

St. John-St. James

Ev. Lutheran Church & School



*Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service*



Christmas Candlelight Service

December 24, 2021

WELCOME

God came to save us from our sins

Opening Hymn:

Angels from the Realms of Glory

Christian Worship, Hymn # 347

C Verse 1 **Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Once you sang creation's story;
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:**

REFRAIN **Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

C Verse 2 **Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing-
Yonder shines the infant light.**

REFRAIN **Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

C Verse 4 **Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In his temple shall appear.**

REFRAIN **Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

(Hymn continues on the next page.)

C Verse 5 ♫ All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
To th' eternal Three in One.

REFRAIN ♫ Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

PLEASE STAND

OUR CONFESSION OF SINS AND FAITH

- M** We have come to recall the events of God's holy mystery. A virgin conceived and gave birth, and God himself lived upon this earth.
- C** **The angel brought good news of great joy that was for all people. Glory to God and peace on earth.**
- M** We look for light in this world, but all is darkness. Our iniquities have separated us from our God. We walk in deep shadows. The love of most has grown cold, and we like sheep have wandered far away.
- C** **Our offenses are many in his sight, and our sins testify against us. We have fallen short and acknowledge our sins.**
- M** The Lord is faithful. He is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. He sent His Son to live and die for us so that he might forgive us. We celebrate and sing God's praise for his plan of salvation has been completed through His Son.
- C** **The angel said "Do not be afraid" and told the good news: "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born; He is Christ the Lord." Lord, we thank you for our Savior Jesus! Amen!**

GLORIA

M As forgiven sinners, we praise the name of the Lord in song.

C Verse 1 **♪ On Christmas night all Christians sing**

**To hear the news the angels bring;
On Christmas night all Christians sing
To hear the news the angels bring,
News of great joy, news of great mirth,
News of our merciful King's birth.**

C Verse 2 **♪ When sin departs before your grace,
Then life and health come in its place.
When sin departs before your grace,
Then life and health come in its place.
Angels and saints with joy may sing
All for to see the newborn King.**

C Verse 3 **♪ From out of darkness we have light
Which made the angels sing this night.
From out of darkness we have light
Which made the angels sing this night:
“Glory to God and peace to men
Now and forevermore, Amen.”**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M 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.

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 52:7-10

⁷ How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!"

⁸ Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices; together they shout for joy. When the LORD returns to Zion, they will see it with their own eyes.

⁹ Burst into songs of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰ The LORD will lay bare his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God.

the oil of joy."

Song Response:

Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising

Christians Worship, Hymn #362

C Verse 1

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

(Hymn continues on the next page.)

C Verse 5

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

EPISTLE LESSON

Romans 10:11-17

¹¹ As Scripture says, “Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.” ¹² For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, ¹³ for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

¹⁴ How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? ¹⁵ And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

¹⁶ But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed our message?” ¹⁷ Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.

Song Response:

Once in Royal David's City

Christians Worship, Hymn #343

C Verse 2

♪ **He came down to earth from heaven
Who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable,
And his cradle was a stall;
With the poor and mean and lowly
Lived on earth our Savior holy.**

(Hymn continues on the next page.)

C Verse 3 **But our eyes at last shall see him
Through his own redeeming love,
For that child, so dear and gentle,
Is our Lord in heav'n above,
As he leads his children on
To the place where he is gone.**

C Verse 4 **Not in that poor, lowly stable
With the oxen standing by
Shall we see him, but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high.
Then like stars his children crowned,
All in white, his praise will sound.**

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 2:8-12

“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 of the Day:

Angels We Have Heard on High

Christians Worship, Hymn #346

c Verse 1 ♫ **Angels we have heard on high,**
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains.

REFRAIN ♫ **Glo—ri-a in excelsis Deo;**
Glo—ri-a in excelsis Deo.

c Verse 2 ♫ **Shepherds, why this jubilee?**
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly song?

REFRAIN ♫ **Glo—ri-a in excelsis Deo;**
Glo—ri-a in excelsis Deo.

c Verse 3 ♫ **Come to Bethlehem and see**
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

REFRAIN ♫ **Glo—ri-a in excelsis Deo;**
Glo—ri-a in excelsis Deo.

MESSAGE

Pastor Darin Aden

Isaiah 40:8-10

"Go Tell It on the Mountain!"

1. So all can hear
2. So all is clear

⁸The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever."

⁹You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!"

¹⁰See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and he rules with a mighty arm. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him.

¹¹He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

SERMON RESPONSE

Christians Worship, Hymn #361

Go Tell It on the Mountain

(Hymn continues on the next page.)

C REFRAIN

♪ **Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hills, and ev'rywhere;**
Go, tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born.

C Verse 1 ♪ **While shepherds kept their watching**
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light.

C REFRAIN

♪ **Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hills, and ev'rywhere;**
Go, tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born.

C Verse 2 ♫ **The shepherds feared and trembled
When lo, above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth.**

C REFRAIN

♫ **Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hills, and ev'rywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born.**

C Verse 3 ♫ **Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn.**

C REFRAIN

♫ **Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hills, and ev'rywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M 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.**

M 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.**

M You sent Jesus as 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.**

M 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. May the treasure that Mary pondered in her heart be our treasure.

C **For today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to us. He is Christ, the Lord. It is in His name we also pray:**

C **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.**



**“The true light that
gives light to every man
was coming into the world.”**



John 1:9

CHRIST CANDLE— (white)

The fifth candle in our Advent Wreath is white and is located in the center of the other candles and wreath. It is called the Christ Candle and is lit to signify the birth of Jesus the Christ. The holy Christ-child is central to the Advent and Christmas season. We light the Christ candle remembering that God took on flesh and lived with us. The One who gives hope, brings peace, offers joy, and shows love is here and is among us!



THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

The Pastor will light his candle from the “Christ Candle” in the center of our Advent wreath. The ushers will come forward and will light their candles from the Pastor’s candle. The Ushers will then light the candle of the worshipper in each pew nearest the center aisle. It is requested that no lit candles be dipped - to avoid candle wax dripping on the furniture or carpet. Dip only the unlit candle when lighting your candle from your neighbor’s. When most of the candles have been lit, the **READING OF LIGHT** (*John 1:1-14*) will be read. When all the candles have been lit, the congregation will rise and sing “**Silent Night**”, which is printed on the next page:

Song Response:

Silent Night

- ♪ All: **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.**
- ♪ All: **Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar;
Heav'ly hosts sing "Alleluia!"
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!**
- ♪ All: **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.**
- ♪ All: **Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
Alles schläft, einsam wacht
Nur das traute hochheilige Paar.
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar;
Schlaf' in himmlischer Ruh!
Schlaf' in himmlischer Ruh!**

*As the Sanctuary remains light just by our candles,
please use this as a “Bethlehem moment” to
ponder in your heart the wonder of God who came to earth.
When the lights come back up, we will extinguish our candles and
conclude the service with the Responsive Benediction.*

BLESSING

M May he who by his incarnation gathered things earthly and heavenly into one, fill us with the joy that comes from knowing the forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life.
And the blessing of the Almighty God—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit— Be upon you and remain with you always.

C Amen.

Join us tomorrow at 9:00 AM for a new Christmas Day service. God Bless your Christmas!

EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE

Our sincere thanks to our guests and visitors who are with us today. We consider it a privilege when our friends and visitors join us for worship. If you currently have a church home to call your own, thank you for taking time away to be with us today! If you are searching for a church home to meet your spiritual needs, know that we would be happy to speak with you to see how we can help! We hope you feel welcome today and will join us again soon. If this is your first visit, please don't let it be your last!

A CHRISTMAS WISH FROM OUR STAFF

Pastor & Karla Aden, Rick & Sarah Zimmerman, Phil & Abby Stuebs, Corey & Sarah Marohn, Matt & Kristen Hillmann, Tom & Nancy Schwartz, Jake & Katie Jannsen, Andy & Bekah Bubolz, Nick & Amanda Schrubbe, Scott & Cindy Bubolz, Bob & Mary Busse, and Dean & Rose Behnke and their families extend to all of you, both members and guests, sincere wishes for a most blessed Christmas and Happy New Year. May the message of the Savior's birth fill your hearts with peace and joy throughout the coming year. Also receive their thanks for the many kindnesses you have shown to them in gifts, cards, prayers, and support this season and throughout the year. Thank you and God bless!



CHRiSTMAS POiNSETTiAS

DONATED BY:
IN MEMORY OF:

Lorna Bastian	Kermit Bastian
Nancy & Richard Baumgardner	Lloyd & Florence Behnke
Hank Behnke	Doris Behnke
Marcus & Rhonda Behnke	Milton & Dorcella Lau; Roland & Loretta Behnke
Shawn & Melissa Behnke & Family	Rosie Nennig
Steve & Suzi Bratz Family	Margaret Bratz
Raymond & Suzanne Bubolz	Lester & Erma Behnke and Raymond Sr. & Helen Bubolz
Roger & Carol Bubolz	Harvey & Lillian Bubolz; Hugo & Elda Porr
Brad, Becky, Jade & Paige Busse	Evey Busse & Judy Korstad
Robert & Mary Busse	Henry & Dora Busse; Herb & Helen Thoele
Florence Denor	Wilbert Denor; Great-Granddaughter Sadie Denor
Randy & Gail Denor	Robert Wenzlaff; Julie Grimm
Dan & Audrey Duchow(2)	Clarence & Ella Luedtke; Adolph & Eleanor Duchow
Mary Fenlon & Family(2)	Patrick Fenlon
Joanne Fischer(2)	Loved ones gone but not forgotten.
Curt Grimm & Family	Julie Grimm
Ida May Krepline	Orville Krepline
Larry, Amanda & Nevaeh Krepline	Orville Krepline



CHRiSTMAS POiNSETTiAS

DONATED BY:	IN MEMORY OF:
Mary Lou Krepline	All deceased family members
Val Jean Link	Peter Link
Phyllis Nienhaus	Myron & Judy Schreiber
Arlie & Pat Olp(3)	Leonard Denor; Maria Dolan; Tim McClanahan
Olp Family	Harold & Rosie Olp & Arnie Olp
Quinn & Pierce Popp	Julie Grimm (Grandma)
Mark, Darlene, Briana & Heidi Propson	Lloyd & Florence Behnke; Joe & Bernice Propson; Lorraine Loose
Erdine Schultz	Roger Schultz
Tim & Joan Sheahan(12)	Raymond Sheahan; Donald & Joanne Bubolz
Gary Torsch	Bonnie Torsch
Erwin Waack	Elaine Waack
Tim, Amy & Maisie Waack(2)	Brendan Waack; Harvey & Charmaine Waack
Gene & Charmaine Wagner	Family Members
Yvonne Wenzlaff	Julie Grimm; Robert Wenzlaff
Linda Worgull & Lorenda Goertz	Merlin & Germaine Luedtke
Terry Zeller	Mary Zeller

Thank you for all the lovely poinsettias donated by our congregation! Don't forget to take along your poinsettia(s) after the Christmas Day services, **please leave behind the trays that the poinsettias are placed in. There are plastic bags and cardboard trays left in the West Church office to transport your plants home safely.