



**Christmas Eve 2022**

**4pm**

# Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

## 4 pm Christmas Eve, 2022

*In winter's deepest night, we welcome the Christ child. Children share in telling the story of Mary and Joseph and Jesus. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the joy that illumines our lives, we go forth to share the love of Christ with the whole world.*

### Gathering

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

#### Prelude

#### Opening Carol

***"Hark, the Herald Angels Sing"***

**#270**

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 anthem of the skies;  
with angelic hosts proclaim: "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

#### Welcome

#### \*Carol

***"God Came Down"***

**#253**

*Need a little extra space to dance? Boogie into the aisles!*

God came down that we may have love (x 3)... hallelujah forevermore!  
Peace... Joy...

#### \*Greeting

The grace and truth of the Word made flesh,  
the cosmic love of the Creator,  
and the healing power of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

#### \*Prayer of the Day

# Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

Quiet reflection.

## Lesson

Luke 2:1-7

Spark Story Bible pages 212-217

A reading from Luke's gospel. (*take a breath – wait a sec*)

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

## Carol

### “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

#276



1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;  
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing new



ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.  
saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, an - gels sing - ing, bells are ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:  
Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!  
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

## Lesson

Luke 2:8-20

Spark Story Bible pages 212-217

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields,  
keeping watch over their flock by night.

Then an angel of the Lord stood before them,  
and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.  
But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid;  
for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:  
to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.  
This will be a sign for you:  
you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.”

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host,  
praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace!”

## Carol

### *“Angels We Have Heard on High”*

#289

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 Angels we have heard on high,<br>sweetly singing o'er the plains,<br>and the mountains in reply,<br>echoing their joyous strains. | 2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?<br>Why your joyous strains prolong?<br>What the gladsome tidings be<br>which inspire your heav'nly song? |
|---|---|

#### *Refrain*

Glo---ria in excelsis Deo;  
Glo----ria in excelsis Deo.

## Lesson

Luke 2:15-20

Spark Story Bible pages 212-217

When 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.”

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

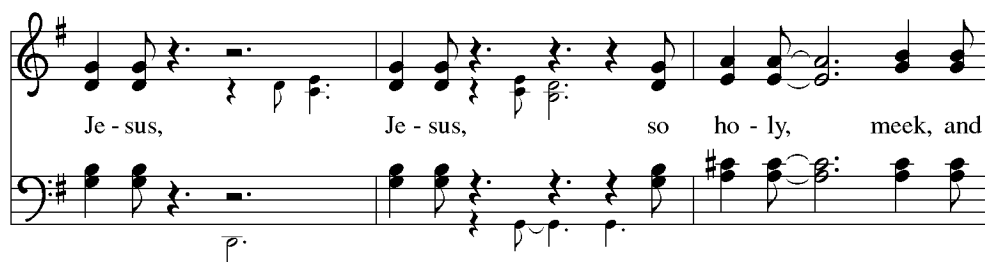
This is the good news. (*Stay and look at the people while they say:*)

**Praise to you, O Christ!**

## Reflection



Je-sus, Je-sus, oh, what a won-der-ful child.



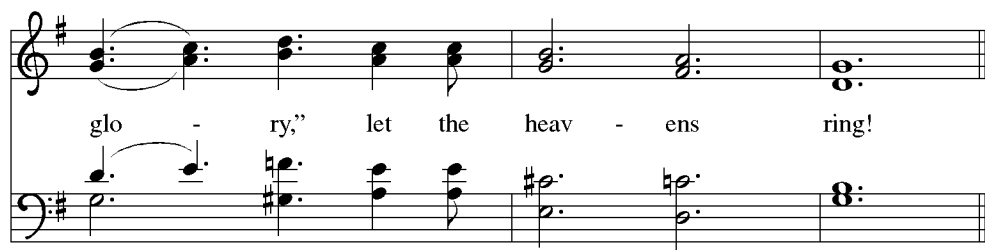
Je-sus, Je-sus, so ho-ly, meek, and



mild; new life, new hope the child will bring.



Lis-ten to the an-gels sing: “Glo-ry, glo-ry,



glo-ry,” let the heav-ens ring!

Text: African American traditional, alt.  
Music: African American traditional; arr. Jeffrey Radford, 1953–2002  
Arr. from *The New Century Hymnal* (#136), © 1992 Pilgrim Press.

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### \*Prayers of the People

*Each bid is followed by a time to add your prayers out loud or in silence. When you hear the prayer leader say: God, who is mercy, we respond: **hear our prayer.***

## Meal

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

### \*Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*(The people greet each other: “**Peace be with you.**”)*

### Gathering our Gifts

### \*Offertory

#### *“The First Noel”*

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.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!  
Born is the Promise of Israel.

As we bring gifts, like ancient kings,  
our acts of peace are offerings.  
So, as we honor Jesus’ birth,  
we pledge to care for all the earth.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!  
Born is the Promise of Israel.

### \*Offering Prayer

## \*The Great Thanksgiving



The Ho - ly One be with you. And al - so be with you.



Lift up your voi - ces and your hearts. We lift them to our God.



Let us give thanks to the Ho - ly One, our God.



It is right to give our thanks, our thanks and our praise.

## \*Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly One, — God of pow'r and might.



All of hea - ven and the earth are full of glo - ry bright.



Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est. —



Bless-ed is the one who comes in your name. Sing Ho - san - na in the high - est!

## \*Table Prayer

### \*Lord's Prayer

Joining with the people of God throughout the ages, let us pray with confidence.

**Our Mother, 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.**

## Invitation to Communion

### Distribution

*All are welcome at Christ's table. We will serve from the front of each section. Ushers will guide you. After you have received bread, or a gluten free wafer, hold out your glass to the server and indicate whether you would like wine (the dark liquid), or grape juice (the light liquid in the second pitcher which has a shiny band attached to it). Please lower your mask and eat and drink. Those who do not commune may indicate a preference for a blessing.*

### Songs during Communion

*"Away in a Manger" #278*

*"Your Little Ones, Dear Lord" #286*

### \*Blessing

### \*Prayer

### \*Post Communion Carol

*"Angels We Have Heard on High"*

*#289*

#### *Verse 3*

Come to Bethlehem and see  
him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn king.  
*Glo.....ria in excelsis Deo;*  
*Glo.....ria in excelsis Deo.*

*Candles are lit.*

## Sending

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

### \*Lesson

*Adapted from the New Zealand Prayer Book*

Welcome, welcome, Jesus Christ our infant savior,  
baby who makes every birth holy.  
May we, like the shepherds who saw  
in the stable a new kind of love,  
return to our daily life with joy.  
May we, like the angels who filled  
the sky with song, always sing praise to you,  
and may we go out to be instruments of your peace.



*You may raise your candle as we sing.*

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 Silent night, holy night!<br>All is calm, all is bright<br>round yon virgin mother and child.<br>Holy Infant, so tender and mild,<br>sleep in heavenly peace,<br>sleep in heavenly peace.           | 2 Silent night, holy night!<br>Shepherds quake at the sight;<br>glories stream from heaven afar,<br>heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!<br>Christ, the Savior, is born!<br>Christ, the Savior, is born! |
| 3 Silent night, holy night!<br>Son of God, love's pure light<br>radiant beams from your holy face,<br>with the dawn of redeeming grace,<br>Jesus, Lord, at your birth,<br>Jesus, Lord, at your birth. |  |

\*Dismissal

Glory to God in the highest!  
Go in peace, bring good news!  
**Thanks be to God!**



Portions of the liturgy and clip art are taken from *Sundays and Seasons.com* © 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All other numbered hymns in ELW. Communion setting set to French folk tune: *Une Jeune Pucelle* arr. by Mary Preus. Cover art by He Qi.

## Today's Worship

Ministers:	You!
Presiding/Preaching:	Martha Schwehn Bardwell
Readers:	Naomi Bardwell, Oliver Maddox, Ottillia Abrahamson
Prayer leaders:	Rachel and Thomas Goodell
Accompanist:	Catherine Preus
Pianists:	Oliver Maddox, Naomi and Will Bardwell
Cantor:	Mary Preus

A shorter service of Lessons and Carols will be held tomorrow morning.

Christmas Day

11 am, Sunday, December 25, 2022

The church office will be closed on Monday, December 26, 2022

Information about Our Saviour's can be found on our [website](#)  
and on our [Facebook page](#).





# **OUR SAVIOUR'S** **Lutheran Church**

*Our Saviour's Lutheran Church is a dynamic community,  
centered in Christ, called, nurtured and sent –  
to celebrate, serve and do justice.*

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