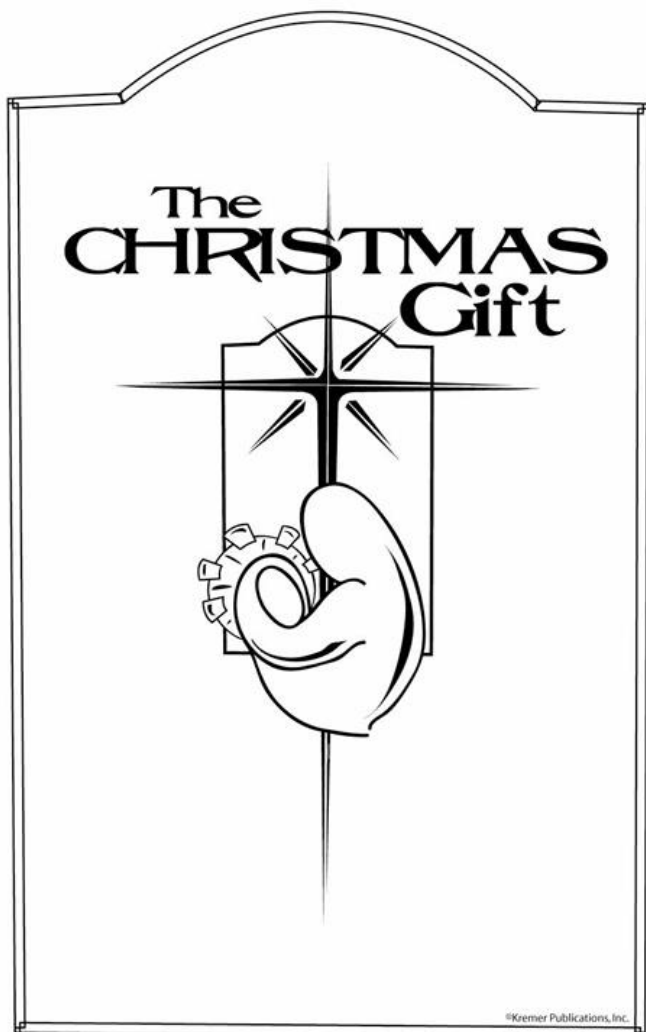




# OUR SAVIOR'S

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH





# The Christmas Gift

## Children's Christmas Service

Sunday, December 15, 2024

### Angels from the Realms of Glory *Children v. 1, congregation v. 2-5*



1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, wing your  
2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing  
3 Ma - gi, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er  
4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing  
5 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the



flight o'er all the earth; once you sang cre -  
o'er your flocks by night, God with us is  
vi - sions beam a - far; seek the great de -  
long in hope and fear, sud - den - ly the  
Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son, ev - er - more your



a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
now re - sid - ing; yon - der shines the in - fant light.  
sire of na - tions, you have seen the Sav - ior's star.  
Lord, de - scend - ing, in his tem - ple shall ap - pear.  
voic - es rais - ing to th' e - ter - nal Three in One.

#### *Refrain*



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship,



wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Text (sts. 1-3): James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt.; (st. 4): Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, alt.  
Tune: Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Invocation

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ †  
and the love of God the Father,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**Amen.**

## Responsive Reading

**Pastor:** At Christmas time our minds are filled with many enjoyable things,

**First Grade:** But Jesus, our Christmas Gift, gives us the greatest joy!

**Pastor:** At Christmas time we join together to sing songs of happiness,

**Second Grade:** But Jesus, our Christmas Gift, is our source of happiness!

**Pastor:** At Christmas time we decorate our homes and offices with bright lights and candles,

**Third Grade:** But Jesus, our Christmas Gift, is the true light that lights up our world!

**Pastor:** At Christmas time we love to visit with friends and family,

**Fourth Grade:** But Jesus, our Christmas Gift, is our best and dearest friend!

**Pastor:** At Christmas time we set up Christmas trees as a sign of living joy,

**Fifth-Sixth Grade:** But Jesus, our Christmas Gift, is always alive in our hearts!

**Pastor:** At Christmas time we give and receive many wonderful gifts,

**Sixth Grade:** But Jesus will always be our greatest Christmas Gift!

# Psalm 96A: Let the Heavens Rejoice


Congregation

## Refrain



Let the heav-ens re-joice, let the earth be glad, let all that is  
in them sing to the LORD. Let the heav-ens re-joice, let the  
earth be glad, let all that is in them sing to the LORD.

## Tone



**Sing to the LORD a / new song;  
sing to the LORD, / all the earth.  
Sing to the LORD, / praise his name;  
proclaim his salvation day / after day.  
Declare his glory among the / nations,  
his marvelous deeds among all / peoples.  
Ascribe to the LORD the glory / due his name;  
bring an offering and come in- / to his courts. Refrain**

**Let all creation rejoice before the LORD, / for he comes,  
he comes to / judge the earth.  
He will judge the world in / righteousness  
and the peoples in his / faithfulness.  
Glory be to the Father and / to the Son  
and to the Holy / Spirit,  
as it was in the be- / ginning,  
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. Refrain**

Tune: © 2010 Tim TenClay, admin. Faith Alive Christian Resources. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 716671  
Setting: © 2011 Faith Alive Christian Resources. Used by permission: License no. 130117968

## Christmas Prayer

When all was still and it was midnight, your eternal Word, O Lord, descended from the almighty throne to dwell among us. May we receive him, your Christmas gift to us, in the peace of forgiven hearts and proclaim your gracious goodwill to all people on earth, for he is God with us, Immanuel, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## The Christmas Gift

All Children

*In the chilled night air of winter, Bethlehem slept long ago.  
Never aware of one little prayer that came from the stable below.  
God's Gift about to be opened, all through this one lowly birth.  
There in the hay a baby boy lay, the ruler of heaven and earth  
Ruler of heaven and earth.*

### REFRAIN

*Gave us hope, gave us joy, all wrapped up in that one little boy.  
Gave us peace, gave us love; God's Gift from heaven above,  
Signed by the Father, "With love!"*

*Angels sang out with loud chorus, chanting the heavenly chords.  
Shepherds took flight into the night, hoping to find their dear Lord,  
There in the manger before them lay but the infant so small.  
Yet, his word still, was peace and good will, for he was the Savior of all,  
He was the Savior of all. REFRAIN*

*Humble the Gift's new beginning. Crown, gold and gems there were none.  
Yet, plainly see, this Gift is for me, God gave me his own precious Son.  
Though my few thanks are so meager, yet with my voice I will lend,  
Unending praise sung all of my days, it's for the Great Gift that God sent,  
For the Great Gift that God sent. REFRAIN*

# Part 1

## The PROMISED GIFT... do not open till later

### Narration & Recitations

#### O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

*Congregation*

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som  
cap - tive Is - ra - el that mourns in lone - ly  
ex - ile here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.

*Refrain*  
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el  
shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp). The first three staves contain the main melody with lyrics. The fourth staff is the start of the refrain, marked 'Refrain', and the fifth staff continues the refrain. The lyrics are: '1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!'.

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent., Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.

Tune: French, 15th cent., alt

Text and tune: Public domain

# Part 2

## The LIVING GIFT... tied with a swaddling ribbon

Narration & Recitations

*The Christmas Story*

### He Whose Praise the Shepherds Sounded

*Children v. 1, congregation v. 3-4*



1 He whose praise the shep - herds sound-ed— told, by  
3 Join in Mar - y's ju - bi - la - tion! An - gels,  
4 Sing through - out the sanc - tu - ar - y: Christ the



an - gel hosts sur - round-ed, that their fears were all un -  
in their heav'n - ly sta - tion, hail the birth that brings sal -  
King is born of Mar - y, God and man, our sins to



found-ed— now is born our glo - rious King!  
va - tion. Oh, how sweet their ho - ly song!  
car - ry. Thanks and praise to him be - long!

Text: tr. Michael D. Schultz, b. 1963; Latin, 15th cent.

Tune: German, 14th cent.

Text: © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 716671

Tune: Public domain

Recitations

*The Christmas Story, continued*

# Silent Night, Holy Night

Congregation



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,  
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake  
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.  
at the sight. Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,  
love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face



Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly  
heav'n - ly hosts\_\_ sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is  
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy



peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

Text: tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885; Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792–1848

Tune: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1787–1863

Text and tune: Public domain



# Part 3

## The THREE GIFTS... fit for a King

### Narration

### He Is Born

Grades 4-6

*He is born, the Holy Child, play the oboe and bagpipes merrily!  
He is born, the Holy Child, sing we all of the Savior mild.*

*Through long ages of the past, prophets have foretold his coming;  
Through long ages of the past; now the time has come at last! REFRAIN*

*O how lovely, O how pure, is this perfect child of heaven;  
O how lovely, O how pure, gracious Gift of God to man! REFRAIN*

*Jesus, Lord of all the world, coming as a child among us,  
Jesus, Lord of all the world, grant to us thy heavenly peace! REFRAIN*

**Students:** But what's in the third box? Tell us!!

A short time after Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph moved into a shelter or home somewhere in Bethlehem. It was while they were living there that they had a most unusual visit. God decided to announce his gift to the world by putting a very special star in the sky over the house of Mary and Joseph and Jesus. It was this star that led some wise men from the East right to the house where Jesus was. When these wise men, or magi, saw the baby Jesus, they knelt before him just as they would bow before a mighty king, and they gave him three very interesting and precious gifts...gold, incense and myrrh. We hear about the Magi in Matthew 2...

**Congregation Men:** "After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the East came to Jerusalem and asked, 'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We have seen his star in the east and have come to worship him.'

**Women:** “After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.”

**What Child Is This**

*Congregation*



1 What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is  
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to



sleep - ing, whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while  
 own him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is  
 lov - ing hearts en - throne him. Raise, raise the



Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;  
 song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, alt.  
 Tune: English, 16th cent.  
 Text and tune: Public domain

**Student:** What wonderful gifts fit for a King, and how significant for us today that these magi were the first Gentiles to bow before their Savior. And their gifts were very expensive gifts. Gold was a precious metal, and certainly came in handy when Mary, Joseph and Jesus had to move down to Egypt. Incense came from the trunk of a tree. It was a yellow substance that smelled when it was burned. Myrrh was a sticky substance from a thorny bush. It was used as an ointment and for embalming the dead. Isaiah mentioned these gifts when he wrote many years before Jesus was born:

**Men:** “Herds of camels will cover your land, young camels of Midian and Ephah. And all from Sheba will come, bearing gold and incense and proclaiming the praise of the Lord.”

**As with Gladness Men of Old**

*Congregation*



1 As with glad-ness men of old did the guid-ing star be - hold,  
 2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to thy low - ly bed,  
 3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at thy cra - dle, rude and bare,



as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam-ing bright,  
 there to bend the knee be - fore thee, whom heav'n and earth a - dore,  
 so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,



so, most gra-cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led by thee.  
 so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek thy mer - cy seat.  
 all our cost-liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n-ly King.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, alt.  
 Tune: Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872, alt.  
 Text and tune: Public domain

# Part 4

## The PRICELESS GIFT... wrapped in purple

### Narration & Recitations

#### God Loves Me Dearly

Grades 1-3

*God loves me dearly, grants me salvation;  
God loves me dearly, loves even me.  
Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly,  
God loves me dearly, loves even me.*

*He sent forth Jesus, my dear Redeemer;  
He sent forth Jesus and set me free.  
Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly,  
God loves me dearly, loves even me.*

*Jesus, my Savior, himself did offer;  
Jesus, my Savior, paid all I owed.  
Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly,  
God loves me dearly, loves even me.*

### Offering

*Members of Our Savior's give generous and free will gifts to honor the Lord and support our ministry of the gospel. Guests are welcome to give but should not feel obligated to do so.*

***As the offering is gathered, please sign the Friendship Register as it is passed down the pew.***

# Part 5

## The CHRISTMAS GIFT... our gift to you

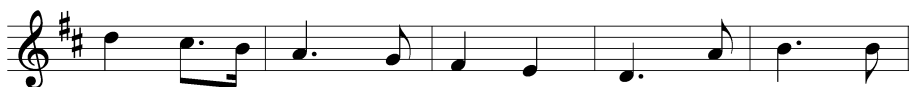
### Narrations

### Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace. **Amen.**

### Joy to the World

*Children v. 1, congregation v. 2-4*



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their  
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow nor thorns in -  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her King; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748 Tune: George Frideric Handel, 1685-1759, adapt. Text and tune: Public domain

# MERRY CHRISTMAS

## Welcome to Our Savior's

Welcome to worship, especially our guests! We are delighted to have you with us. If you are looking for a church home, we are happy to share ours with you. If we haven't seen you in a while, it is great to see you today! Please join us again next week for Christmas Eve and Day worship. May God bless your time with us richly.

## Thank you:

- ❖ to Our Savior's Lutheran School piano students, Sully Revie and Jaelyn Dahlke, for providing preservice music.
- ❖ from your called workers and staff members for your greetings, cards and gifts this Christmas season.

### *Holiday Worship Schedule*

Tuesday, Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Worship – 2:00 PM

Wednesday, Dec. 25 Christmas Day Worship – 9:00 AM

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## **Serving Today**

- Minister – Pastor Jeff Mahnke
- Teachers – Mrs. Beth Krohn, Mrs. Jessica Zahrt
- Organist – Marie Kurth
- Ushers – Phil Brost, Travis Kurth (*next week - Sulko, Unruh*)

**Serving the Pastoral Vacancy** – Pastor Jeff Mahnke from St. Peter Lutheran Church is serving as Our Savior’s vacancy pastor. Should you need his pastoral guidance and service, call / text him anytime at 715.297.0132. His email address is [pastorm@mysaintpeter.org](mailto:pastorm@mysaintpeter.org).

**Pastoral Call News** - Our voters issued a Divine Call to Pastor James Backus, currently serving at St. Mark in Watertown, WI. Please keep Pastor Backus, his family, and congregations in your prayers as he deliberates where he can best serve our Lord. We encourage you to reach out to him: [pastor.backus@smlcwatertown.com](mailto:pastor.backus@smlcwatertown.com) or call/text 517-920-1564.



**Invitations for Christmas Worship** – Christmas is the time when people are most likely to accept your invitation to attend worship. Please think about family, friends, neighbors, coworkers with whom you can the good news about salvation. We have printed special invitations with our Christmas worship times. Please pick up a few in the narthex or office entry today.

**Your Favorite Christmas Hymns** – On Sunday, Dec. 29, Deacon Jim Ellenberger (from St Peter Lutheran Church) will preside in a worship service of Scripture readings, favorite Christmas hymns, prayer, and Holy Communion. Please give your hymn suggestions to Marie in the church office ASAP.

## **Pick up today:**

- **2025 Offering Envelopes** – *please do not use until January*
- **Forward in Christ, Meditations, Portals of Prayer**

**Cookies Needed!** – The Nativity Event at NLHS is expecting over 800 guests. Can you spare a dozen or more Christmas cookies? They may be dropped off at NLHS (use disposable containers) on Friday, Dec. 20 during school hours or anytime Dec. 21. Call/text Brenda at 715.571.4420.

## This Week at Our Savior's

<b>Today</b>	9:00 AM 10:15 AM 3:00 PM	Children's Christmas Service Sunday School & Bible Class NLHS Christmas Concert
<b>Saturday</b>	4-8:30 PM	Live Nativity at NLHS
<b>Sunday 12/22</b>	9:00 AM 10:15 AM	Worship Sunday School & Bible Class

## Growing Together

*December 8, 2024*

<u>Weekly</u> \$5,447.00	<u>Vision</u> \$820.00	<u>Debt Red</u> \$465.00	<u>Plate</u> \$15.00	<u>Missions</u> \$100.00	<u>Thanksgvg</u> \$50.00	<u>Advent</u> \$185.00
<u>Chr Day</u> \$50.00	<u>NY Day</u> \$25.00	<u>Chr Gifts/Bags</u> \$320.00	<u>NLHS Op</u> \$250.00	<u>Bldg Maint</u> \$300.00	<u>Publications</u> \$20.00	
<u>Mission to the Children</u> \$25.00		<u>School Fees</u> \$381.00				

**Anticipated Weekly Offerings \$4,230**

**Attendance:** Sunday, December 8 – 54

## Our Savior's Ev. Lutheran Church

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## Pastor Jeff Mahnke, Vacancy Pastor

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