

Faith Lutheran Church

Hutchinson, MN

December 24, 2023

Christmas Eve 11 p.m.

Candles are available from the ushers. When lighting a candle, please dip unlit candles towards a lit one.

Take extra care with children.

We also have a limited number of artificial candles for our youngest children.

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Merry
Christmas!



Prelude

Greetings and Announcements

Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful"

LBW #45

Oh, come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!

Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;

Come and behold Him born the King of angels;

Refrain: Oh, come, let us adore Him, Oh, come, let us adore him,

Oh, come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

The highest, most holy, Light of light eternal,

Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;

Son of the Father, now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,

Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God In the highest: *Refrain*

Christmas Litany

P: When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son,

C: born of a woman, born under the law,

P: in order to redeem those who were under the law,

C: so that we might receive adoption as children.

P: And because you are children,

C: God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying,

"Abba! Father!"

P: So you are no longer a slave but a child,

C: and if a child then also an heir, through God. *Galatians 4:4-7*

Confession and Absolution

P: Let us confess our sins to God and listen for his word of forgiveness.

C: Almighty God, as we celebrate the birth of your only-begotten Son, we confess how unworthy we are to receive such gracious love from you. We have sinned against you in our thoughts, words and actions. We cannot free ourselves from our sinful nature. Yet we dare to ask for your forgiveness, because of the Child of Bethlehem, whose name is Jesus because he came to save his people from their sins. By his saving death and for his sake, forgive us and fill us with your righteousness.

C: Glory to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit! The Savior close beside us, God's love from harm to hide us, The Spirit's pow'r to guide us evermore!

The candles are extinguished.

"Joy to the World"

LBW #39

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;

Let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing,

And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,

While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding

joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground;

He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,

Far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations

prove the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,

And wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

Thank you to the many people who have given of their time and talents for Faith's Christmas worship services, especially Austin Willhite for providing music for this service.

Joy to the World offering envelopes for end-of-year gifts are available in the pew pads. **End-of-year gifts must arrive in the church office before 12:00 noon on December 21, 2023 to be included in 2023 giving.**

The Thanksgiving..... tune of “From Heaven Above”
Oh, thank the Lord, whose goodness sure and steadfast love fore’er endure! Our eyes have seen, our ears have heard, and we have tasted of His word.

**As His own servants we depart with His salvation in our heart.
His saving power He has made known; His love through all the earth is shown.**

Lord, let us show the world Your light; Let us declare Your glory bright, proclaim Your death until You come to take Your ransomed servants home.

Glory to God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Three in One! Oh, thank the Lord, whose goodness sure and steadfast love fore’er endure!

*** Candles are lit before the singing of “Silent Night”*

“Silent Night, Holy Night!” LBW #65
**Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heav’nly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!**

**Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love’s pure light
Radiant beams from your holy face, with the dawn of
redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

Christmas Prayer
Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Benediction tune of “Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful”
P: The Lord bless and keep you, look with love upon you,
Be gracious, and cause His face to shine with peace!

P: In the boundless mercy of Almighty God, Jesus came in human flesh to take the sin of all people on himself and put it to death on the cross. Jesus was born in order to forgive you and make you into a new person. So, come to the manger and leave there all your guilt and shame, for in the name of Jesus Christ and by his authority, I tell you, you are forgiven.

C: Amen. Glory to God in the highest!

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” (stanzas 1, 3 & 4) LBW #41
**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.

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv’n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heav’n.
No ear may hear His coming; But, in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

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!**

“The First Noel” (stanza’s 1 & 2) LBW #56
**The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in
fields as they lay; In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter’s might that was so deep.**

Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.
**They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day
and night. Refrain**

First Lesson Isaiah 9:2-7
Second Lesson Ephesians 2:11-20
Gospel Acclamation “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”(sts 1 & 3) LBW #60
**Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the Newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.”
Joyful, all you nations, rise; Join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”**

**Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness
Light and life to all he brings, Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, born that we no more may die,
Born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

Christmas Gospel Luke 2:1-20

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Christmas Message "The Peace that Is Not Peace" Pastor Scott Grorud

"It Came upon the Midnight Clear" LBW #54

**It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from
angels bending near the earth to touch their harts of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all gracious
king." The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.
Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings
unfurled, and still their heav'nly music floats o'er all the weary
world. Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hov'ring wing,
and ever o'er its babel sounds the blessed angels sing.**

**And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending
low, who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow:
Look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing;
oh, rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing!**

**For lo! The days are hast'ning on, by prophets seen of old, when
with the ever circling years shall come the time foretold, when
peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors filing, and all
the world give back the song which now the angels sing.**

Offering/Special Music ... "Sing We Now of Christmas" Austin Willhite

Offertory Response "What Child Is This" (vs. 3) LBW #40

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peasant, king, to
own him. The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts
enthroned him. Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her
lullaby; Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary.**

Text: William CL. Dix, 1837-1898 Tune: English ballad, 16th cent.

The Preface..... tune of "Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful"

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with you, His servant.

P: Oh, come, let us lift our hearts unto the Lord.

C: With hearts uplifted thanks to Him we render:

**With joy we come before Him, In gratefulness implore Him,
With thankful hearts adore Him evermore!**

The Great Thanksgiving

P: Thanks and praise be to You, our Father, almighty Creator, merciful
Lord, God of promise and fulfillment. Of old Your faithful people
waited for the day of Your visitation, manifest at last when the time
had fully come and You sent forth Jesus Christ, Your Son. Having
seen His glory, now we wait for the last day, when He will come
again in glory as Judge and King. And so, with the Church on earth
and the hosts of heaven, we praise Your name and join their
unending hymn:

The Sanctus tune of "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Holy, holy, holy Lord! God of hosts, by all adored!

Heav'n and earth cannot contain all the glory of Your name!

Hail, hosanna, God most high! Blest is He who now draws nigh

In the name of God the King! Hallelujahs glad we sing:

Hail, hosanna! Praises due be forever, Lord, to You!

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer.....tune of "It Came upon the Midnight Clear"

**Our Father, Lord on heav'n's high throne, most holy be Your name.
Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth—in heav'n the same.
Give us this day the food we need; forgiven may we be;
Into temptation do not lead; from evil set us free.**

**Yours is the kingdom; unto You in grateful love we bow;
And Yours the pow'r; Lord, let us view Your mighty presence now.
The glory Yours; Your praise be sung by angel hosts and men
In ev'ry land, by ev'ry tongue forevermore! Amen.**

The Distribution

Distribution Hymns LBW #69, 44 & 56