

Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace to those on whom  
his favor rests.

Luke 2:14

# Lord of Love Lutheran Church

Lord of Love Lutheran Church  
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

www.lordoflove.org  
608-846-9036



**Welcome!** We are so happy you have come to worship today! Someone has described worship as “a joyful dialogue with God.” God speaks to us in his Word, and we speak to him in praise and prayer. May God richly bless you through this “joyful dialogue” today!

**Restrooms** – The restrooms are located straight ahead as you enter the building. You will also find restrooms in the lower level gathering space at the end of the classrooms on the right side before the exit doors.

**Parent’s Room** – The sound of children in the house of the Lord is music to our ears! However there is also a parent room to the right just before you enter the sanctuary if your little one needs a moment. It is accessed as you exit the sanctuary, on the left, next to the seats reserved for families with small children.

**Assistance Getting Around** – There is a walker and a wheelchair available in the fellowship hall. Anyone who needs them is welcome to use them. Please speak to an usher if you need help accessing them.

**Offering Message** – An offering will be gathered in the service today. These offerings support the Gospel ministry of Lord of Love locally, and also the global mission of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Visitors need not feel obligated to give, but certainly may if you wish.

*Welcome to all our visitors and members!*

*Merry Christmas!*

# The Nativity of Our Lord

December 24, 2024

## CHRISTMAS EVE VESPERS

**PRESERVICE ANTHEM** (Quintet)

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring  
Violin: Ruth Kovaciny  
Piano: Jennifer Boll

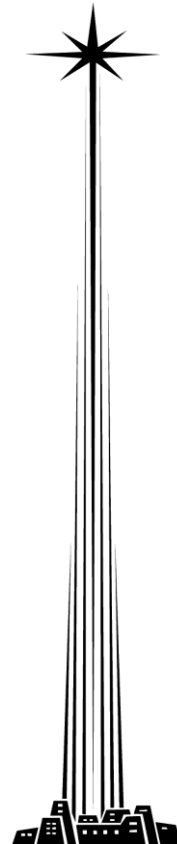
**OPENING PRAYER** (CW 46:1-2)

*STAND*

**M:** Your little ones, dear Lord, are we  
And come your lowly bed to see;  
Enlighten every soul and mind  
That we the way to you may find.

**C:** **With songs we hasten you to greet  
And humbly fall before your feet.  
Oh, blessed hour, oh, sweetest night  
That gave you birth, our souls' delight!**

*The congregation remains standing to sing the hymn*





1 Oh, come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant, Oh,  
 2 God from true God, and Light from 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, oh, come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
 Born of a vir - gin, to earth he comes,  
 Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove.  
 Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry giv'n,



Come and be - hold him, Born the King of an - gels.  
 On - ly be - got - ten Son of God the Fa - ther.  
 Glo - ry to God, all Glo - ry in the high - est.  
 Word of the Fa - ther, Now in flesh ap - pear - ing.

*Refrain*

Oh, come, let us a - dore him, Oh, come, let us a - dore him,



Oh, come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

Text: John F. Wade, c. 1711–86; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–80, alt.

Tune: ADESTE FIDELES (Irregular) John F. Wade, c. 1711–86, alt.

## RESPONSIVE SENTENCES FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

(Isaiah 40:1-2, 9)

**M:** Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

**C:** **Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed,**

**M:** That her sin has been paid for,

**C:** **That she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.**

**M:** You who bring good tidings to Zion, go up on a high mountain.

**C:** **You who bring good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid;**

**M:** Say to the towns of Judah,

**C:** **"Behold your God!"**

*BE SEATED*

## CHOIR ANTHEM

Behold Your God

## 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.**

# THE WORD OF GOD FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

## FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

*<sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> Every boot that marched in battle and the garments rolled in blood will be burned. They will be fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> 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.*

## CHOIR ANTHEM

It is So Still in Bethlehem

## SECOND LESSON

1 John 4:9-14

*<sup>9</sup> This 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. <sup>10</sup> This 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. <sup>11</sup> Dear friends, if God loved us so much, we also should love one another. <sup>12</sup> No 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. <sup>13</sup> This is how we know that we remain in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup> We have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.*

## ANTHEM

In Old Judea  
Piano/Soloist: Roger Kovaciny

## GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 2:1-20

*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. [The Christ Candle is lighted.]*

*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



1 Where shep-herds late-ly knelt and kept the an-gel's word,  
 2 In that un-like-ly place I find him as they said:  
 3 How should I not have known I-sa-iah would be there,  
 4 Can I, will I for-get how Love was born, and burned



I come in half-be-lief, a pil-grim strange-ly stirred;  
 Sweet new-born Babe, how frail! and in a man-ger bed,  
 His proph-e-cies ful-filled? With pound-ing heart I stare:  
 Its way in-to my heart un-asked, un-forced, un-earned,



But there is room and wel-come there for me,  
 A still, small voice to cry one day for me,  
 A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me,  
 To die, to live, and not a-lone for me,



But there is room and wel-come there for me.  
 A still, small voice to cry one day for me.  
 A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me.  
 To die, to live, and not a-lone for me?

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008. © 1987 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.  
 Tune: MANGER SONG (12 12 10 10) Carl. F. Schalk, b. 1929. © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, IL,  
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**Birth...Cloths...Manger...Behold Your God!****GATHERING OF THE THANK-OFFERING**

*Please sign and pass the Friendship during the collection of the offering.*

**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.**

## HYMN (CW 60)

## Silent Night! Holy Night

*Please turn on the candle you received when you entered the sanctuary this evening.*

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.

## CLOSING PRAYER

**M:** O Jesus Christ, your manger is,  
My paradise where my soul is reclining.  
For there, O Lord, we find the Word,  
Made flesh for us – your grace is brightly shining. (CW 40:1)

**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.

## CLOSING HYMN (CW 61)

## Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



## Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the  
 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er -  
 3 Hail, the heav'n - ly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of



new - born King; Peace on earth and mer - cy mild,  
 last - ing Lord, Late in time be - hold him come,  
 Right - eous - ness! Light and life to all he brings,



God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!" Joy - ful, all you  
 Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb. Veiled in flesh the  
 Ris'n with heal - ing in his wings. Mild he lays his



na - tions rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;  
 God-head see, Hail th' in - car - nate De - i - ty!  
 glo - ry by, Born that we no more may die,



With th' an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is  
 Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus,  
 Born to raise us from the earth, Born to

*Refrain*

born in Beth - le - hem!"  
 our Im - man - u - el! Hark! The her - ald  
 give us sec - ond birth.



an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, abr., alt.

Tune: MENDELSSOHN (77 77 D with Refrain) Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–47, alt.

**Serving us this Evening:**

Pastor Joel Jenswold  
Pianist: Kristin Huebner  
Choir Director: Elaine Wilson  
Quintet Director: Ruth Kovaciny

Ushers: Bob Degnan, TBD  
Counters: Donna Cotter and Sharon Kalscheuer  
Altar Guild: Colleen Biber  
A/V: RaeLyn Parker

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# Christmas Day Worship

*One service*

**9:00 am**



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**LORD of LOVE**  
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Office Assistant: Kristin Vomhof, Office hours Tuesday – Friday.  
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod - ***Christ's Love, Our Calling.***

Thank you for Worshiping with us this evening!  
Come worship with us again soon.

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

