

**"FIELDS OF LIGHT" SOWN BY GOD  
FOR HIS PEOPLE. -PSALM 97:11**



***Christmas Eve December 24, 2016***

---

**BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL**

5110 Grand Avenue, Gurnee, Illinois 60031 – (847) 244-9647

**Pastor Ben Squires**

Cell phone: 224-419-5519 or email: [pastor@bethelgurnee.org](mailto:pastor@bethelgurnee.org)

**Website:** [www.BethelGurnee.org](http://www.BethelGurnee.org)

---

## ***WORSHIP SCHEDULE***

New Year's Day 10:00 a.m. and Sundays 8:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

Holy Communion: 1st, 3rd, 5th Sunday of the month

Becky Lanzito & Karen Leicht - Organists, Ann Souza - Music Director,  
Mandi Stilson – Choir/New Music Accompanist

---

### ***WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS***

We are pleased you chose to be with us in worship today, and pray the Lord blesses you as he has blessed us with your presence. Our goal is to help people find the right place for them to hear God's word and serve His mission. We'd love to support you in that spiritual journey. Please take a moment to complete an attendance card and place it in the Offering plate or give to an usher. This card will help us connect with you.

### ***NURSERY***

We have two rooms available for your use. When the service is in the sanctuary, the nursery is down the hall just past the restrooms. If the service is held in the gym, the nursery is in the youth room at the far end of the gym.

---

### **Serving 6:00 p.m.**

Elder: Mike Bandman  
Asst Elder: Steve Best  
Acolyte: Jay Souza, Lauren Best  
Ushers: Al Diercks, Tom Schultz, Morrie Cook  
Lay Readers: Ben Sanders, Diane Sanders, Sue Bandman, Diane Boehm  
Greeters: Best Family, Daluga Family

### **Serving 11:00 p.m.**

Elder: Paul DeLassus  
Acolyte: OPEN  
Usher: John Schultz, Monte Stoltzman  
Lay Readers: Kelley Dornier, Jake Stoltzman, Tony Young, Norm Balliet  
Greeters: Norm Balliet

---

### ***ALTAR FLOWERS:***

See poinsettia donation list on last page.

## **The Christmas Story & Carols**

A liturgy (order of worship) built around telling the whole story of the birth of Jesus Christ, Our Savior, and celebrating with our singing.

### **(6PM) Opening Anthem “Raise Up a Song of Joy” Adult Choir**

- Use the anthem’s music and words to help you to meditate on God’s Word and His truth for you today. Maintain this as meditative time.

1. On this night is born the Lord Jesus,  
Come to earth, the Savior to free us.  
Come with hope and love and with mercy.

#### **Refrain**

2. ‘Cross the peaks of every mountain,  
Flowing out from every fountain,  
from the lips of saints and of children.

#### **Refrain**

#### **Refrain:**

Raise up a song of joy, of joy!  
Raise up a song of joy!  
Raise up a song of joy!  
Raise up a song of joy!  
Praise God with joyful noise.  
Let ev’ry voice raise up a song of joy!  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
Raise up a song of joy!

Let ev’ry voice raise up a song of joy!

### **Call to Worship**

Psalm 51:15, liturgical text

P: O Lord, open my lips,

C: **and my mouth shall declare Your praise.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,**

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Alleluia, alleluia!**

P: Give glory to God, our light and our life.

C: **Oh, come, let us worship Him.**



**Opening Hymn**

**A Great and Mighty Wonder**

LSB 383, sts. 1-3



1 A great and might - y won - der, A full and ho - ly cure:  
2 The Word be - comes in - car - nate And yet re - mains on high,  
3 While thus they sing your Mon - arch, Those bright an - gel - ic bands,



The vir - gin bears the in - fant With vir - gin hon - or pure!  
And cher - u - bim sing an - thems To shep - herds from the sky.  
Re - joice, O vales and moun - tains, And o - ceans, clap your hands.

*Refrain*



Pro - claim the Sav - ior's birth: "To God on high be



glo - ry And peace to all the earth!"

**A Psalm for Christmas Eve**

**Psalm 97 (ESV)**

P: <sup>1</sup>The LORD reigns, let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be glad!  
Clouds and thick darkness are all around him;  
righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.  
Fire goes before him and burns up his adversaries all around.  
His lightnings light up the world; the earth sees and trembles.  
The mountains melt like wax before the LORD, before the Lord of all the earth.

**C: The heavens proclaim the Lord's righteousness,  
and all the peoples see his glory!**

P: All worshipers of images are put to shame,  
who make their boast in worthless idols; worship the LORD, all you gods!  
<sup>8</sup>Zion hears and is glad, and the daughters of Judah rejoice,  
because of your judgments, O LORD.  
<sup>9</sup>For you, O LORD, are most high over all the earth;  
you are exalted far above all gods.

**C: The heavens proclaim the Lord's righteousness,  
and all the peoples see his glory!**

**Opening Hymn (continued)**

**A Great and Mighty Wonder**

LSB 383, sts. 4-5



4 Since all He comes to ran - som, By all be He a - dored,  
5 All i - dols then shall per - ish And Sa - tan's ly - ing cease,



The in - fant born in Beth - l'em, The Sav - ior and the Lord.  
And Christ shall raise His scep - ter, De - cree - ing end - less peace.

*Refrain*



Pro - claim the Sav - ior's birth: "To God on high be



glo - ry And peace to all the earth!"

**(continued) A Psalm for Christmas Eve**

**Psalm 97 (ESV)**

P: O you who love the LORD—hate evil!

The LORD preserves the lives of his “made holy” ones;  
he delivers them from the hand of the wicked.

<sup>11</sup>Light is sown for the righteous, and joy for the upright in heart.

<sup>12</sup>Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous, and give thanks to his holy name!

**C: The heavens proclaim the Lord's righteousness,  
and all the peoples see his glory!**

**Greeting and Collect (Prayer of the Day)**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **Confession of Sins**

P: Your prayer has been answered. Jesus has indeed come to set us free from our sins. So on this evening as we praise the Father for sending His Son, we are bold and confident to approach the Lord, admitting our sin, and clinging to His forgiveness... Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C: O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

## **Absolution (Forgiveness)**

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

## **(6PM) Anthem**

All is well all is well  
Angels and men rejoice  
For tonight darkness fell  
Into the dawn of love's light  
Sing alle sing alleluia

All is well all is well  
Let there be peace on earth  
Christ is come go and tell  
That He is in the manger  
Sing alle sing alleluia

## **"All is Well"**

All is well all is well  
Lift up your voice and sing  
Born is now Emmanuel  
Born is our Lord and Savior  
Sing alleluia sing alleluia  
All is well

CCLI Song # 355008

## **Adult Choir**

## #1 Christmas Gospel (Birth of John the Baptist Foretold) Luke 1:5–25 (ESV)

<sup>5</sup>In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. <sup>6</sup>And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. <sup>7</sup>But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.

<sup>8</sup>Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, <sup>9</sup>according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. <sup>10</sup>And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. <sup>11</sup>And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. <sup>12</sup>And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. <sup>13</sup>But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. <sup>14</sup>And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, <sup>15</sup>for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother’s womb. <sup>16</sup>And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, <sup>17</sup>and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.”

<sup>18</sup>And Zechariah said to the angel, “How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years.” <sup>19</sup>And the angel answered him, “I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. <sup>20</sup>And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time.” <sup>21</sup>And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they were wondering at his delay in the temple. <sup>22</sup>And when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple. And he kept making signs to them and remained mute. <sup>23</sup>And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

<sup>24</sup>After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept herself hidden, saying, <sup>25</sup>“Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people.”



**P:** My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es—

from LSB 933 st. 1



**C:** Sing the great - ness of the Lord!

**Carol****On Christmas Night All Christians Sing**

LSB 377 sts. 1, 4



1 On Christ-mas night all Chris - tians sing To hear the news the  
4 All out of dark-ness we have light, Which made the an - gels



an - gels bring, On Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing To  
sing this night, All out of dark - ness we have light, Which



hear the news the an - gels bring, News of great joy, news of great  
made the an - gels sing this night: "Glo - ry to God and peace to



mirth, News of our mer - ci - ful King's birth.  
men Now and for - ev - er - more. A - men."

**#2 Christmas Gospel (Birth of Jesus Foretold)****Luke 1:26–38 (ESV)**

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" <sup>29</sup>But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup>and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

<sup>34</sup>And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

<sup>35</sup>And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup>And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.



**P:** My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es—

from LSB 933 st. 1



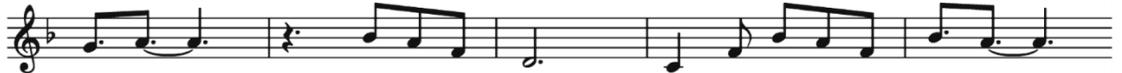
**C:** Sing the great - ness of the Lord!

### (6PM) Song of Praise

### Come to Us



1. Scat - tered and bro - ken, \_\_\_ bent in our way, we are Your  
3. Come, Root of Jes - se; \_\_\_ Come, Da-vid's son; Come, Star of



peo - ple \_\_\_ gath - ered to praise You. A vine - yard up - root - ed, \_\_\_  
Morn - ing; \_\_\_ We come to praise You. Hope of cre - a - tion, \_\_\_



nar - row in sight. Come, Lord of glo - ry! \_\_\_ Come, Lord of  
of all hu - man - kind, reign o - ver bod - y, \_\_\_ spir - it and

#### CHORUS



light! (Christmas) Come to us, O Child of glo - ry, be born \_\_\_ in our hearts.  
mind.



Come to us, O Child of glo - ry and make \_\_\_ us a - new. We a - dore \_\_\_\_\_



You, we a - dore \_\_\_\_\_ You, we a - dore \_\_\_\_\_ You, sweet Child of



glo - ry. \_\_\_ You. Come, Lord of glo - ry. \_\_\_

CCLI Song # 6149833  
© 2011 spiritandsong.com  
For use solely with the SongSelect Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com  
CCLI License # 11157642

### **#3 Christmas Gospel (Mary Visits Elizabeth; Magnificat) Luke 1:39–56 (ESV)**

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, <sup>40</sup>and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, <sup>42</sup>and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! <sup>43</sup>And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup>For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

<sup>46</sup>And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord, <sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup>for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

<sup>49</sup>for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

<sup>50</sup>And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup>He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

<sup>52</sup>he has brought down the mighty from their thrones

and exalted those of humble estate;

<sup>53</sup>he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away.

<sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

<sup>55</sup>as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

<sup>56</sup>And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

### **#4 Christmas Gospel (The Birth of John the Baptist; Zechariah's Song)**

**Luke 1:57–80 (ESV)**

<sup>57</sup>Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. <sup>58</sup>And her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. <sup>59</sup>And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. And they would have called him Zechariah after his father, <sup>60</sup>but his mother answered, “No; he shall be called John.” <sup>61</sup>And they said to her, “None of your relatives is called by this name.” <sup>62</sup>And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he wanted him to be called. <sup>63</sup>And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, “His name is John.” And they all wondered. <sup>64</sup>And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. <sup>65</sup>And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea, <sup>66</sup>and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, “What then will this child be?” For the hand of the Lord was with him.

<sup>67</sup>And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying,  
<sup>68</sup>“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people  
<sup>69</sup>and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David,  
<sup>70</sup>as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,  
<sup>71</sup>that we should be saved from our enemies  
 and from the hand of all who hate us;  
<sup>72</sup>to show the mercy promised to our fathers  
 and to remember his holy covenant,  
<sup>73</sup>the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us  
<sup>74</sup>that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies,  
 might serve him without fear,  
<sup>75</sup>in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

<sup>76</sup>And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;  
 for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,  
<sup>77</sup>to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins,  
<sup>78</sup>because of the tender mercy of our God,  
 whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high  
<sup>79</sup>to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,  
 to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

<sup>80</sup>And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the  
 day of his public appearance to Israel.

**P:** 1 My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es—

from LSB 933 st. 1

**C:** Sing the great - ness of the Lord!

**Carol****From Heaven Above to Earth I Come**

LSB 358 sts. 1, 14

1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come To bear good  
news to ev - 'ry home; Glad tid - ings of great  
joy I bring, Where - of I now will say and sing:

14 My heart for very joy must leap;  
My lips no more can silence keep.  
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue  
That sweetest ancient cradlesong:

### **#5 Christmas Gospel (The Birth of Jesus; Shepherds)      Luke 2:1–20 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup>And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup>to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup>And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup>And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. <sup>10</sup>And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

<sup>15</sup>When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup>And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup>And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup>And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.



**P:** My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es—

from LSB 933 st. 1



**C:** Sing the great - ness of the Lord!

**(6PM) Anthem**

**“Run! Shepherds”**

**Adult Choir**

**Refrain:** Run, shepherds, run and see the Baby!  
 Run, shepherds, to Bethlehem!  
 Run, shepherds, run and see the Baby,  
 see the Baby born, the Great I AM! **Repeat**

There’s a star in the east on Christmas morn.  
 It will lead to the place where the Savior is born.  
 If you take good heed to the angel’s words,  
 you’ll forget your flocks, you’ll forget your herds. **Refrain**

**(11PM) Hymn of Proclamation      Go Tell It on the Mountain**

LSB 388

*Refrain*



Go tell it on the moun - tain, O-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



Go tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born!



- 1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er si-lent flocks by night,
- 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled When lo, a - bove the earth
- 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger The hum-ble Christ was born;

*Refrain*



Be - hold, through-out the heav-ens There shone a ho - ly light.  
Rang out the an-gel cho - rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
And God sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

**(6PM) Children's Message**

**Sermon**

**"Sowing Light"**

**Psalm 97**

**Hymn of the Day**      **From Heaven Above to Earth I Come**

LSB 358 sts. 2-6



2 "To you this night is born a child Of Mar - y,  
3 "This is the Christ, our God Most High, Who hears your  
4 "He will on you the gifts be - stow Pre - pared by  
5 "These are the signs that you shall mark: The swad - dling



cho - sen vir - gin mild; This lit - tle child of  
sad and bit - ter cry; He will Him - self your  
God for all be - low, That in His king - dom,  
clothes and man - ger dark. There you will find the



low - ly birth Shall be the joy of all the earth.  
Sav - ior be From all your sins to set you free.  
bright and fair, You may with us His glo - ry share.  
in - fant laid By whom the heav'ns and earth were made."

6 How glad we'll be to find it so!  
Then with the shepherds let us go  
To see what God for us has done  
In sending us His own dear Son.

**Confession of Faith**

**Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.—And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.—I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**Offering**

The offerings Bethel receives go to support the work of the Church— here at Bethel, and regionally, nationally, and internationally through the missions which we support through our budget.

**Carols (sung while the Offering is collected)**

**Angels We Have Heard on High**

LSB 368



1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;



And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

*Refrain*



Glo - - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -



- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

**What Child Is This**

LSB 370



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is  
2 Why lies He in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are  
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  
feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The  
own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is  
 si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall  
 lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the



Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;  
 pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;  
 song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar-y!  
 Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar-y!  
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar-y!

**Prayers** We offer our thanks to God for His blessings and that we can return thanks with our offerings. We also lift up our prayers to God for immediate thanksgivings and needs.

*Pastor prays then leads into this printed prayer. . .*

Almighty and everlasting God, You caused Your only-begotten Son to be born of the blessed virgin Mary for our salvation. Bless our keeping of this Christmastide, remembering the wonders of that sacred birth, so that we may ponder and adore the mystery of His holy incarnation and may joyfully partake in His divine grace unto life eternal; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**The Lord's Prayer**

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**All: 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.**

**Video Meditation:**  
**“A Christmas Hallelujah” by Cloverton**  
*(original song written by Leonard Cohen)*

I've heard about this baby boy  
Who's come to earth to bring us joy  
And I just want to sing this song to you  
It goes like this, the fourth, the fifth  
The minor fall, the major lift  
With every breath I'm singing Hallelujah  
Hallelujah

A couple came to Bethlehem  
Expecting child, they searched the inn  
To find a place for You were coming soon  
There was no room for them to stay  
So in a manger filled with hay  
God's only Son was born, oh Hallelujah  
Hallelujah

The shepherds left their flocks by night  
To see this baby wrapped in light  
A host of angels led them all to You  
It was just as the angels said  
You'll find Him in a manger bed  
Immanuel and Savior, Hallelujah  
Hallelujah

A star shown bright up in the east  
To Bethlehem, the wisemen three  
Came many miles and journeyed long for You  
And to the place at which You were  
Their frankincense and gold and myrrh  
They gave to You and cried out Hallelujah  
Hallelujah

I know You came to rescue me  
This baby boy would grow to be  
A man and one day die for me and you  
My sins would drive the nails in You  
That rugged cross was my cross, too  
Still every breath You drew was Hallelujah  
Hallelujah



## **Lighting of the Candles**

(The Pastor lights the candles of the people at the center aisle who will pass the flame to the others in the row. Please turn the unlit candle sideways to receive the light; do not turn lit candles on their side. When all have received the light, the service continues with the liturgy.)

P: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,     **C: the light no darkness can overcome.**

P: Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,     **C: and the day is almost over.**

P: Let Your light scatter the darkness     **C: and illumine Your Church.**

## **Closing Hymn**

## **Silent Night, Holy Night**

LSB 363, sts. 1-2

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.

2 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!

## **Benediction**

based on Micah 5:2-5a

P: Jesus now stands and shepherds his flock in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And you, His flock, dwell secure in Him,

for now He is great to the ends of the earth. And He is your peace.

The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
bless you and always watch over you.     **C: Amen.**

## **Silent Night, Holy Night**

LSB 363, st. 3

3 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**

### **Acknowledgments**

Used by permission: LSB Hymn License .NET, no. 000013448.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2006 Concordia Publishing House.

Scripture quotations in the liturgy are from

*The Holy Bible, English Standard Version,*

copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers.

***We thank the following for beautifying our worship areas with poinsettias.***

***Sheila Bunnell - (2 plants) to the glory of God;***

***Theresa & David Carlson - in memory of Theresa's parents and sisters;***

***Morrie & Carol Cook - (3 plants) in memory of daughter Hannah, parents Irene Luhrsen, Morrie & Marge Cook;***

***Jim Franz - in memory of father, brother, sister and grandparents;***

***Steve & Jann Freehling - (2 plants) to the glory of God;***

***Nicole M. French - (3 plants) with thanks, gratitude & appreciation for Pastor, love & appreciation for Kay Antonopoulos and the Leicht family;***

***Sue Frendreis - in memory of husband Michael Frendreis;***

***Paul & Linda Groh - (2 plants) to the glory of God;***

***Carla Hartman - (2 plants) in memory of Julia Kopetz and Betty Hartman;***

***Mark & Kathy Hipsher - in memory of Mark's brother Ron Hipsher and Kathy's sister Kim Hallman;***

***Craig Johnsen - (10 plants) in memory of wife Donna J. Wheeler Johnsen and Cliff & Sophie Johnsen;***

***Kazarian Family - in memory of Grace Gibson;***

***John & Karen Kozlik - (2 plants) to the glory of God;***

***Kristine E. Lindsey - (2 plants) in memory of son Nicholas and husband Garry;***

***Kim Maiore - (2 plants) to the glory of God;***

***Suzy Lietzau McCahey - (3 plants) in memory of loving parents Roger & Donna Lietzau, in appreciation of Pastor Ben for his support & guidance through troubling times and to the glory of God;***

***Scott & Diane Mundrick - to the glory of God;***

***Bill & Lynda Oesterreich - to the glory of God;***

***The Olson's - (4 plants) in memory of Gayle's parents Elaine & Gene Puetz;***

***Ronald & Deborah Olson - in memory of Sylvin & Adelyn Olson and Elmer & Marge Frank;***

***Diane Perkins - in memory of John Perkins;***

***Rasmussen, Souza, & Kazarian Families - (3 plants) in memory of William, Alice & Mark Souza;***

***Bill & Midge Ratzburg - (2 plants) to the glory of God;***

***Jose & Claudine Rayos - (2 plants) in memory of Matthew & Patricia Koller and Jose Rayos, Sr.;***

***Jerry & Lauri Rizzo - in honor of their second wedding anniversary on December 27;***

***David & Cheryl Ross - (3 plants) in memory of Gordon & Carol Gillings and Wayne Harmon;***

***James & Jennifer Silasiri - (3 plants) in memory of son Micah Silasiri and in appreciation of children Ryan & Ella Silasiri;***

***Jim & Jeannie Silasiri - in memory of grandson Micah Silasiri;***

***Ben & Susan Squires - (2 plants) in memory of Susan's mom, Sam Foster;***

***Diane Swanson - (3 plants) in memory of Susan Squires' mom and in appreciation of Carol Cook & Lisa Schwarz;***

***Ted & Margie Tatgenhorst - to the glory of God;***

***Dawn Werfelmann - (2 plants) to the glory of God;***

***Paul Werfelmann - in memory of Paul & Bonnie Werfelmann;***

***Don & Deborah Wuethrick - (2 plants) in memory of Robert J. Neubig and in appreciation of family all over US;***

***Ziegler Family - to the glory of God.***

