



St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church & Christian Preschool
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Rev. Russ Leeper, Senior Pastor
Rev. Anita Nuetzman, Visitation & Preaching Pastor
Melanie Johanningmeier, Director of Music

Piano/Organ Duets: Cherie Schafer, Melanie Johanningmeier
Trumpet Descants: Carter Johanningmeier
Scripture Readers: 4:00 p.m. Brian Watkins; 6:30 p.m. Scott Hansen

December 24, 2021; Christmas Eve



Prelude:

“Christmas Fantasy”

Cherie Schafer, piano; Melanie Johanningmeier, organ

Welcome

Gathering Hymn:

“O Come All Ye Faithful”

(vs. 1 & 3) #283

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain
Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Reading:

Titus 2:11-14

11For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, 12training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, 13while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. 14He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Children's Message

The Christmas Story

Hymn

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

#279

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
 4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Christmas Message

Pastor Russ Leeper

Music:

“O Holy Night”
Melanie Johanningmeier

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.

Offering Response

“What Child is This”

Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cress be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh the babe, the son of Mary!

The Communion

Words of Institution

The 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.

The Distribution

“I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve”

#271

Jeg er så glad hver ju - le - kveld, ti da blev Je - sus født;
1 I am so glad each Christ-mas Eve, the night of Je - sus' birth!
2 The lit - tle child in Beth - le - hem, he was a king in - deed!
3 He dwells a - gain in heav - en's realm, the Son of God to - day;
4 I am so glad each Christ-mas Eve! His prais - es then I sing;
5 And so I love each Christ-mas Eve, and I love Je - sus too;

da lys - te stjer - nen som en sol, og eng - ler sang så sødt.
Then like the sun the star shone forth, and an - gels sang on earth.
For he came down from heav'n a - bove to help a world in need.
and still he loves his lit - tle ones and hears them when they pray.
he o - pens now for ev - 'ry child the pal - ace of the king.
and that he loves me ev - 'ry day I know so well is true.

“Go Tell it on the Mountain”

#290

Refrain

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and every where;

Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching, O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, through-out the heavens, there shone a holy light. **Refrain**

The shepherds feared and trembled, when lo, above the earth;
Rang out the angel chorus, that hailed our Savior's birth. **Refrain**

Down in a lonely manger, the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation, that blessed Christmas morn. **Refrain**

“The Bells of Christmas”

#298

Det ki - mer nu til ju - le - fest, det ki - mer
 1 The bells of Christ - mas chime once more; the heav'n - ly
 2 This world, though wide and far out - spread, could scarce - ly
 3 Now let us go with qui - et mind, the swad - dled
 4 Oh, join with me, in glad - ness sing, to keep our

for den høj - e gæst, som steg til la - ve
 guest is at the door. He comes to earth - ly
 find for you a bed. Your cra - dle was a
 babe with shep - herds find, to gaze on him who
 Christ - mas with our king, un - til our song, from

hyt - ter ned med nyt - års - ga - ver: fryd og fred.
 dwell - ings still with new year gifts of peace, good will.
 man - ger stall, no pearl nor silk nor king - ly hall.
 glad - dens them, the love - liest flow'r of Jes - se's stem.
 lov - ing souls, like rush - ing might - y wa - ter rolls!

- 5 O patriarchs' Joy, O prophets' Song,
 O Dayspring bright, awaited long,
 O Son of Man, incarnate Word,
 great David's Son, great David's Lord:
- 6 Come, Jesus, glorious heav'nly guest,
 and keep your Christmas in our breast;
 then David's harpstrings, hushed so long,
 shall swell our jubilee of song.

“The First Noel”

#300

The first Noel the angel did say
 Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
 In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
 On a cold winter's night that was so deep. Refrain:

They looked up and saw a star
 Shining in the east beyond them far;
 And to the earth it gave great light,
 And so it continued both day and night. Refrain:

And by the light of that same star
 Three Wise Men came from country far;
 To seek for a king was their intent,
 And to follow the star wherever it went. Refrain:

This star drew near to the north-west,
 O'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
 And there it did both stop and stay
 Right over the place where Jesus lay. Refrain:

Then entered in those Wise Men three,
 Full rev'rently upon their knee,
 And offered there in his presence
 Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. Refrain:

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

Communion Blessing

Lighting of the Candles

Hymn "Silent Night, Holy Night"

#281

Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,
 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,

ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.
 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 your ho - ly face,

Hol - der Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher
 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 your

Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

Benediction

P: May your face shine in the light of the Father's love; may your spirit rejoice in the gift of the Son's salvation; may your heart be still with the Spirit's peace!

C: Amen!

Sending Hymn

“Joy to the World”

(vs. 1 & 4) #267

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
3 No more let sin and sor - row 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 righ - teous -

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

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

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.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

Dismissal: Go in Peace, Share the Good News!

Postlude:

“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”

Cherie Schafer, piano; Melanie Johanningmeier, organ

The poinsettias have been given in memory of or in honor of ...

ALTAR Poinsettias are in memory of Clarence Litterer from Tilleen Litterer & family

In memory of Dale Miller from Sandie Miller & family

In memory of loved ones from Peg Poppen & family

In loving memory of Craig Tjaden from Kay Tjaden & family

In memory of loved ones from Elsie Ferguson

In memory of loved ones from Dennis & Jan Brinkman

In memory of Wayne Hoeft & Leslie Miller from Kent & Lorie Hoeft & family

In memory of Normand Klemesrud from Linda Klemesrud

In memory of Donn Schafer from Cherie Schafer

In memory of Jimmy Ball from Russell & Betty Ball

In memory of loved ones from Frank & Jeanette Anderson

In memory of loved ones from Marlene Holthaus & family

In memory of Shirley Begemann & other loved ones from Harold Begemann & family

In memory of our parents Ken & Marge Van Ausdall, Walter & June Scherb, other family & friends, & in honor of their children: Marty & Jenny, Bret & Declan, Scott Van Ausdall

In memory of Algie Slindee from Kay Slindee

In memory of their parents and other loved ones from Leon & Jan Mulford

In honor of their family from Bill & Arlene Hollar

In memory of Kurt Wood from Calvin & Joyce Wood

In memory of Clayton & Marion Kreger and loved ones from Mike & Lisa, Mikaela, Christian, & Olivia Kreger

In memory of Brad Peterson & Helen Peterson from Bob Peterson

In memory of Bill & Ruth Duncan, Karen Law, Jim Duncan, and Wilfred & Adella Tieskotter from Don & Sharon Tieskotter

In memory of Lloyd "Butch" Spurbeck from Geraldine Spurbeck

In memory of Chad Foxen from Phyllis Foxen & family

In loving memory of our loved ones: Silas & Aili Johnson & Michael Johnson, Ed & Sylvia Voyna, Vicki Voyna, Gordon Skarpness, Neil Vermillion, Kay Welper, and Marge & Bill Vermillion & Diane Takalo from Jerry & Carol Johnson & family

In memory of loved ones from Dave & Shirley Ripley

In loving memory of Robert & Marjorie Mitchell from Brenda, Linda, Lorie, Troy & their families

In memory of Marvin, Lucille, Terry and Errol Hoy from the Kellogg family

In memory of Bob & Lenore Rodamaker and Wayne Hoeft from Kurt & Kathy Hoeft & family

In memory of Marvin & Patricia M. Thompson, Louis & Evelyn DeBower, and other loved ones from Gary & Julie DeBower

In memory of loved ones from Don & Shirley Holm

In honor of John & Emma Seckar, John & Genevieve Herron, Steven Herron from David & Jennifer Seckar

In memory of Dr. Paul & Maxine Maland & many other dear ones from Kip & Judy Hauser

