

3:00 PM Contemporary Christmas Eve Worship

December 24, 2025

Nativity of Our Lord

GATHERING MUSIC

He Has Come for Us (God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen) – Ingram/Andrews

*He has come for us, this Jesus. He's the hope for all mankind.
He has come for us, the Messiah. Born to give us life.*

Noel – Tomlin/Cash/Redman

*Noel! Come and see what God has done! Noel! The story of amazing love!
The light of the world given for us.*

God With Us – Camp/Bannister/Shive

*Emmanuel, our humble King, we give You our hearts as an offering.
You laid down Your crown and became as dust, Emmanuel, God with us.*

WELCOME

Leader: The Lord be with you.

Assembly: **And also with you.**

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE OF THE ADVENT WREATH *

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Verse 1: 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!

Chorus: O come, let us adore Him! O come, let us adore Him!
O come, let us adore Him Christ the Lord!

Verse 2: Sing choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
O sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!...*chorus*

Verse 3: Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus to Thee be all glory giv'n:
Word of the Father now in flesh appearing...*chorus*

Ending: We'll praise Your name forever, We'll praise Your name forever,
We'll praise Your name forever; Christ the Lord!

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this!

² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

³ You have multiplied exultation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴ For the yoke of their burden
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶ For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders,
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ Great will be his authority,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

SONG *

Gift of God

We stand and sing as we welcome the Christmas Gospel.



Gift of God, O Em - man - u - el.



Gift of God, O Em - man - u - el.



Gift of God, O Em - man - u - el,



Gift of God, O Em - man - u - el,

Verse to be sung by soloist as refrain is sung:

Word of mercy, word of justice:

Word of prophets, word of poets:

Holy Word of God made flesh.

GOSPEL LESSON *

Luke 2:1-20

God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.

Leader: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the second chapter.

Assembly: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

Assembly: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

SONG & PRAYERS *

A Christmas Alleluia

The Praise Team will sing the chorus once and then the Assembly is invited to join in singing.

After each prayer petition all join together in singing.

Chorus: Alleluia, alleluia! Christ, the savior of the world, He has come!
Alleluia, alleluia! To the highest name of all: Alleluia!

Words & Music by Chris Tomlin & Jonas Myrin

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Leader: On this holy night, as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ,
we bring before God the prayers of the Church,
the world, and all who long for light in the darkness.
Gracious and loving God, we pray for your Church throughout the world.
On this night of wonder and joy,
renew your people with the message of the angels
and the hope of the manger.
Strengthen all who proclaim the gospel, whether through word, music, service,
or quiet faithfulness.
Unite your Church across nations and generations,
that together we may reflect the light of Christ
and live as signs of your peace, mercy, and love.

Assembly: *(Sung)* **Alleluia, alleluia! Christ, the savior of the world, He has come!**
Alleluia, alleluia! To the highest name of all: Alleluia!

Leader: God of peace, we pray for the world you came to save.
For nations divided by conflict, for places marked by violence and fear,
and for all who suffer because of injustice or oppression,
we ask for your healing and peace.
Guide leaders and those in authority, that they may seek wisdom, humility,
and the good of all people.
May the light born in Bethlehem shine into the darkest places of our world,
bringing hope where it seems impossible.

Assembly: *(Sung)* **Alleluia, alleluia! Christ, the savior of the world, He has come!**
Alleluia, alleluia! To the highest name of all: Alleluia!

Leader: Compassionate God, we lift before you all who carry heavy burdens this night.
We pray for the poor and the homeless, the refugee and the forgotten;
for the sick and the dying, and for those who care for them;
for the lonely, the grieving,
and all whose hearts ache with loss or uncertainty.
Draw near to them with your presence, comfort them with your peace,
and remind them that in Christ you are truly Emmanuel—God with us.

Assembly: *(Sung)* **Alleluia, alleluia! Christ, the savior of the world, He has come!**
Alleluia, alleluia! To the highest name of all: Alleluia!

Leader: Faithful God, we entrust to you all for whom we pray,
and all the prayers of our hearts, spoken and unspoken.
As we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, send us out as bearers of his light,
sharing your love with the world.
Through Christ our Lord.

Assembly: *(Sung)* **Alleluia, alleluia! Christ, the savior of the world, He has come!**
Alleluia, alleluia! To the highest name of all: Alleluia!

PEACE *

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you always!

Assembly: **And also with you!**

*The assembly greets each other with
"peace be with you...and also with you."*

You're invited to share God's peace with those around you.

If you're worshipping on Facebook, you may also greet one another in the comments.

OFFERING

Born on That Day – Maher/Reeves/Tomlin/Elmqvist/Parks

As we respond to hearing God's Word and prepare to feast at God's table we contemplate the many ways we serve the Kingdom of God through our time, talents, and gifts.

Offering plates will be passed among the assembly by the ushers.

Gifts can also be given electronically using the QR Code.



*Breaking the silence, into the chaos You came,
Born in our likeness, held in the hands that You made.
For our deliverance Your promise was given a name:*

*Emmanuel, the God who saves. I hear a voice from Heaven declare, "Prepare the way!"
Emmanuel, oh praise the name. I hear the sound. Heaven cried out, and love made a way.
Christmas was born on that day. Oh, what a day.*

*As it is written, Jesus, the glory of God.
No reputation, You took on our flesh and blood,
For our forgiveness and for the world You so loved.*

*Your Kingdom come, glory to God with us.
Angels adore, bow down before. Glory to God with us.*

CONFESSION *

Leader: On this holy night, when God comes to us in love,
let us confess the ways we have turned away from that love,
trusting in God's mercy and grace.

Assembly: God of light and life,
you came into the world not in power, but in vulnerability,
not with force, but with love.

Yet we confess that we often choose comfort over compassion,
busyness over wonder, and fear over trust.

We have failed to make room for you—
in our hearts, in our relationships,
and in the lives of those who need us most.

We have overlooked the poor,
held onto resentment,
and resisted the call to love as you love.

Forgive us, O God.

Quiet the noise within us.

Open our hearts to receive again the gift of Christ,
born for us and for the world.

Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS *

WORDS OF INSTITUTION *

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.

HOLY COMMUNION

All those who confess Jesus as Lord and Savior are welcome to the table.

We invite you to come forward to receive the communion elements from the servers.

You will be handed a wafer from the server and are invited to select a cup of wine from the tray.

Pre-packaged elements of grape juice and gluten free wafers are available

in the baskets at the communion rail and at each entrance to the sanctuary.

You may partake of the elements at the communion rail and dispose of the cups and packaging in the baskets at the end of each communion rail or take the elements back to your pew to partake of them and dispose of the cups and packaging after the service.

"Bread from the Lord's Table" and/or a pastoral blessing are available for children who do not yet commune.

Leader: God is now in flesh appearing.
 Come to the feast of joy!

As you are served communion:

Communion Server: The body of Christ, given for you.
 The blood of Christ, shed for you

Communion Receiver: Amen.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

- Verse 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.
- Verse 2: For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
 While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
 O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth,
 And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth!
- Verse 3: 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.
- Verse 4: O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend on 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 Emmanuel!

Away in a Manger

Verse 1: 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.

Verse 2: 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 side until morning is nigh.

Verse 3: 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 fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.

Words: Anon., verse 3 by John McFarland.

Music by James Murray.

Arr. Don Chapman ©2004 Hearts to God Music

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING *

Pastor: The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you
 and keep you in his grace.

Assembly: Amen.

LIGHT OF CHRISTMAS *

Leader: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will not walk in
 darkness but have the light of life." Jesus also said, "You are the light of the
 world. Let your light so shine before others, that they may see your good works
 and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

SONG OF LIGHT *

Silent Night

As the lights are dimmed we invite you to pass the light of Christ.

*For those using candles tip the unlit candle into the flame of the lit candle
of the person beside you. Please hold the candles upright to avoid dripping.*

*If preferred glow sticks are available from the ushers for children at each entrance
or you may use your cell phone flashlights or other devices to light the sanctuary as we sing.*

- Verse 1: 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.
- Verse 2: Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar, heavn'ly hosts sing alleluia!
Christ, the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!
- Verse 3: 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.

PRAYER OF LIGHT *

SONG *

Joy to the World (Unspeakable Joy)

As the lights are raised you may extinguish your candles.

- Verse 1: Joy to the world, the Lord is come.
Let earth receive her King.
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and heaven and nature sing.
- Verse 2: Joy to the world 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.
- Chorus:* Joy, unspeakable joy, an overflowing well, no tongue can tell.
Joy, unspeakable joy, it rises in my soul, never lets me go.
- Verse 3: 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...*chorus*

*Words and music by Chris Tomlin , Ed Cash , George Frederic Handel, Isaac Watts, and Matt Gilder
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DISMISSAL *

Pastor: Go in peace.

Share the good news that Jesus Christ is born!

Assembly: Thanks be to God.

UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

Sunday, December 28 – 10:00 AM – *A Service of Lessons and Carols with Holy Communion*

Sunday, January 4 – *Epiphany Celebration*

8:00 – Traditional Worship

9:15 – Contemporary Worship

11:10 – Traditional Worship

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF:

Pastor Leslie Fox Lott, Transition Pastor

Pastor Denny Asp, Associate Pastor

Deacon Diane Schwiger-Alexander, Director of Youth & Family

Chad Baker, Director of Worship & Music

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