



OUR SAVIOR'S

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2022 ~ 6:30 PM

Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church ~ WELS
Wausau, Wisconsin

WELCOME TO OUR SAVIOR

Our long wait for the Savior's arrival is finally over. Christmas is here! God's grace welcomes you as do we, no matter who you are or where you come from. By Jesus' perfect life, innocent death, and triumphant resurrection, He saves all sinners, not because of what we do but because He loves us. Whether you are a first time visitor or a curious observer with little religious background, we are delighted to share our Christmas Eve worship with you. Please sign the Friendship Register located in each pew sometime during tonight's service.

ABOUT TONIGHT'S SERVICE

The pattern and strength of our service tonight resides with the readings and carols. The main theme of the service is the development, through the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, of the loving purpose of God in sending his Son Jesus. The carols, readings, and responses are here to guide us in our response to the word of God's story of salvation as we

COME AND BEHOLD CHRISTMAS!

Presider: Pastor Walter Davidson

Organist: Marie Kurth

“COME AND BEHOLD CHRISTMAS”

MUSIC FOR CHRISTMAS

OPENING CAROL

Christian Worship (CW) 354

O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, oh come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold him, born the King of angels:

Refrain: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

God from true God, and Light from Light eternal.
Born of a virgin, to earth he comes!
Only begotten Son of God the Father:

Refrain: 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 heav'n above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest:

Refrain: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Please stand

GREETING

Pastor: The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Congregation: **And also with you.** (*responses are spoken*)

CONFESSION OF SINS

P: In our Christmas joy, let us confess our sins.

C: Mighty God, on this eve of celebration, we confess our sins to you. We are by nature sinful. Without your help, we are powerless to overcome it. We confess our impatience with you and with others, our seeking after worldly passions, and our self-indulgent ways of life. By our sin, we have hurt others, ourselves, and you. We plead with you to forgive our sins for the sake of Christ and to transform our broken lives.

ABSOLUTION

P: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light, and the light shines on them. The grace of God has appeared through the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ, bringing salvation to all people. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CHRISTMAS LITANY

P: Blessed are you, O Sun of righteousness, shining forth from the Father and giving light to the whole world.

C: Let heaven and earth rejoice!

P: Blessed are you, O Babe of Bethlehem, born in humility and laid in a manger.

C: Let heaven and earth rejoice!

P: Blessed are you, O humble son of a virgin mother, yet eternal Son of the Father.

C: Let heaven and earth rejoice!

P: Blessed are you, O Emmanuel, who has graciously come to dwell with us.

C: Let heaven and earth rejoice!

P: With all the saints on earth and all the hosts of heaven, let us proclaim and celebrate our Savior's birth!

C: Let heaven and earth rejoice!

PRAISE CAROL

CW 353 (v 1,3,4)

Joy To The World

**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.**

**No more let sins and sorrows 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.**

P: Let us pray:

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.

Be seated

COME AND BEHOLD THE CHRISTMAS PROMISE

Genesis 3:8-15

⁸They heard the voice of the LORD God, who was walking around in the garden during the cooler part of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹The LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰The man said, "I heard your voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, so I hid myself." ¹¹God said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree from which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹²The man said, "The woman you gave to be with me—she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

¹³The LORD God said to the woman, "What have you done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." ¹⁴The LORD God said to the serpent: Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all the livestock, and more than every wild animal. You shall crawl on your belly, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life. ¹⁵I will put hostility between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He will crush your head, and you will crush his heel.

CAROL

CW 362

Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising

**Come, your hearts and voices raising,
Christ the Lord with gladness praising;
Loudly sing his love amazing,
Worthy folk of Christendom.**

**Christ from heav'n to us descending
And in love our race befriending
In our need his help extending,
Saved us from the wily foe.**

**Oh, the joy beyond expressing
When by faith we grasp this blessing,
When, O Christ, we come addressing
Thanks to you and highest praise!**

COME AND BEHOLD THE CHRISTMAS PROPHECY

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

² 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. ⁶ 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. ⁷ 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.

CAROL

CW 327

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**

**O come, O Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by your drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**

**O come, O Key of David, come, and open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**

COME AND BEHOLD THE CHRISTMAS PREDICTION

Micah 5:2-4

² But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, from you will go out the one who will be the ruler for me in Israel. His goings forth are from the beginning, from the days of eternity. ³ Therefore the LORD will give them up, until the time when the woman who is in labor bears a child. Then the remaining survivors from his brothers will return to the people of Israel. ⁴ He will stand and shepherd with the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. They will dwell securely, for at that time he will be great to the ends of the earth.

CAROL

CW 333

O Little Town of Bethlehem

**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.**

**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!**

COME AND BEHOLD THE CHRISTMAS PROCESS

Luke 1:26-35, 38

²⁶ In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged in marriage to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women."

²⁹ But she was greatly troubled by the statement and was wondering what kind of greeting this could be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, because you have found favor with God. ³¹ Listen, you will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will never end."

³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ The angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁸ Then Mary said, "See, I am the Lord's servant. May it happen to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

CAROL

CW 328

The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came

**The angel Gabriel from heaven came, his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flames
"All hail," said he to meek and lowly Mary, "most highly favored maiden." Gloria!**

**"I come from heav'n to tell the Lord's decree: a blessed virgin mother you shall be.
Your son shall be Immanuel, by seers foretold, most highly favored maiden." Gloria!**

**Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head; "To me be as it pleases God," she said.
"My soul shall praise and magnify his holy name." Most highly favored maiden, Gloria!**

COME AND BEHOLD THE CHRISTMAS PLACE

Luke 2:1-7

(Congregation stand & read in unison at the direction of the Pastor)

¹ 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.



CAROL

CW 341

Away In A Manger

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright 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 you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until 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 take us to heaven to live with you there.**

Be seated

COME AND BEHOLD THE CHRISTMAS PRAISE

Luke 2:8-14

⁸There were in the same country shepherds staying out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock at night. ⁹An angel of the Lord appeared to 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 behold, I bring you good news of great joy, which will be for all people: ¹¹Today in the town of David, a Savior was born for you. He is Christ the Lord.

¹²And this will be a sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³Suddenly, 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."†



CAROL

CW 363

Now Sing We Now Rejoice

**Now sing we, now rejoice, now raise to heav'n our voice;
He from whom joy streameth poor in a manger lies;
Not so brightly beameth the sun in yonder skies,
Thou my Savior art! Thou my Savior art!**

**Come from on high to me; I cannot rise to thee.
Cheer my wearied spirit, O pure and holy Child;
Thro' thy grace and merit, blest Jesus, Lord most mild.
Draw me unto thee! Draw me unto thee!**

**Oh, where shall joy be found? Where by on heav'nly ground,
Where the angels singing with all his saints unite,
Sweetest praises bringing in heav'nly joy and light.
Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!**

COME AND BEHOLD THE CHRISTMAS PRIZE

Luke 2:15-20

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.

THANK OFFERING AND FRIENDSHIP REGISTER

As the offering is gathered, please sign the Friendship Register as it is passed down each pew. Our Savior members give freewill and regular offerings to honor God and support our ministry. Guests are welcome to give, but should not feel obligated to do so.

Stand

PRAYER

- P: 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.**
- P: 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.**

P: You send Jesus 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.

P: 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 that rests on us. May the treasure that Mary pondered in her heart be our treasure. May we never be the same after we COME AND BEHOLD CHRISTMAS.

C: For today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to us. He is Christ, the Lord. Amen.

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.

BLESSING

P: May he who by his incarnation gathered things earthly and heavenly into one, fill us with such joy that comes with the knowledge of the forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life.

The blessing of God Almighty – the Father, Son † and the Holy Spirit – be upon you and remain with you always.

C: Amen. (spoken)

Be seated

**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.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS & POSTLUDE

CHRISTMAS DAY FESTIVAL SERVICE

Sunday, December 25 ~ 9:00 AM

Our service on Christmas Day is the primary service of the entire Christmas season as worship provides a gospel feast in the Word and Sacrament. It is truly a blessed experience to be able to celebrate Holy Communion as believers together during this high festival service.

***On behalf of the entire staff at Our Savior and their families,
we extend our wishes for a most blessed Christmas season!***





OUR SAVIOR'S

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Growing in Jesus, Sharing His Love

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