

Zion Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, SD
Christmas Eve Worship
zionlutheranaberdeem.org
Mark Galbraith, Interim Pastor



INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

PRELUDE

*Of the Father's Love Begotten; The First Noel
He is Born*

Piano/Organ duets
Jeremy Schutter, trombone

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP & LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

O Come O Come Emmanuel

Enya

OPENING HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ELW #283

- 1 O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him,
born the king of angels:

Refrain

- O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!
- 2 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*
- 3 Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
in the highest: *Refrain*
- 4 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*

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

CHRISTMAS DIALOGUE

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory.
Oh, come, let us worship him.

The people who have walked in darkness have seen a great light.
The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Those who live in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined.
We have seen Christ's glory, glory as God's only Son, full of grace and truth.

For a child has been born to us, a Son has been given to us.
What has come into being in him, was life, and the life was the light of all people.

Today Christ is born; today salvation has appeared!
Glory to God in the highest! Alleluia!

HYMN OF PRAISE	<i>Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!</i>	ELW #288
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- 1

Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!
- 2

Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door,
and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!
- 3

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray together:
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. Amen.

FIRST READING

Philippians 2:5-11

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
⁶who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
⁷but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
⁸he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death —
even death on a cross.
⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

ALLELUIA

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

ELW #270

Vs. 1 & 3

1 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!"

3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace!
Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth,
born to give us second birth. Refrain

GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴When Joseph awoke

from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

PROCLAMATION

Pastor Mark Galbraith

PROCLAMATION HYMN

What Child is This

ELW #296

- 1
- What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!
- 2
- Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
the cross be borne for me, for you;
hail, hail the Word made flesh,
the babe, the son of Mary!
- 3
- So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary!

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

Celtic Carol

Dennis Allen

Jeremy Schutter, trombone

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

(sung to the tune Angels We Have Heard on High)

May the Good Lord be with you. Lift your hearts to God in praise.
May the Lord be with you too. To the Lord our hearts we raise. Gloooooooria in excelsis Deo;
Gloooooooria in excelsis Deo.

In the word of God made flesh, Great and wondrous mystery.
Now we see with vision fresh, God's abundant majesty. Gloooooooria in excelsis Deo;
Gloooooooria in excelsis Deo.

Therefore with the Church on earth and the hosts of heav'n above.
Let us praise his name, whose birth brings to us eternal love. Gloooooooria in excelsis Deo;
Gloooooooria in excelsis Deo.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

(sung to the tune of From Heaven Above)

The night Lord Jesus was betrayed; He took bread and when he'd pray.
He broke and gave them of the bread; and unto his disciples said:

This is my body to you I give of my own flesh that you may live. Come take me now into your hearts; that you and I need never part.
Then when the sacred meal was o’er; our blessed Savior spoke one more. He offered thanks and lifted up, to give to all the blessed cup.

My precious friend to you I give, of my own blood that you may live. My love, my faith, my joy I pour into your hearts forevermore.
O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of all; now hear us pray, and grant us from our sins release. Have mercy on us! Grant us peace!

LORD’S PRAYER

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.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

All who believe that our Lord Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and wine of The Lord’s Supper bringing to us the gift of forgiveness and the promise of eternal life, are welcome to gather at the Lord’s Table.

Communion for this service will be served by intinction (the dipping of the bread into wine). We highly encourage you to please use the hand sanitizer available in your pew before partaking of communion.

Please come forward as directed by the ushers. We will commune both sides continuously. Grape juice and gluten-free wafers are available; please indicate to the server by raising your hand.

COMMUNION HYMNS

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

1 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.

2 Still through the cloven skies they come
 with peaceful wings unfurled,
 and still their heav'nly music floats
 o'er all the weary world.
 Above its sad and lowly plains
 they bend on hov'ring wing,
 and ever o'er its babel sounds
 the blessed angels sing.

3 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;

ELW #282

oh, rest beside the weary road
and hear the angels sing!

- 4 For lo! The days are hast'ning on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the song
which now the angels sing.

The First Noel

ELW #300

- 1 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.

- 2 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*

- 3 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*

- 4 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*

- 5 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*

I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve

ELW #271

- 1 I am so glad each Christmas Eve,
the night of Jesus' birth!
Then like the sun the star shone forth,
and angels sang on earth.

- 2 The little child in Bethlehem,
he was a king indeed!
For he came down from heav'n above
to help a world in need.

- 3 He dwells again in heaven's realm,
the Son of God today;
and still he loves his little ones
and hears them when they pray.

4 I am so glad each Christmas Eve!
His praises then I sing;
he opens now for ev'ry child
the palace of the king.

5 And so I love each Christmas Eve,
and I love Jesus too;
and that he loves me ev'ry day
I know so well is true.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together:

We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus,
God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine.
As we have shared this feast of love,
strengthen us to share your love with all the world.
In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.

LIGHTING OF CANDLES *(congregational responses will be sung)*

*From the light of the Christ candle at the center of our Advent wreath, the light is passed along. As the candlelight is passed to members of the congregation, pass it to the person next to you. Please **do not tip** a lighted candle.*

Hear the word of God regarding the Incarnation of Jesus Christ as told by St. John:

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 were made through him, and without Him was not anything made that was made. In him was life and was the light of all. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

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.

The true light that enlightens everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. But to all who receive him, he gave them power to become the children of God.

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.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as the only Son from the Father. And from his fullness we have received grace upon grace.

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.

MEDITATION

The Amens

Brian Setzer

Please extinguish your candles at the end of the song.

BENEDICTION

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Christ our Savior is born!

The faithful have come to adore Christ our Lord.
Christ our Savior is born!

Now go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere!
Christ our Savior is born!

The blessings of God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you now and forever.
Amen!

CLOSING HYMN

Joy to the World

ELW #267

- 1
- 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.
- 2
- Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- 3
- No more let sin and sorrow grow
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.
- 4
- 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.

POSTLUDE

Christmas Gloria

Lloyd Larson

Piano—Sue Gates; Organ—Sonya Kempf