



To
you
is born this day
a Savior

LUKE 2:11



FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

500 West Le Claire Road Eldridge, Iowa
Pastor Carrie Lewis La Plante Pastor Heather Geest

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

December 24, 2021, 9:00 p.m.

Prelude

Welcome

GATHERING

Please stand as you are able.

Gathering Hymn

O, Come, All Ye Faithful

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!

The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

Christmas Eve Litany

P Jesus Christ is the Light of the world!

C He is the Light no darkness can overcome.

P At darkest night we gather to celebrate the great light of our salvation.

C With the heavenly host we sing, "Glory to God in the highest heaven."

P In Christ, God's Word is made flesh and lives among us.

C With the shepherds, we will tell of the wonders we have seen and heard.

Greeting and Prayer of the Day

P May the grace and truth of Christ be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

C 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.

Please be seated.

WORD

First Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

A reading from Isaiah.

- ²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness —
on them light has shined.
- ³You 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.
- ⁴For 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.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God

Hymn Response O Little Town of Bethlehem

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.

Second Reading

Titus 2:11-14

A reading from Titus.

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.

L The Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God

Hymn Response

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"

Gospel Part 1

Luke 2:1-7

P The holy gospel according to Luke:

C Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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.

Hymn Response:

Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Gospel Part 2

Luke 2:8-20

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵When 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." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P The Gospel of the Lord

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Hymn Response

Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

Christmas Eve Message

Hymn

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,
from heav'n's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.

And you, beneath life's crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow:
look now, for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing;
oh, rest beside the weary road
and hear the angels sing!

Please stand as you are able.

Prayers of the Church

The Peace

Please be seated.

Offering

We give thanks to God for the gifts that God provides, and for the gifts that you share with the church. Offerings may be dropped off at church or sent through the mail, through automatic withdraw, or through the Tithe.ly app on our website.

Please stand as you are able.

Offering Prayer

P Holy God, your beauty shines forth from the manger and your love flows from the cross. As you gather us around these signs of your love come among us, warm us to extend your care among the hungry and all in need. In Jesus' name we pray.

C Amen.

MEAL

Dialogue

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give God thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name.

Thanksgiving at the Table

The Lord's Prayer

C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

Distribution of the Elements

Believing in the real presence of Christ, we invite all present to participate in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. All who are baptized and believe that Jesus Christ is present in the gifts of bread and wine are welcome at the Lord's table. Those who do not wish to receive communion and children who are not yet receiving communion will receive a blessing.

Those worshiping with us at home may use their own bread and wine or juice for communion. On site, communion will be received at your seats. Having received the elements as you entered worship, you will take the chalice, and when directed by the pastor, you will remove the bottom cover to receive the bread. The pastor will say "Body of Christ given for you," and you will eat the bread. When directed by the pastor, you will remove the top cover to receive the wine or juice. The pastor will say, "Blood of Christ shed for you," and you will drink the wine or juice.

Post-Communion Blessing

P The body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

C Amen.

Prayer after Communion

P Emmanuel, God with us, you grace us with life and breath and give us bread for the journey. Send us out in service to this world that you love, telling the amazing news of your coming to be Savior and Lord of all.

C Amen.

CANDLE LIGHTING

(The lighted candle is never tilted, but is always held upright when giving light to another. Parents, please assist the children if they are holding a candle.)

Gospel of Light

John 1:1-14

(will be read while the candles are being lit.)

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And 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.

Hymn of Light

Silent Night, Holy Night!

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! 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.

SENDING

Blessing

P May the Lord God, who has called you out of darkness to be servants of the light, grant you the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, and the peace of the Christ Child, in the name of Almighty God, the Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Please extinguish your candles and return them to the ushers as you exit the sanctuary.

Hymn:

Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king; let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, 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, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Dismissal

P Glory to God in the highest!

C Peace to God's people on earth!

P Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

C Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Christmas Flowers



Thank you to everyone who provided the beautiful poinsettias for this Christmas season.

From:

The Fenn Family
Kelli Goslee-Frank
Jeri Fenn
The Harms Family
Jeanne Willems
Colton & Rebecca Johnson
Anette Tomlinson
Ruth Jurgens
Tonya, Maisie & Melena Knutsen
Pam & Rob White

Stephanie McNamara
Brian & Nina Looney
Carol Roe
Sue Sissel
Carol Marten
Kelly Wyatt
Scott, Carrie, Abby and Maddy La Plante
Dan & Mary Ann Anderson
Mike & Rita Smith
Wyatt Frahm
Jim & Ida Weibel
Darin & Beth Ann Anderson & Family
Myra Kreiter & Children
Mike & Betty Strom
Shari Carter-Steiner
Ron and Nancy Meyer
Cathy Diaz
Kourtney Johnson
Bill & Terri Wittkowski
Tom & Pam Carlson
Mary Moore
Rhonda Webber Family
Kris & Jerry Schvien
David & Diane Cole
John & Keri Suiter
Donna Darnall
Kara & Kevin Zidarich
Ann Kuehl
Jared & Kelly Penning
Katie Dittmer
Ed and Kathy Stoltz
Sara & Joe Nissen

In Honor or Memory Of:

Our Son & Brother, Jake Fenn
Gary & Rosemary Goslee
Father, Jerry Milaicki and Sister, Lisa Kinkin
Those who enrich our lives all year long
Leroy Willems and Loved Ones
Cathy Potter
Ralph Tomlinson & Phyllis Ruth
Elmer & Linda
Leroy & Marilyn Knutsen and Loved Ones
Our Parents, Doc "JB" & Dorthy White
and Bob & Algean Nowachek
Jana Donaubauer
Loved Ones and Anniversary
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Stacey Dircks
Grandparents and Dan La Plante
Family
Loved Ones
Diana Frahm and Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Jack, his parents, and mine
Our Loved Ones in heaven
Our Family
Parents and Siblings
Enrique
Lucas Johnson
50th Anniversary
Loved Ones
Dale and Our Anniversary
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Bud & Janet Nagle
Calvin & Phyllis Hamann and Rick Darnall
Our Dads
Wes Kuehl
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Harlan & Dorothy Mohr