

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

4:00 and 5:30 pm

INTRODUCTION

On this Christmas Eve we gather to celebrate the birth of the Word made flesh, Christ our Lord. Luke recounts the familiar story of shepherds and angels; John's gospel tells of the Word that dwells among us, full of grace and truth. The meaning of Christmas is made clear: the light shines in the darkness. It is in the liturgy—in the people of God gathered together as the body of Christ, and in the meal around the holy table - that we encounter the Word made flesh. Then we go forth into the world to proclaim to all: the Savior is born!

PRELUDE

THE ANNOUNCEMENT

OPENING HYMN *(please stand)* **“O Come, All Ye Faithful”** **#283**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray....

Eternal God, as you came to the world in the birth of the Christ child, come to us this night. Come into our hearts and shine your light upon our path. As you brought your hope, your peace, your joy, and your love to the world in the form of the babe of Bethlehem, so bring to us his radiance and help us to glorify both him and you. We ask that the fullness of his life might live in us, and that at his name every knee would bow, and every tongue confess, that He is Lord. **Amen.**



SPECIAL MUSIC **4:00 PM – Donna Bratland ~ 5:30 PM – Kathy Brumbaugh**

THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL

Tonight is the night of our dear Savior's birth. Let us hear again the glad story of how God chose to come among us and to dwell with us.

Luke 2:1-7
HYMN **“Away in a Manger”** **#277**

Luke 2:8-14
HYMN **“The First Noel”** **#300 vs. 1-2**

Luke 2:15-20

HYMN **“O Little Town of Bethlehem”** **#279**

CHRISTMAS HOMILY

Pastor Erin Heidelberger

HYMN **“Angels We Have Heard on High”** **#289**

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER *(please stand)*

God with us: You came as a baby to a manger. You slept on straw and greeted shepherds. You come again in bread and wine. Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things. And then, through these gifts, help us to bless the lives of others in the strength of your holy name. **Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Joy to the world! The Lord is come.
Let every heart receive your Savior

HOLY COMMUNION

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them up to the Lord.**

P It is right to give God thanks and praise.



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

“For I received from the Lord that which I also handed down to you—that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; and after giving thanks, He broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant which is in my blood; do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

I Corinthians 11:23-26

LORD’S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to 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 *(please be seated)*

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

#276 – “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly ~ #296 – “What Child Is This”

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ born of Mary this night, strengthen you,
and keep you in his grace. Amen.

HYMN

“Silent Night”

#281

SENDING PRAYER

Let us pray: Dear Lord, on a wondrous night such as this you sent your son to take on frail human flesh in order that all who believe in Jesus might be saved. You sent angels to herald his birth in Bethlehem and a star to proclaim it to the ends of the earth. Send us now as messengers of your good news and proclaimers of your peace. In Jesus name we pray. Amen

DISMISSAL

Glory to God in the highest!
Peace to God’s people on earth!
Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.
Thanks be to God.



CLOSING HYMN

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

#290

POSTLUDE

After the 4:00 PM worship if you would like to recycle your bulletin to be used at the 5:30 PM worship, please place it in the basket at the back of the church on your way out.



**Zion Lutheran Church
Christmas Eve
December 24, 2017**

The Announcement

**Christmas Eve Service 4:00/5:30 pm
The Word Incarnate – John 1:1-5**

(A man and woman speak this from the balcony.)

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

W: Every year we light our candles.

M: We watch the flames flicker with wonder.

W: God's light is here.

M: This light is life for all people.

W: The darkness will never overcome it.

M: Christ is with us always. Thanks be to God!

Christmas Eve Services 4:00 & 5:30 PM Please do not introduce the reading – just begin.

Luke 2:1–7 (balcony)

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.

4:00 _____ 5:30 _____

Luke 2:8–14 (balcony)

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!"

4:00 _____ 5:30 _____

Luke 2:15–20 (balcony)

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.

4:00 _____ 5:30 _____