



**Cross of Christ  
and  
Cannon River  
Lutheran  
Churches  
(ELCA)**

*Christmas Eve  
Service*

*December 24, 2020*

Christmas Dialog and Greeting

L: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**C: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

L: Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

**C: We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

L: For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

**C: In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

L: May the grace and truth of Christ be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

Opening Prayer

L: Let us pray. (A brief silence) 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 only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful*

ELW #283

Oh, come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!

Oh, come, ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;

Come and behold Him born the king of angels:

*Refrain*

Oh, come, let us adore Him, oh, come, let us adore Him,

Oh, come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!  
Word of the Father,  
now in flesh appearing: *Refrain*

Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

*The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep dark-  
ness —  
on them light has shined.  
<sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation,*

*you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.  
<sup>4</sup>For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders,*

*the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.  
5For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.  
6For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named*

*Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
7His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onward and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do  
this.*

### ***The First Noel***

**ELW #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*

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

This star drew near to the northwest,  
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;  
and there it did both stop and stay  
right over the place where Jesus lay. *Refrain*

### **Reading**

**Titus 2:11-14**

*For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup>He 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.*

***Good Christian Friends, Rejoice***

**ELW #288**

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born to day;  
ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Call you one and call you all to gain the everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

**Reading**

**Luke 2:1-7**

*In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.*

***O Little Town of Bethlehem***

**ELW #279**

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.

How silently, how silently  
the wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of his heav'n.  
No ear may hear his coming;  
but, in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still  
the dear Christ enters in.

## Reading

Luke 2:8-20

*In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth 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 heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" <sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.*

## *Away in a Manger*

ELW #277

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
the stars in the 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 cradle til 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 fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

## Message

Deacon Todd Portinga

## *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

ELW#272

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming as seers of old have sung,  
It came, a flow'r so bright, amid the cold of winter,  
When half-spent was the night.

O Savior, child of Mary, who felt our human woe;  
O Savior, king of glory, who dost our weakness know:  
Bring us at length, we pray, to the bright courts of heaven  
And into endless day.

Prayers

L: Glory to God in the highest, **C: And peace to God's people on earth.**

L: Blessed are you, Prince of Peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.

**C: Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.**

L: Blessed are you, Wonderful Counselor. You enlighten the heart with steadfast love.

**C: Enliven your church that it might bear good tidings of great joy to all people.**

L: Blessed are you, Emmanuel. You promise to be with us even to the end of the age.

**C: Open our eyes to see your presence in all who are hungry, lonely, or homeless.**

L: Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.

**C: Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.**

L: Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.

**C: Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bear your light to all the world. Amen.**

John 1:14

**And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.**

*The leader lights a large candle from an altar candle, which symbolizes Christ, the Light of the world of whom John's gospel speaks.*

***Silent Night, Holy Night!***

**ELW #281**

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 your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth. Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

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.**

Blessing

L: May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ Child. Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. **C: Amen.**

*Joy to the World*

**ELW #267**

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive its King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing.

He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness and wonders of His love.

L: Go in Peace, Christ is with Us! **C: Thanks be to God.**