

Holy Night

ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Christmas Eve Children's Service

DECEMBER 24, 2024 | 5:00 P.M.



Welcome & Opening Prayer

Pastor: Welcome to our Christmas Eve worship service as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We begin with a prayer to our God and Savior.

Opening Hymn: LSB 387 - "Joy to the World, the Lord is Come"

Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Saviour reigns;
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows 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.

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.

Invocation

Pastor: We begin this Christmas Eve service in the name of the Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God, before whose presence the angels veil their faces, with reverence and love we acknowledge Your glory and worship You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, eternal Trinity.

Congregation: Blessing and honor and glory and power be unto our God forever and ever. Amen.

Confession and Absolution of Sins

Pastor: We confess, Almighty God, that we have erred and strayed from Your ways like lost sheep.

Congregation: We have followed the sinful desires of our hearts.

Pastor: We have offended against Your laws.

Congregation: We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done.

Pastor: Our spiritual health is suffering from sinfulness.

Congregation: O LORD, have mercy on us.

Pastor: Spare us, O God, as we come with a penitent spirit, confessing our faults. Restore unto us the joy of Your salvation through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Congregation: and grant, for His sake, that we may live sober, upright, and godly lives, to the glory of Your holy name. 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!

Pastor: As God has given to you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven, and as you have called me to administer the same, even so, in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God, You made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known on earth the wonder of that Light, that we may also behold Him in all His glory in the life to come; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Part I. The Fall and the First Promise of a Savior

Scripture reading - Genesis 3: 1-15 (Michael Slattengren)

Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?" 2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; 3 "but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.' " 4 Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. 5 "For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. 8 And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. 9 Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?" 10 So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I

hid myself." 11 And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?" 12 Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate." 13 And the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." 14 So the LORD God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, You are cursed more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, And you shall eat dust All the days of your life. 15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

Congregation Hymn: LSB 352 - "Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord"

Let the earth now praise the Lord.
Who hath truly kept His word
And the sinners' Help and Friend
Now at last to us doth send.

Welcome, O my Savior, now!
Hail! My Portion, Lord, art Thou.
Here, too, in my heart, I pray,
Oh, prepare Thyself a way!

Comfort my desponding heart:
Thou my Strength and Refuge art.
I am weak, and cunningly
Satan lays his snares for me.

Bruise for me the Serpent's head,
That, set free from doubt and dread,
I may cleave to Thee in faith,
Safely kept through life and death

Part II. The Angel Announces the Miraculous Conception of Jesus

Scripture reading - Isaiah 9:2-7 (Isaac Schmitt)

2 The people who walked in darkness Have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, Upon them a light has shined. 3 You have multiplied the nation And increased its joy; They rejoice before You According to the joy of harvest, As men rejoice when they divide the spoil. 4 For You have broken the yoke of his burden And the staff of his shoulder, The rod of his oppressor, As in the day of Midian. 5 For every warrior's sandal from the noisy battle, And garments rolled in blood, Will be used for burning and fuel of fire. 6 For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Children's Song: "As Each Happy Christmas"

As each happy Christmas
Dawns on Earth again
Comes the holy Christ Child
To the hearts of men.

Enters with His blessing
Into every home,
Guides and guards our footsteps
As we go and come.

All unknown beside me,
He will ever stand
And will safely lead me
With his own right hand.

Scripture reading - Isaiah 11:1-5 (Jordan Horrillo)

There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots. 2 The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD. 3 His delight is in the fear of the LORD, And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, Nor decide by the hearing of His ears; 4 But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, And decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked. 5 Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, And faithfulness the belt of His waist.

Congregation Hymn: LSB 383 - "A Great and Mighty Wonder"

A great and mighty wonder.

A full and holy cure:

The virgin bears the Infant

With virgin honor pure!

Repeat the hymn again:

"To God on high be glory

And peace on earth to men!"

The Word becomes incarnate

And yet remains on high,

And Cherubim sing anthems

To shepherds from the sky.

Repeat the hymn again:

"To God on high be glory

And peace on earth to men!"

Since all He comes to ransom.

By all be He adored,

The Infant born in Bethl'em,

The Savior and the Lord.

Repeat the hymn again:

"To God on high be glory
And peace on earth to men!"

Scripture reading - Luke 1:26-37 (Brenton Horrillo)

26 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!" 29 But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. 30 Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. 32 "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. 33 "And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." 34 Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" 35 And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. 36 "Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. 37 "For with God nothing will be impossible."

Choir Song: "Hallelujah, Glory Hallelujah"

Part III. Holy Night

Scripture reading - Matthew 1:18-25 (Timothy Blank)

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. 19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just *man*, and not wanting to make her a public



example, was minded to put her away secretly. 20 But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. 21 "And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." 22 So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: 23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us." 24 Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, 25 and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

Children's Song: "In A Little Stable"

In a little stable
Far across the sea
Was a little Baby
Just like you and me.

Not a bed or cradle,
Not a pillow deep,
But a lowly manger
Was His place to sleep.

Shepherds stood around Him,
Angels watched with care,
For this Babe was Jesus,
Lying, smiling there.

Oh, I love this Jesus,
Who was little then?
For I know He loves me,
Little though I am.



Nolan: Galatians 4:4-5 – “4 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.”

Elizabeth: John 1:14 – “The Word became flesh and dwelled among us. We have seen his glory, the glory he has as the only-begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

Emilio & Thomas: Isaiah 7:14 – “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel.”

All Children: 2 Corinthians 9:15 – “Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!”

Children's Song: “Away in a Manger”

Away in a manger, no crib for a 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 Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay,
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.



Scripture reading - Luke 2:8-20 (Daniel and Nolan Gullerud)

Daniel: "8 Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. 10 Then the angel said to them,

Nolan: "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. 11 "For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 "And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."

Daniel: 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

Nolan: 14"Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

Daniel: 15 So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us." 16 And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. 17 Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. 18 And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. 19 But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20 Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them."

Congregation Hymn: LSB 380 - "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim.
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King!"

Christ, by the highest heaven adored.
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell;
Jesus, our Immanuel!
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King!"

Hail, the heavenly Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Risen with healing in His wings.
Mild He leaves His throne on high,
Born that man no more may die;
Born to raise the sons of earth;
Born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King!"

Christmas Offerings and Prayers (Pastor)

We offer our gifts to the Lord, remembering that He has first given to us that we might have to give to Him.

Benediction (Pastor)

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift His countenance upon you and give you peace.

Congregation: Amen.

Recessional Hymn: LSB 363 - "Silent 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!
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 Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.



Merry Christmas
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

Announcements

Tomorrow – Christmas Day - 12/25/24

10:00 a.m. Christmas Day Worship Service

Sunday - 12/29/24

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Wednesday - 1/1/25

10:00 a.m. New Year's Day Worship Service

Online Worship Service - <https://www.sslcwest.org/worship.html>

A heartfelt thank you to all the volunteers, musicians, and parents who made this worship service possible by helping the children learn their songs and pieces.

A special thanks to the children for their time and effort in making this day memorable. And, most importantly, a special thanks to our Savior, Jesus Christ, the true reason we celebrate Christmas!

Participants:

Elizabeth Blank

Nolan Gullerud

Thomas Gullerud

Emilio Gullerud

Directors: Mikkela Schmitt, Leslie Horrillo, and Angela Gullerud

Music: Barbara Gullerud

Readers: Michael Slattengren, Isaac Schmitt, Jordan Horrillo, Brenton Horrillo, Timothy Blank, Dan Gullerud, and Nolan Gullerud

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

Member congregation of the Church of the Lutheran Confession | www.clclutheran.org

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