

# Faith Lutheran Church

Hutchinson, MN

**Christmas Eve Service**

**December 24, 2023 ~ 2:00 p.m.**

Bells are available from the ushers for children to play during the hymns marked with a . . . .



Candles are also 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.

Thank you to Ronda Eckhart, Austin Willhite, the Kid's Music Club along with Mary Parker and Andrea Wollan for providing music for this service.

Thank you to the many other people who have given of their time and talents for Faith's Christmas worship services.

**Joy to the World** offering envelopes for end-of-year gifts are available in the pew pads. **End of year giving for 2023 has to be received at the church by 12:00 noon on Sunday, December 31.**

**Nursery** - An unstaffed nursery is located on the main floor next to the Faith Center. If you need help, the ushers will be happy to give you directions or show you the way.

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Prelude

Greeting & Announcements

Opening Hymn "Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful" (stanzas 1-3) 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*

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 for 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.

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!

Prayer

O Lord, heavenly Father, you sent your angels to urge poor shepherds  
of the field not to fear, but to rejoice that Christ the Savior was born.  
By that great good news, drive away all fear from our hearts. Stir up  
in us true and lasting joy, so that, in all our joys and sorrows,

Hymn

"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 your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

Benediction

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph,  
the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination  
of the wise men and the peace of the Christ Child. Almighty God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. Amen.

*The candles are extinguished.*

Closing Hymn "Joy to the World" (stanzas 1, 3 & 4) LBW #39

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Let earth receive its 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.

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.

Scripture Readings ..... Isaiah 9:2-7 and Ephesians 2:11-20

Christmas Gospel ..... Luke 2:1-20

Message ..... “The Peace that Is No Peace” ..... Pastor Scott Grorud

Hymn “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 “Gloria” Kids Music Club

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 Lord’s Prayer

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

triumphs and failures, we may trust in your dear Son, Jesus Christ,  
our Savior, who took on human flesh in order deliver us from evil  
and save us forever. Amen.

Children’s Story Time with Laura Stowman

Hymn “Away in a Manger” LBW #67

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord  
Jesus laid down his sweet head; The stars in the sky looked  
down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky  
And stay by my cradle ‘til morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay  
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care  
And fit us for heaven to live with you there.

Children’s Message ..... Faith Lutheran Puppets

*Faith Seeds is a time for children of all ages to come forward for a lesson  
geared to them.*

Hymn “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” 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!”

Christ, by highest heav’n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold him come, Offspring of a virgin’s womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, incarnate deity!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!  
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!”

