

King of Glory

Lutheran Church and Preschool

CHRISTMAS EVE

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

DECEMBER 24, 2020 --- 4:00 P.M.

Welcome to Worship at King of Glory. We are glad to see you!

Please stay in your cars. Tune to 91.3 FM for sound. If there is a restroom emergency, please wear a mask and go one at a time to either Men's or Women's, and allow a minute for sanitizing afterward.

Please lower only the driver-side windows to maintain safe distance.

NOTE: **The People will read the bold print**

GATHERING

On a long winter evening we gather to proclaim the coming of the light, Isaiah announces that the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. In the familiar account of Christ's birth, the evening sky is bright with the heavenly host singing, "Glory to God in the highest." Amid our broken world, we proclaim that the Prince of Peace is born among us. God comes to us in human flesh---in Christ's body and blood---so that we may be bearers of divine light to all the world.

Words of Welcome

Throughout the season of Advent, part of our preparation for Christmas was to light candle on our wreath for each week. Tonight, we light the four Advent candles another time, but we also light the center candle---the white Christ candle---to acknowledge that our long-awaited celebration is here. Christ has come!

GATHERING SONG

Oh, Come, all Ye Faithful verses 1,3, and 4

1. Oh, come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
Oh, come ye oh, come ye to Bethlehem:
Come and behold 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!

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**

CHRISTMAS GREETING

The splendor of God has been revealed among us. A child has come to change all our ways.

We who have walked in the shadows have seen the light. We have given up the unnecessary burdens we carry.

Authority has been assigned to the Wonderful Counselor, Peace and justice will prevail through eternity.

We will leave judgement to God, whose equity we trust. We are free to rejoice in the beauty God reveals.

Worship the One who breaks yokes and frees us. Great is our God, and greatly to be praised.

Let the heavens be glad, and let earth rejoice. We are ready to declare God's marvelous works.

INVOCATION

Pastor:

You keep surprising us gracious God. Just when we get settled into our routines, you offer us a transforming birth. While we focus on greatness, you appear in humble circumstances among ordinary people, in out-of-the-way places. Amid the noise of our business, the angel song suddenly penetrates our dulled awareness, and we must listen again. O God, keep us from fear or cynicism, lest we miss this opportunity to hear good news that is meant for us, and for all this hostile unbelieving world in which we live, Amen

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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 Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen

READING: ISAIAH 9:2-3, 6-7B

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in the land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. 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.

For 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,

His 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.

CAROL

O Little Town of Bethlehem verses 1 and 4

1. 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.
5. O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
Oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

READING: LUKE 1:26-31, 35, 38

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.

Carol

LOVE HAS COME VERSE 1

1. Love has come— a light the dark---ness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
Hear how their song of joy a--ris—es:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on High.

READING: MATTHEW 1:18-23

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

But after he had considered 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 home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus,^[1] because he will save his people from their sins."

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

CAROL

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing verses 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, risen 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

READING: LUKE 2: 8-12

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

CAROL

ALWAY IN A MANGER verses 1 and 2

1. 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.
2. The cattle are lowing' the poor baby wakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

READING: Luke 2:13-14

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

CAROL

Angels We Have Heard on High verses 1 and 2

1. 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.

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heav'nly song?

READING: LUKE: 2: 15-20

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

CAROL

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear verses 1 and 4

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, goodwill to all, from heav'n's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

3. For lo! The days are hast'ning on, by prophets seen of old,
When with the ever-circling year 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.

READING: MATTHEW 2:1-2, 8-11

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." ...

He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

CAROL

WE THREE KINGS verses 1 and 5

1. We three kings of Orient are,
Bearing gifts we traverse afar.
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.

Refrain

Oh, star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright;
westward leading, still proceeding
guide us to thy perfect light!

5. Glorious now behold him arise,
king and God and Sacrifice;
heav'n sings alleluia;
alleluias the earth replies.

Refrain

REFLECTION PASTOR DON KOEPKE

JOY TO THE WORLD verses 1, 2, and 4

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.
4. He rules the world with truth and grace
and makes the nations prove
ethe glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Carry a song on your lips and joy in your hearts. Let all the world observe the good news you convey.

Glory to God, glory to God in the highest! My God's peace reign among all people!

As shepherds praised God for all they saw and heard, we are commissioned to share Christmas joy.

A baby has become out Wonderful Counselor. A child is pointing us to the way of peace.

The grace of God is your salvation, now and always. Jesus Christ is the blessed hope who embraces us.

We join in glorifying and praising God. We welcome the Christ into our hearts and homes.

Amen, **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

Silent Night, Holy Night *(If you have a candle light it during the last verse.)*

1. 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.

2. Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing, alleluias!
Christ the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

3. 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.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the joy of Christ!
Thanks be to God.