!
Sound the oboe, play the harp and drum.
He is born, the divine Christ child!
Sing we all, for he has come.

Chorus: *Il est n , le divin enfant!*
Jouez hautbois, r sonnez musettes.
Il est n , le divin enfant!
Chantons tous, son av nement.

Through long ages which have passed,
Prophets told of the Savior's coming;
Through long ages which have passed,
We have awaited this happy day.

O how delightful, O how sweet!
O how perfect are his graces.
O how delightful, O how sweet!
What a joy, this precious child!

A bare stable is his home,
A bit of straw now makes his bed;
A bare stable is his home,
For our God, such a humble place.

PSALM

Psalm 96:1-3, 10-13

Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.

**Sing to the LORD, bless God's holy name;
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**

Declare God's glory among the nations
and God's wonders among all peoples.

**Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is king!
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved
will judge the peoples with equity."**

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;

let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O LORD,
for you come to judge the earth.**

You will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with your truth.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Angels we have heard on High

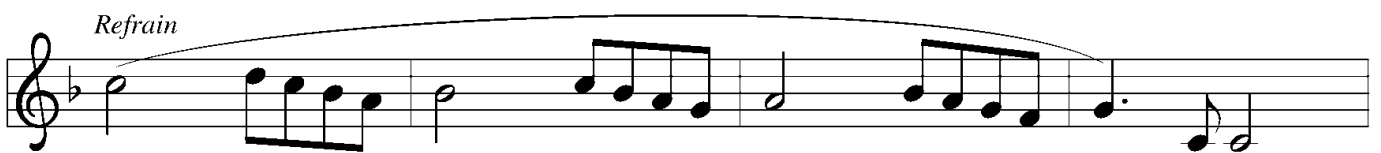
ELW289 vs. 3



3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



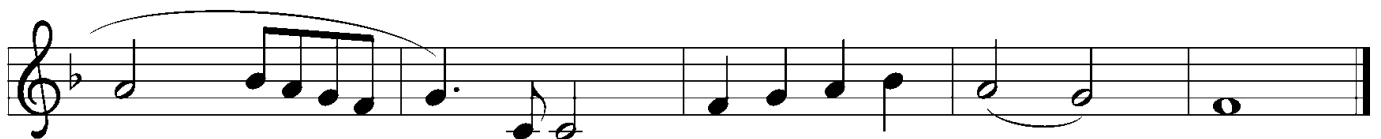
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



Glo - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo -



- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864
Music: GLORIA, French carol

GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20

At this service we hear the gospel read with and for the children of the congregation using Spark story Bible.

SERMON

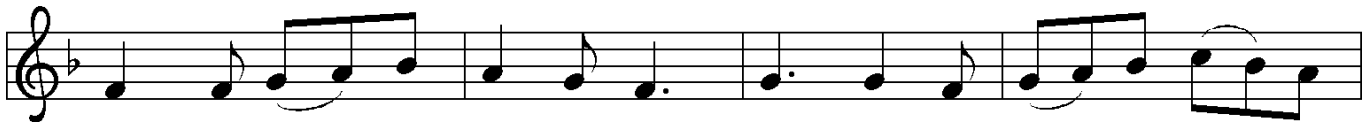
Pastor Brad Froslee



1 On Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing to hear the news the
 2 Then why should we on earth be sad, since our re-deem-er
 3 When sin de-parts be-fore his face, then life and health come
 4 All out of dark-ness we have light, which made the an-gels



an-gels bring. On Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing to
 made us glad? Then why should we on earth be sad, since
 in its place. When sin de-parts be-fore his face, then
 sing this night. All out of dark-ness we have light, which



hear the news the an-gels bring: news of great joy, news of great
 our re-deem-er made us glad, when from our sin he set us
 life and health come in its place. An-gels re-joice with us and
 made the an-gels sing this night: "Glo-ry to God in high-est



mirth, news of our mer-ci-ful king's birth.
 free, all for to gain our lib-er-ty?
 sing, all for to see the new-born king.
 heav'n; peace on earth, and good-will. A-men."

Text: Luke Wadding, d. 1686, alt.
 Music: SUSSEX CAROL, English traditional

CHRISTMAS AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in the eternal God of creation.

Who conceived the wonders of the universe and in whose image we are formed.

We believe in the God who became incarnate.

**Born in a humble manger,
 a light in the dark of night,
 the promise of hope for the world.**

We believe in the God whose Holy Spirit
**brought life to the womb of Mary,
gave a song to the angel chorus
proclaimed the good news to the shepherds keeping
watch over their flocks by night.**

We believe in the God who was before Bethlehem,
at Bethlehem and beyond Bethlehem.
In whose loving embrace we will live forever.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

As heaven and earth rejoice, let us pray for the needs of the church and all the world.

A brief silence.

O God of Love, the gift of your son has increased our joy.
Give us gratitude each day for your light and the life made known in Christ.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O God of Creation, the trees clap their hands, the deep waters teem with varied creatures, and the stars burn with distant fire. Make us grateful for all that you call us to nurture and protect.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O Prince of Peace, you give us nations, cities, and neighborhoods. Guide our leaders, uphold them in caring for the common good, and opposing what harms the vulnerable.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O God with healing in your wings, you make whole what is broken. We beg your mercy on all who find this time of year a burden. Strengthen the grieving and comfort those who struggle with addictions. We pray especially for those we name aloud or silently.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O God of Gracious Spirit, you have given us to each other to encourage and challenge. Give us hearts that remember your Christmas gifts beyond this night.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O God of all times and places, we give thanks for the saints and faithful who have gone before us, witnessed to your presence, taught us to pray, and strengthened us in hope.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

✝ MEAL ✝

SHARING OF PEACE

The gift of God's peace made known this Christmas season be with you all.
And also with you.

OFFERING OF GIFTS & MUSIC

As we strive to keep all healthy and safe, we invite you to place your offering in the wooden offering box near the door to the sanctuary as you enter or exit worship.

OFFERING PRAYER

Holy God,
your beauty shines forth from the manger and your love flows from the cross.
As you gather us around these signs of your love come among us; warm our hearts that we might extend your care to the hungry and all in need.
In Jesus' name we pray. 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 God thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE 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

God meets us in the manger in Bethlehem.

God meets us in the story of hope and promise told across the ages.

And God meets us again this night where Christ is present.

Know that there is a place for you as God's love is shared.

All are welcome to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion.

We welcome children of all ages to commune!

Tonight we celebrate communion in the pews to limit movement and strive for greater safety.

If you did not receive the communion elements as you came into the sanctuary, simply indicate to an usher and they will bring you the cup and wafer.

CHORAL MUSIC

St. Michael's Singers

The Work of Christmas

Howard Thurman

The Work of Christmas

When the song of the angels is stilled,

When the star in the sky is gone,

When the kings and princes are home,

When the shepherds are back with their flock,

The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost, To heal the broken,

To feed the hungry, To release the prisoner,

To rebuild the nations,

To bring peace among others,

To make music in the heart.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of wonder,

in Jesus we behold the light of the world come near.

As you have come among us now, send us out in joy, hastening to share the good news of your love. We pray in your holy name. Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

THE CEREMONY OF LIGHTS

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God.

The light shines in the darkness.

Through the Word all things came into being, and without it not one thing came into being.

The light shines in the darkness.

What has come into being in the Word was life and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness.

Looking to the light of Christ, we see the light that breaks the darkness.

In promise and gift of Jesus the Christ we light the candles, and the Lord, our God will enlighten our darkness.

Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,
 1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,

ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.
 all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,

Hol - der Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher
 Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
 heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your

Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

BLESSING

The people who walked in the dark of night have seen a great light;
those who lived in deepest night, are lit up with a brilliant light.

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given.

The spread of his influence and of his peace will never end.

Therefore, go out into the world with great joy,
and the grace of Bethlehem's holy child,
the love of the God who never ceases to amaze,
and the fellowship of the Spirit who never wearies,
will be with you this holy night and evermore.

Thanks be to God!

SENDING HYMN

Joy to the World

ELW 267



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the joy of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Organ

In dulci jubilo

J.S. Bach

We invite children to receive a treat and small gift from the table in the Narthex.

The gifts are made by our friends in Guatemala, and we ask that you remember our partner congregation in Cimiento, Guatemala, in your prayers this Christmas season!

PRESERVICE MUSIC

I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve

Jeg er så glad hver julekvel



Jeg er så glad hver ju - le - kveld, ti da blev Je - sus født;

- 1 I am so glad each Christ-mas Eve, the night of Je - sus' birth!
- 2 The lit - tle child in Beth - le - hem, he was a king in - deed!
- 3 He dwells a - gain in heav - en's realm, the Son of God to - day;
- 4 I am so glad each Christ-mas Eve! His prais - es then I sing;
- 5 And so I love each Christ-mas Eve, and I love Je - sus too;



da lys - te stjer - nen som en sol, og eng - ler sang så sødt.

Then like the sun the star shone forth, and an - gels sang on earth.
For he came down from heav'n a - bove to help a world in need.

and still he loves his lit - tle ones and hears them when they pray.
he o - pens now for ev - 'ry child the pal - ace of the king.
and that he loves me ev - 'ry day I know so well is true.

Text: Marie Wexelsen, 1832–1911; tr. Peter A. Sveeggen, 1881–1959

Music: JEG ER SÅ GLAD, Peder Knudsen, 1819–1863

Text © 1932 Augsburg Publishing House

Love Has Come



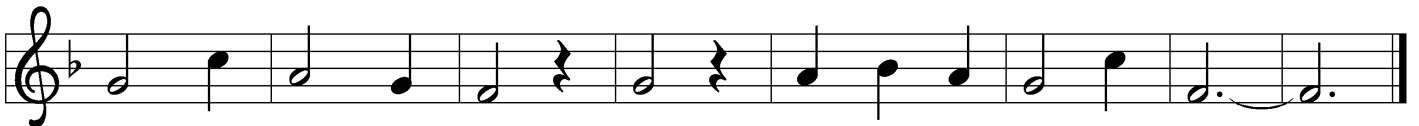
1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the
 2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -
 3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;
 sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;
 last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to
 what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the
 Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
 name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.
 gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950

Music: UN FLAMBEAU, F. Seguin, *Recueil de Noël's composés en langue provençale*, 1856

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Angels, from the Realms of Glory



- 1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
- 2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch-ing o'er your flocks by night,
- 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem-pla-tions, bright-er vi - sions beam a - far;
- 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais-ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain



Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ, the new-born king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4
Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

WORSHIP NOTES

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Songs with the abbreviation ELW are found in the ELCA hymnal titled,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S WORSHIP

	4:30 p.m. service	10:30 p.m. service
Pastors	◇ Rev. Ali Ferin ◇ Rev. Brad Froslee	◇ Rev. Ali Ferin ◇ Rev. Brad Froslee
Musicians	◇ Thomas Bartsch, organist ◇ Jill Schendel, pianist ◇ Chapel Ringers, directed by Charles Preis ◇ Children's Choir, directed by Cory Bock ◇ Jessica Etten, oboe ◇ St. Michael's Singers, directed by Karen Wilkerson	◇ Thomas Bartsch, organist ◇ Jill Schendel, pianist ◇ Chapel Ringers, directed by Charles Preis ◇ Jessica Etten, oboe ◇ St. Michael's Singers, directed by Karen Wilkerson
Lector	◇ Verena Larson	◇ Dave Yarusso
Ushers	◇ Mike Gregory	◇ Irmeli Moran ◇ Mary Lisa Wermager

Thank you to those who contributed to our Poinsettia Garden

Donna Barnett
Jerry & Kathy Behrens
Janet & Bob Hanafin
Abbie Hanson
Jean Kinsey & Frank Busta
Maxine Kornmann
Jane LaFroth & Dave Norrgard
Karen & Wally Northrup
Jill & Jim Ostlund
Ginny Perman
Lynn & Charlie Preis
Bev & Tom Stratton
Claudia & Glen Woker
Barb & Dave Yarusso