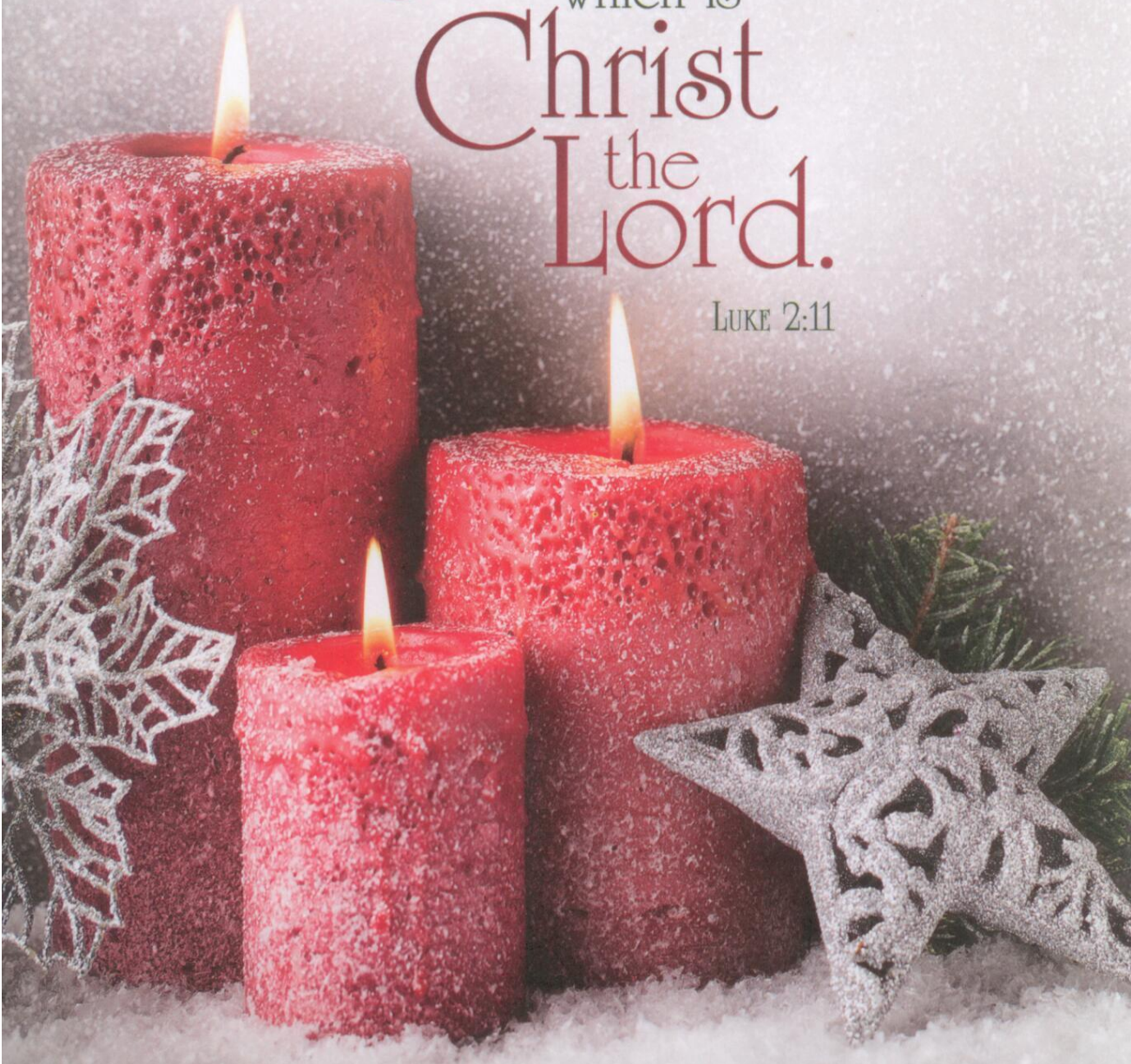


Unto you is born this day
in the city of David
a saviour,
which is
Christ
the
Lord.

LUKE 2:11





LORD of LOVE
Lutheran Church

105 Paradise Circle, DeForest, WI 53532
608-846-9036 | lolchurchoffice@gmail.com | www.lordoflovelutheran.org

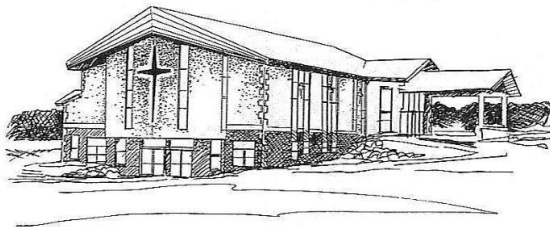
Pastor Michael Willitz pr.willitz@gmail.com
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Chairman: Mitch Myhre, mitchmyhre@hotmail.com
Office Secretary: Jen Olson, Office hours Tuesday - Friday
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod - ***Christ's Love, Our Calling.***

Welcome to all of our visitors and members!
Merry Christmas
Come worship with us again soon.

If you are a guest today,
please let us know of any way we might serve you.



Lord of Love Lutheran Church

The Nativity of Our Lord

December 24, A.D. 2021

CHRISTMAS EVE VESPERS

OPENING HYMN (CW 46)

Your Little Ones, Dear Lord, Are We



1 Your lit - tle ones, dear Lord, are we And come your
2 With songs we has - ten you to greet And hum - bly
3 Oh, draw us whol - ly to you, Lord, And to us
4 Un - til at last we, too, pro - claim, With all your



low - ly bed to see; En - light - en ev - 'ry
fall be - fore your feet. Oh, bless - ed hour, oh,
all your grace ac - cord; True faith and love to
saints, your glo - rious name; In par - a - dise our

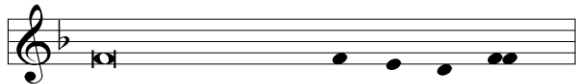


soul and mind That we the way to you may find.
sweet - est night That gave you birth, our souls' de - light.
us im - part That we may hold you in our heart,
songs re - new And praise you as the an - gels do.

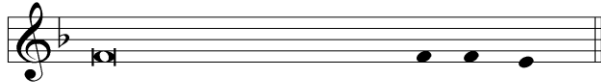
Text: Hans A. Brorson, 1694–1764; tr. Harriet R. K. Spaeth, 1845–1925, alt.
Tune: HER KOMMER DINE ARME SMAA (LM) Johann A. P. Schulz, 1747–1800.

EVENING RESPONSES

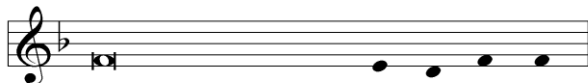
STAND



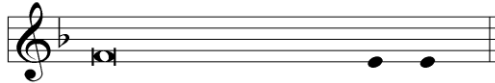
M: Jesus Christ is the light of the world,



C: the light no darkness can o - ver - come.



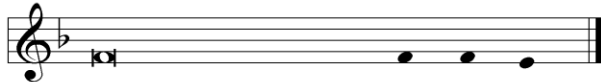
M: Stay with us, Lord, for it is eve - ning,



C: and the day is almost o - ver.

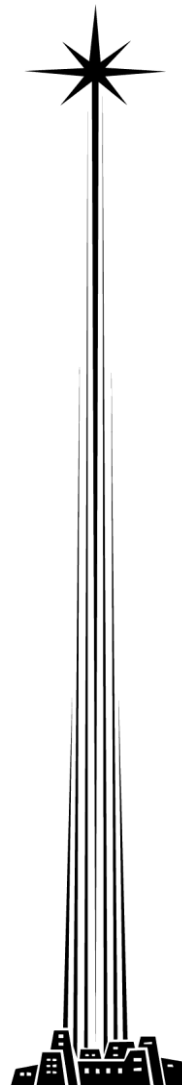


M: Be our light and scat - ter the dark - ness,



C: and hear our evening hymn of praise.

The congregation remains standing to sing the hymn





1 Once a - gain my heart re - joic - es As I hear
 2 Hear! The con - quer - or has spo - ken: "Now the foe,
 3 Should we still fear God's dis - pleas - ure, Who, to save,
 4 God be - comes the vic - tim, tak - ing Man - kind's place
 5 Soft - ly from his low - ly man - ger Je - sus calls



Far and near Sweet - est an - gel voic - es.
 Sin and woe, Death and hell are bro - ken!"
 Free - ly gave His most pre - cious treas - ure?
 By his grace, Full a - tone - ment mak - ing.
 One and all, "You are safe from dan - ger.



"Christ is born!" their choirs are sing - ing Till the air
 God is man, man to de - liv - er, And the Son
 To re - deem us he has giv - en His own Son
 For our life his own he ten - ders, And his grace
 Chil - dren, from the sins that grieve you You are freed;



Ev - 'ry - where Now with joy is ring - ing.
 Now is one With our blood for - ev - er.
 From the throne Of his might in heav - en.
 All our race Fit for glo - ry ren - ders.
 All you need I will sure - ly give you."

6 Come, then, banish all your sadness!
 One and all,
 Great and small,
 Come with songs of gladness;
 We shall live with him forever
 There on high
 In that joy
 Which will vanish never.

PRAYER

M: Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true light. Grant that as we have known on earth the wonder of that light, we may also behold him in all his glory in the life to come; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BE SEATED

THE WORD OF GOD FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

² *The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.
For those living in the land of the shadow of death, the light has dawned.*

³ *You have multiplied the nation. You have increased its joy.*

*They rejoice before you like the joy at harvest time,
like the celebration when people divide the plunder.*

⁴ *For you have shattered the yoke that burdened them.*

*You have broken the bar on their shoulders and
the rod of their oppressor,
as you did in the day of Midian.*

⁵ *Every boot that marched in battle
and the garments rolled in blood will be burned.
They will be fuel for the fire.*

⁶ *For to us a child is born.*

To us a son is given.

The authority to rule will rest on his shoulders.

He will be named:

Wonderful Counselor,

Mighty God,

Everlasting Father,

Prince of Peace.

⁷ *There will be no limit to his authority
and no end to the peace he brings.*

*He will rule on David's throne and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness
from now on, into eternity.*

The zeal of the LORD of Armies will accomplish this.

RESPONSE

M: But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son,

C: **Born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.** (Galatians 4:4,5)

SECOND LESSON

1 John 4:9-14

⁹This is how God's love for us was revealed: God has sent his only-begotten Son into the world so that we may live through him. ¹⁰This is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Dear friends, if God loved us so much, we also should love one another.

¹²No one has ever seen God. If we love one another, God remains in us and his love has been brought to its goal in us. ¹³This is how we know that we remain in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴We have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.

HYMN (CW 65)

O Little Town of Bethlehem (vs. 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 sin And enter in; Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell;
Oh, come to us, Abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!**

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-93, abr., alt.

STAND

2 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governing Syria. 3 And everyone went to register, each to his own town. 4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the town of Nazareth, into Judea, to the town of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was from the house and family line of David. 5 He went to be registered with Mary, his wife, who was pledged to him in marriage and was expecting a child.

6 And so it was that while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son, wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

8 There were in the same country shepherds staying out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified! 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. For behold, I bring you good news of great joy, which will be for all people: 11 Today in the town of David, a Savior was born for you. He is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be a sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." 13 Suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude from the heavenly army, praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward mankind."

15 When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Now let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." 16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. 17 When they had seen him, they told others the message they had been told about this child. 18 And all who heard it were amazed by what the shepherds said to them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. 20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

BE SEATED

HYMN (CW 38)

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come (vs. 1-4, 13, & 15)



1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come To bear good
 2 "To you this night is born a child Of Mar - y,
 3 "This is the Christ, our God most high, Who hears your
 4 "He will on you the gifts be - stow Pre - pared by
 5 "These are the signs which you shall mark: The swad-dling



news to ev - 'ry home; Glad ti - dings of great joy
 cho - sen vir - gin mild; This lit - tle child of low -
 sad and bit - ter cry; He will him - self your Sav -
 God for all be - low, That in his king - dom, bright
 clothes and man - ger dark. There you will find the in -



I bring, Where - of I now will say and sing:
 ly birth Shall be the joy of all the earth.
 ior be From all your sins to set you free.
 and fair, You may with us his glo - ry share.
 fant laid By whom the heav'ns and earth were made."

- 6 How glad we'll be to find it so!
 Then with the shepherds let us go
 To see what God for us has done
 In sending us his own dear Son.
- 7 Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes,
 And see what in the manger lies.
 Who is this child, so young and fair?
 It is the Christchild lying there.
- 8 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.
- 9 Ah, Lord, though you created all,
 How weak you are, so poor and small,
 That you should choose to lay your head
 Where lowly cattle lately fed!
- 10 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.
- 11 Instead of soft and silken stuff
 You have but hay and straw so rough
 On which as King, so rich and great,
 To be enthroned in royal state.
- 12 And so it pleases you to see
 This simple truth revealed to me:
 That all the world's wealth, honor, might
 Are weak and worthless in your sight.
- 13 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
 Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled
 Within my heart, made clean and new,
 A quiet chamber kept for you.
- 14 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:
- 15 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.

Good News from Heaven

STAND

APOSTLES' CREED

Second Article with Explanation
from *Martin Luther's Small Catechism*

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord.

He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death.

All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally.

This is most certainly true.

RESPONSIVE PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

M: Oh gracious and almighty Father, we praise you that you kept your ancient promises by sending your everlasting Son in human flesh.

C: On this holy night, receive our thanks and devotion, our songs and prayers.

M: You sent Jesus as a lowly child to demonstrate your concern for all, the weak and lonely, the troubled and frightened, the timid and helpless. No one is overlooked by your ever-seeking eyes. No one is excluded from your upholding arms. No one is denied the comfort and help of your outstretched hand.

C: **Bless us with a childlike faith in the divine assurance that you love and care for us always.**

M: You sent Jesus as the Savior of the world to deliver all from the curse of sin, the power of death, and the torment of hell. He took our place. He was born under the law to set us free. He became the innocent lamb of sacrifice. He came to die and rise again in order that we might live eternally. Firmly implant this good news in our hearts, and fill us with an eager desire to spread the Word concerning what we have heard tonight.

C: **May all who hear the message, in every nation under heaven, be amazed and believe what is told them about the child.**

M: You sent Jesus as the Light of the world to drive out all darkness that would rob us of the full life that you intend for us. May the “joy that will be for all people” be our joy. May the “peace on earth to all on whom his favor rests” be our peace. May the treasure that Mary pondered in her heart be our treasure.

C: **For today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to us. He is Christ, the Lord. Amen.**

LORD’S PRAYER

C: **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

At this time, the personal candles will be lighted for a candlelit singing of Silent Night. Pastor will first light the ushers' candles with a flame taken from the Christ candle. The ushers will then light the candle of each person sitting along the center aisle. This flame will then be passed to each person in the row.

When lighting a candle, please tip the candle being lighted to meet the candle with a live flame. DO NOT tip a candle with a flame, as wax spillage will result.

While the candles are being lighted, the congregation may sing the hymns printed on this page and the next.

HYMN (CW 68)

Away in a Manger



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay



The lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.
But lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes.
Close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.



The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
I love you, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky,
Bless all the dear chil - dren in your ten - der care,



The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
And stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.
And take us to heav - en to live with you there.

Text: *Little Children's Book*, Philadelphia, 1885, st. 1-2; *Vineyard Songs*, Louisville, 1892, st. 3.
Tune: CRADLE SONG (11 11 11 11) William J. Kirkpatrick, 1838-1921.



1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;
 2 An - gels sang a - bout his birth; Wise men sought and found him.
 3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;



There he lay, the un - de - filed, To the world a stran - ger.
 Heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth, Glo - ry all a - round them.
 He is still the un - de - filed, But no more a stran - ger.



Such a babe in such a place— Can he be the Sav - ior?
 Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, Heard the an - gels sing - ing.
 Son of God, of hum - ble birth, Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;



Ask the saved of all the race Who have found his fa - vor.
 All the plains were lit that night; All the hills were ring - ing.
 Praise his name in all the earth, Hail the King of glo - ry!

Text: Joseph S. Cook, 1859–1933.

Tune: TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM (76 76 D) *Piae Cantiones Ecclesiasticae*, Griefswald, 1582.

After the candles are lighted and the hymn above is completed, the lights in the sanctuary will be turned off and the congregation will sing Silent Night.

Silent Night is printed on the next page.





1 Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! All is
 2 Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Shep - herds
 3 Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Son of



calm, all is bright, Round yon vir - gin
 quake at the sight. Glo - ries stream from
 God, love's pure light Ra - diant beams from



moth - er and child. Ho - ly In - fant, so
 heav - en a - far; Heav'n - ly hosts sing,
 thy ho - ly face With the dawn of re -



ten - der and mild, Sleep in heav - en - ly
 Al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sav - ior, is
 deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy



peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

Text: Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792–1848, abr.; tr. John F. Young, 1820–85.

Tune: STILLE NACHT (Irregular) Franz X. Gruber, 1787–1863, alt.



Congregation extinguishes their candles.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

M: When all was still and it was midnight, your eternal Word, O Lord, descended from the almighty throne to dwell among us. May we receive him in the peace of forgiven hearts and proclaim your gracious goodwill to all people on earth, for he is God with us, Emmanuel, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

M: “The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.” (Romans 16:20)

C: Amen.

Serving this Evening:

Pastor Michael Willitz

Organist: Jennifer Boll

Ushers: Bob Degnan and Lynn Biwer

Altar Guild: Sally Kaalberg

A/V: Joe Hornbeck

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