



Church of the Savior

L U T H E R A N

December 24, 2024

Christmas Eve



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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Welcome to Church of the Savior – Lutheran:

We are a community of believers, seekers, and doubters. We affirm all of God's people just as they are. We are a welcoming and inclusive community that does not require you to change in any way to worship with us.

We strive to make love grow both in our congregational life and in our nursery school. We recognize all the love we have is given to us from the Holy Spirit, we are but reflections of God's love. One of the ways we make love grow is by being accepting and existing the way Jesus taught us; living in harmony together no matter one's race, nationality, or gender. We strive to create and ensure the safest and most loving environment for everyone. We look forward to growing in faith with you.

With Regard to Holy Communion:

We celebrate Holy Communion nearly every week at Church of the Savior. Holy Communion is a sacred meal in which Christ comes to us in bread and wine. "This is my body given for you... This is my blood shed for you." We believe those words to be true. Christ is truly present in Holy Communion. When we receive the bread and wine of this meal, we receive his body and blood "in, with, and under the forms" of the consecrated bread and wine. All of God's beautiful children are welcome to our Lord's table — it's our Lord's table, after all, and all are invited. Let's be clear — it is not "my" table, or "our" table or a "Lutheran" table. It is our Lord's table, and he sends out the invitations — to everyone under the sun. This includes you to come forward just as are.

For the bread we provide two types of host, with gluten and without. If you would like gluten free let Pastor Paul know when you come forward. We offer both red wine and white grape juice.

To the Parents of Children:

Relax! God put the wiggle in children; don't feel you have to suppress it in God's house. All are welcome! Sit toward the front where it is easier for children to see and hear what is going on. Little one's tire of seeing the back of others' heads.

Explain the parts of the service and actions of the pastor, ushers, choir, and the people who make worship happen. Sing the hymns, pray, and voice the responses. Children learn liturgical behavior by copying you.

If you have to leave the service with your child, feel free to, but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the children come to me."

The way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to The Church, to God and to one another. Let them know, and let us show them, that they are at home in their house of worship. The presence of your child is a gift to Church of the Savior. We are blessed to welcome and worship with our children. We know that it took a lot of work to get to this pew today; you are doing a really good job!



PRELUDE: Pastoral Symphony (G.F. Handel)

WELCOME AND GATHERING

PROCLAMATION OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

Today, the twenty-fifth day of December
Unknown ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth
And then formed man and woman in his own image.
Several thousand years after the flood,
When God made the rainbow shine forth as a sign of the covenant.
Twenty-one centuries from the time of Abraham and Sarah;
Thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt.
Eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the Judges;
One thousand years from the anointing of David as king;
In the sixty-fifth week according to the prophecy of Daniel.
In the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad;
The seven hundred and fifty-second year from the foundation of the city of Rome.
The forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus;
The whole world being at peace,
Jesus Christ, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father,
Desiring to sanctify the world by his most merciful coming,
Being conceived by the Holy Spirit,
And nine months having passed since his conception,
Was born in Bethlehem of Judea of the Virgin Mary.
Today is the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh.
Amen.



PROCESSIONAL HYMN: O, Come, All Ye Faithful



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!

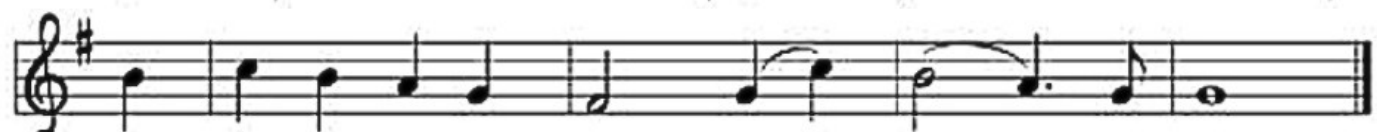


come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God in . . . the . . . high - est:

Refrain



O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

GREETING

Pastor: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

People: **And also with you.**



THE GLORIA

Glo-ry glo-ry glo-ry glo-ry glo-ry to God in the high - est!

Glo-ry glo-ry glo-ry glo-ry glo-ry to God in the high-est! Glo - ry to God in the

high - est and peace on earth, good will to men.

Glo-ry glo - ry glo - ry glo - ry glo-ry to God in the high - est!

Glo-ry glo-ry glo-ry glo-ry glo-ry to God in the high - est! Glo-ry Glo-ry!



PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.



FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined.

³You 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.

⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For 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.

⁷His 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. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Lector: Word of God, Word of Life

People: Thanks Be to God



PSALM 96:

¹Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

²**Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD;
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**

³Declare God's glory among the nations and God's wonders among all peoples.

⁴**For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised, more to be feared than all gods.**

⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.

⁶**Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**

⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

⁸**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.**

⁹Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; tremble before the LORD, all the earth.



¹⁰Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is king! The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peoples with equity."

¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

¹²Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O LORD, for you come to judge the earth.

¹³You will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with your truth.



SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14

¹¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Word of God, Word of Life

People: Thanks Be to God



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.



GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ 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. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ 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.

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ 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: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And 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!”

¹⁵ 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.” ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.



HYMN OF THE DAY: Angels We Have Heard on High



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi-lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

Refrain



Glo - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo -



- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.



SERMON: Pastor Paul

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.


PRAYER OF THE CHURCH: Response: Receive our prayer.

SHARING OF THE PEACE:




OFFERING: Away in the Manger

C7 F Bb F




1. A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed, the
2. The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes, but
3. Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close

C7 F C7




lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the
lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I
by me for - e - ver and love me, I pray. Bless

F F7 Bb F



stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the
love you, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky and
all the dear chil - dren in your ten - der care and

C7 Dm C7 F



lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
fit us for hea - ven, to live with you there.



Please mail your offering to:
Church of the Savior
643 Forest Avenue - Paramus, NJ 07652 OR Use the
QR code on right for your offertory giving.



ALL: God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.



PREFACE FOR THE SEASON

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

F **Am** **G7** **C** **F** **G7** **C**
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:

F **Am** **G7** **C** **F** **Dm**
 Heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.

Bb **G7** **C** **F** **Gm**
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who

F/A **G7/B** **C** **Ab** **Bb** **Dm7** **G** **C**
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

...proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

People: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

At conclusion of Eucharistic Prayer

People: Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER



F Bb G7 C

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have

Dm G C F Bb G7

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

C Dm G C F Am Bb

world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the

Eb Ab Bb Dm G7 C

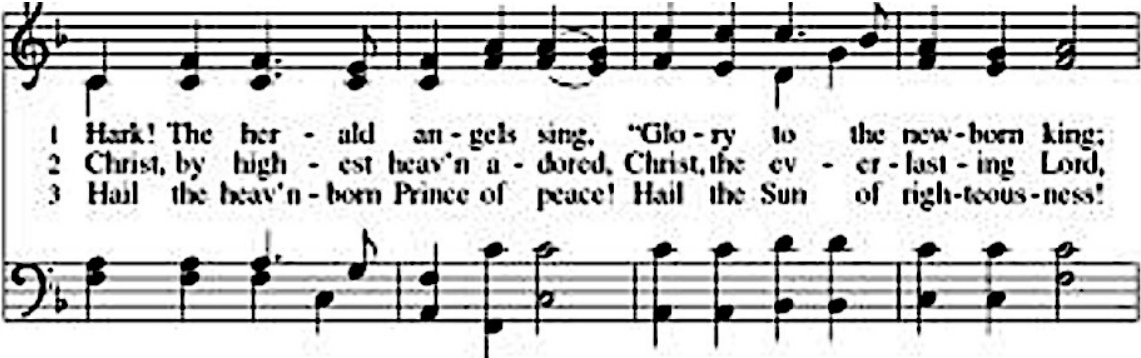
sin of the world; grant us peace.



DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION




COMMUNION HYMN: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king;
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!



peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Refrain



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

COMMUNION BLESSING

Pastor: May the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His Grace! **Amen.**



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC: Kirtsen Miller: O Holy Night



THE FINAL GOSPEL: Luke 2:11-14

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

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!"

PEOPLE: Praise to you, O Christ.

Pastor: Let us pray.

Creator God as we share in this wondrous light, we ask you to give us a new birth, celebrating your Son's life on each day of our lives. Strengthen us in body and spirit through our fellowship with the Body of Christ, the Church, the communion of saints. May we carry the light to all we meet. **Amen.**

Pastor: Receive the light of Christ.

People: Thanks be to God!



CANDLE LIGHTING: Silent Night

C G

1.Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
 2.Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
 3.Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,

C F C

all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,

F C G

Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly
 heav'n - ly hosts sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sa - vior, is
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your

C C/G G C

peace, _____ sleep in hea - ven - ly peace. _____
 born! _____ Christ, the Sa - vior, is born! _____
 birth, _____ Je - sus, Lord, at your birth. _____



ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

The God of love, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, lavish you with grace, illumine your path, and increase your joy, today and always. **Amen.**

RECESSIONAL HYMN: Joy to the World



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re-
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.



DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.

Thanks be to God.


Go Now
in Peace




SERVING TODAY

DATE	LECTOR	WORSHIP ASST.	USHER
8pm			
Dec 24	Sally Leara	Susan Conrad	John Leara
Dec 25	Wendy McFarland	Susan Conrad	Ed Moderacki
Dec 29	Christophe Moderacki	Brenda Heydt	John Leara
Jan 5	Susan Conrad	Maggie Harrer	Ed Moderacki
Jan 12	Dave Johnsrud	Laurie Feingold	Rick Henly

FLOWERS

Dec 29	For:	Willow & Mamie's Birthdays
	From:	Antoinette Walder
Jan 5	For:	Rick Henly's Birthday
	From:	Maggie Harrer
Jan 12	For:	Bea Wing's Birthday
	From:	The Moderacki's

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dec 24	Christmas Eve: 8pm Worship
Dec 25	Christmas Day: 10am Worship
Dec 29	Wee Worship
Jan 1	New Year's Day
Jan 5	Sunday School

MAILING LIST

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Christ
the
Savior
is
Born

