

**Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church**

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December 24, 2022

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

4:00 pm

**WELCOME**

**LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

**OPENING HYMN: "O Come, All Ye Faithful" LSB# 379**

O come, all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold Him  
Born the king of angels;  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord!

Highest, most holy,  
Light of Light eternal,  
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;  
Son of the Father  
Now in flesh appearing!  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God  
In the highest  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord!

## **CONFESSION/ABSOLUTION**

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: As we celebrate the birth of our Savior, let us remember the reason our Lord was to be born: to take away our sins. Thinking on the need for an earthly Jesus, let us confess ourselves to our Heavenly Father and find our relief in His mercy.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, hear us as we confess,

**People: that our sins made it necessary for Jesus to be born. For all the sins that caused Jesus to leave His throne and dwell among us, we are sorry and we ask for Your forgiveness.**

Pastor: Because Christ was willing to leave His Heaven for us, we have found forgiveness in our merciful God. He has heard our confession and has answered with love. You are forgiven this day, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

## **HYMN: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" LSB #361**

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

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above  
While mortals sleep the angels keep, their watch of wond'ring love  
O morning stars, together, proclaim the holy birth  
And praises sing to Christ the King and peace to all the earth

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  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Let us pray: We give You thanks, Heavenly Father, for sending Your Son Jesus into this world that He might live with us and show us the way unto salvation. Call all gathered here this day to remembrance as we celebrate the gift of His grace. In Jesus' name we pray.

**People: Amen.**

## **TENSAE CHILDREN'S CHOIR**

"O Holy Night"

## **BRINGING THE BABY JESUS TO THE NATIVITY**

**Betania Filate from TENSAE Church**

## **HYMN: What Child is This? LSB #370**

What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the king,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,  
The babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies He in such mean estate  
Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,  
The cross be borne for me, for you;  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
The babe, the son of Mary!

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

## **READING: Luke 2:1-14**

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

## HYMN: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" LSB #380

Hark! The herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn King  
Peace on earth and mercy mild  
God and sinners reconciled  
Joyful, all ye nations rise  
Join the triumph of the skies  
With th'angelic host 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 the in'carnate Deity  
Pleased as man with man to dwell  
Jesus, our Immanuel  
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 man no more may die  
Born to raise the sons of earth  
Born to give us second birth  
Hark! The herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn King

## SERMON

**Pastor Jesus Morales**

**OFFERING/PRAYER CARDS** - *The offering plate is located on the rear table for you to place your offering in as you enter or leave church. **When the offering is received, an usher will bring it forward, along with any prayer cards, to the altar. If you have any prayers to include, please pass them to the usher as they come forward.** For those who are worshipping at home, you may continue to mail your offerings to the church office, Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 0S501 Summit Drive, Winfield, IL 60190. Thank you!*

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray,

God of the Incarnation, we thank You for being born into this world that we might have eternal life. We thank You for what Jesus' birth means to us and we continue to ask You that the world would take the true heart of Christmas with them as they celebrate in their own ways.

We pray for families congregating during the holy time, that You would enliven their time together.

Bless those in the military, especially those who are far away from loved ones. Keep them safe during their duties and help them have time to celebrate Your Son's birth.

Guard the roads, skies, and waterways as people travel near and far to be with family and friends.

Strengthen the weak and hurting, those downtrodden in spirit, (especially...), that they might find relief.

Grant Sabbath rest to all those who have invested countless hours in helping their churches celebrate this Christmas season.

Renew Your church in 2023. May it be a year of healing, refreshment, and growth.

Bless Bible Studies of all kinds in the days ahead, that many would seek higher wisdom and knowledge of Your Word and ways.

We continue to pray for industries hit hard during our current times, that You would help them recover.

Reveal new medicines, therapies, and technologies to combat the diseases and ailments of our time. Be with doctors, nurses, and researchers in their hard work healing.

For these prayers and all other prayers that are on our hearts and minds, we lift them to You at this time, Lord, for Your listening ear. Hear us and answer us with mercy. In the name of Jesus, who has also taught us to pray...

### **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.

### **CHRISTMAS CREED**

We believe in God the Father, whose plan it was to send His Son, Jesus Christ, to be born and to live perfectly that He might be the Savior of the World.

We believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, who has come to be born like us, yet remained sinless throughout His life and ministry, so that when He died on the cross, He was able to accomplish the complete redemption of all of humanity.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who gives us the faith to understand the sacrifice of Jesus and to make our own proclamation that He is Lord and Savior, truly God and truly man. May the Holy Spirit, through the Father's plan and the Son's work, reignite our faith in the New Year. Amen.

### **LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

*(The usher will come forward to light the candle from Pastor Jesus, and will proceed down the aisle to light candles in each pew. Please remember to keep lit candles straight, with the person who wishes to light a candle, dipping it to the flame. When all candles are lit, the lights in the sanctuary will be turned off.)*

**HYMN: "Silent Night" LSB # 363 (Sung by Candlelight)**

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 Thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

*(You may now blow out your candles. The sanctuary lights go back on.)*

**CHRISTMAS BENEDICTION**

Pastor: May the Lord bless you with the peace of Christ's birth. May He show you the path unto salvation. May He guard your ways with His mercy. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN: "Away in a Manger" LSB #364**

Away in a manger no crib for a 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 baby awakes  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever and love me, I pray  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care  
And take us to Heaven to live with Thee there

*God's Blessings and Peace!*