



*The Nativity of Our Lord*  
*Christmas Eve*

Immanuel Lutheran Church- LCMS  
Lakefield, Minnesota  
December 24, 2025

# God Appears - Light in the Darkness

## As We Gather

It is at the darkest time of the year that we celebrate that “to us a child is born, to us a son is given” (Isaiah 9:6). Tonight we remember “God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people” (Titus 2:11). Jesus came into the darkness of our world, as He was born of Mary, to redeem us. God shines a great light on all who live in this land of deep darkness tonight to increase our joy. He is called “Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6). We celebrate the birth of the One who rules with justice and righteousness now and forever.

## Preparation

*The Advent wreath is lit with the other candles as the hymn is sung.*

### Hymn: 379 O Come, All Ye Faithful



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;



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!  
Je - sus, to Thee — be — glo - ry giv'n!



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:  
Word of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

#### 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!

Text: tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–80, alt Text and tune: John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

## Opening Sentences

*Isaiah 9:2; Luke 2:8–9*

- P** The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
- C** **those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.**
- P** There were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.
- C** **And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear.**

## Confession and Absolution

*Luke 2:10, 14*

- P** Let us confess our sins to the Lord.  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,  
Prince of Peace,
- C** **we gather on this not-so-silent night to celebrate the birth of the One who brings us peace. Yet, we are not at peace with You, with one another, or with ourselves. Our sinfulness can cause us to be filled with fear. For the sake of Jesus, the Child who was born and the Son who was given to redeem us from all lawlessness, purify us as Your people and make us zealous for good works.**
- P** The angel said to the shepherds, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people.” So, as God’s servant, I say to you, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy.” As a called and ordained servant in Christ’s church and with His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.
- P** Let us join our voices with the multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,
- C** **“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!”**

*Word*

## Introit

*Psalm 2:1–2, 4–6; antiphon: Liturgical Text*

- P** When all was still, and it was midnight, Your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the royal throne.
- C** **Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?**
- P** The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against His anointed. He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision. Then He will speak to them in His wrath, and terrify them in His fury, saying, “As for Me, I have set My King on Zion, My holy hill.”
- C** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;**  
**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.**  
**Amen.**
- P** When all was still, and it was midnight, Your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the royal throne.

## Hymn: 380 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 ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see, Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty!  
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, “Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!”  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!  
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.

### *Refrain*



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new - born King!”

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt. Tune: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–47

Text and tune: Public domain

## Salutation

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

## Prayer of the Day

**P** Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, we praise and thank You for bringing salvation for all people. Train us as we wait for our blessed hope that will come when You appear again in glory at the end of the age; for You live and rule with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

**C** Amen.

## Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 49:8–13*

Thus says the LORD:

“In a time of favor I have answered you;  
in a day of salvation I have helped you;

I will keep you and give you  
as a covenant to the people,

to establish the land,

to apportion the desolate heritages,  
saying to the prisoners, ‘Come out,’

to those who are in darkness, ‘Appear.’

They shall feed along the ways;

on all bare heights shall be their pasture;  
they shall not hunger or thirst,

neither scorching wind nor sun shall strike them,  
for he who has pity on them will lead them,  
and by springs of water will guide them.

And I will make all my mountains a road,  
and my highways shall be raised up.

Behold, these shall come from afar,

and behold, these from the north and from the west,  
and these from the land of Syene.”

Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth;

break forth, O mountains, into singing!

for the LORD has comforted his people

and will have compassion on his afflicted.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Epistle

*Titus 2:11–14*

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Verse

*Luke 2:11*

**P** Alleluia.

**C** For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

**P** Alleluia.

## Holy Gospel

*Luke 2:1–20*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

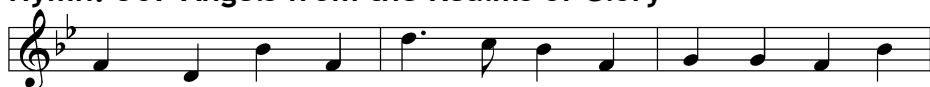
“Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**G** Praise to You, O Christ.

### Hymn: 367 Angels from the Realms of Glory



1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er  
2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your  
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, Bright - er vi - sions  
4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, Watch - ing long in  
△ 5 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,



all the earth; Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,  
flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing,  
beam a - far; Seek the great De - sire of na - tions,  
hope and fear, Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,  
Spir - it, Son, Ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing



Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth.  
Yon - der shines the In - fant Light.  
Ye have seen His na - tal star.  
In His tem - ple shall ap - pear.  
To the e - ter - nal Three in One.

#### *Refrain*



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship;



Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Text (sts. 1, ref, 2-4): James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt.; (st. 5): Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, Salisbury, alt.

Tune: Henry T. Smart, 1813-79

Text and tune: Public domain

## Sermon

## Creed

### *Christmas Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, who sent His Son as our Savior on Christmas Day.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, announced by the angels, worshipped by the shepherds, adored by the wise men, who lived to suffer and die. He rose again from the dead to free us from sin, Death, and the power of the devil.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, Who brought me to faith in the Christ of Christmas, and by whose continuous work in my heart I am ever led to live under Him as my King, both now and forevermore. Amen.**

## Offering

### Hymn: 374 Gentle Mary Laid Her Child



1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;  
2 An - gels sang a - bout His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;  
3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;



There He lay, the Un - de - filed, To the world a strang - er.  
Heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth Glo - ry all a - round Him.  
He is still the Un - de - filed But no more a strang - er.



Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Sav - ior?  
Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, Heard the an - gels sing - ing;  
Son of God of hum - ble birth, Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;



Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His fa - vor.  
All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ring - ing.  
Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glo - ry!



Text: Joseph Simpson Cook, 1859–1933  
Tune: Piae Cantiones Ecclesiasticae, 1582, Griefswald  
Text and tune: Public domain

# Sacrament

## Preface

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

## Proper Preface

- P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, our Savior, Christ the Lord, for You shone Your light into our dark world to bring salvation for all people, giving Yourself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and sin and to make us a people for Your possession. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the heavenly host, we praise and honor Your glorious name and join in their unending hymn.

## Sanctus

*To the Tune of Hark! The Hearld Angels Sing*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord!**  
**God of hosts, by all adored!**  
**Heav'n and earth cannot contain**  
**All the glory of your name!**  
**Hail, hosanna, God most high!**  
**Blest is he who now draws nigh**  
**In the name of God the King!**  
**Hallelujahs glad we sing:**  
**Hail, hosanna! Praises due**  
**Be forever, Lord, to you!**

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

- P** All glory, honor, and favor to You, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, for You have had mercy on this dark, sinful world and have appeared in it, bringing redemption for all people.  
In the beginning, all was created by Your Word; then You were born of the virgin Mary and became God in the flesh.  
Shine the light of Your love on us this night so that,

faithfully eating Your body and drinking Your blood, we may receive the fullness of Your grace and peace.  
To You alone, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be all glory in the highest, for You rule and reign as one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## The Words of Our Lord

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

## Proclamation of Christ

**P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

**C** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

**P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

## Lord’s Prayer

**C** Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth  
as it is in heaven;  
give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,

**but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.**

### **Pax Domini**

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

### **Distribution Hymns**

**Hymn: 366 It Came upon the Midnight Clear**

**Hymn: 370 What Child Is This**

**Hymn: 358 From Heaven Above to Earth I Come**

*sts. 1, 3–4, 7, 12, 14–15*

**Hymn: 361 O Little Town of Bethlehem**

**Hymn: 364 Away in a Manger**

### **Post-Communion Thanksgiving**

**P** Let us pray.

On this night, a great Light has shined on us as the Child who was born. The Son who was given has welcomed us to His banquet feast, where we have eaten His body and drank His blood in, with, and under the bread and wine that was given and shed for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and purify us as a people for His own possession. Make us zealous for the good works that You have prepared beforehand that we should walk in them; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and rules with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

**C** Amen.

## Hymn: 363 Silent Night, Holy Night



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,



all is bright Round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.  
at the sight; Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,  
love's pure light Ra - diant beams from Thy ho - ly face



Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, Sleep in heav - en - ly  
Heav'n - ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is  
With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy



peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Text: Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792–1848; tr. John F. Young, 1820–85

Tune: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1787–1863

Text and tune: Public domain

## Closing Sentences

*Luke 2:17*

- P** Like the shepherds who were greeted by the angels, God has revealed the glory of the Lord to us.
- C** And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child.

## Benediction

*Romans 15:13*

- P** May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.
- C** Amen.

# Hymn: 387 Joy to the World



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her  
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -  
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him  
 play; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
 ground; He comes to make His bless - ings  
 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.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Tune: George Frideric Handel, 1685–1759, adapt.

Text and tune: Public domain

## Acknowledgments

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 1.


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1. Facebook: “Immanuel Lutheran Church” at the time of the service or any time after up to a month.
2. YouTube: “Immanuel Lutheran Church and School Lakefield” at the time of the service or any time after.



# Poinsettias decorating the chancel area are given to the Glory of God by...

- ~ Crystal and Dale Dafoe  
in memory of Grandma Lorraine Buss
- ~ Merle Hendricksen  
in memory of Marlene Hendricksen
- ~ Joyce Bretzman  
in memory of family members & friends
- ~ Kurt and Myleen Swanson  
in memory of  
Walter & Doris Baumann  
Irvin & Pearl Swanson
- ~ Ron and Debbi Gettler  
in honor of  
Our grandchildren: Easton and Daisy  
in memory of  
Our loved ones in heaven
- ~ Jolene Rossow  
in memory of Iven Rossow
- ~ Bruce & Jan Bakalyar  
in memory of  
Earl & Betty Bakalyar  
Jack & Dorothy Morrison  
Shelly Lesch
- ~ Wade & Deb Salzwedel family and Alan &  
Sue Salzwedel family  
in memory of Harley & June Salzwedel

- ~ Renee Erdman  
in memory of Ron & Rita Erdman
- Roger and Beth Carlson  
in memory of  
Victor & Lorraine Rossow  
Ed & Lorraine Carlson
- ~ Dennis & Vickie Baumann  
in memory of  
Clarence & Arlene Baumann  
Larry Baumann
- ~ Mike & Dawn Rossow and Wade & Deb  
Salzwedel  
in memory of Marvin and Nita Appel
- ~ Joel and Deb Burmeister  
in memory of  
Albert (Abbie) Burmeister  
Irvin & Pearl Swanson
- ~ Roger and Shelley Pohlman  
in memory of  
Helen & Norman Pohlman  
Roland & Betty Koster
- ~ Dave and Carolyn Hansen  
in memory of  
Curt & Esther Hansen  
Dick & Fern Jacobs
- ~ Chase, Hristina, and Sofia Hage  
in memory of our loved ones in heaven
- ~ Dwaine Rossow and family  
in memory of Doris Rossow



## **Assisting with the Service**

*Preacher*     *Rev. Eric Obermann*  
*Elder*        *Luke Henning & Shane Rossow*  
*Organist*    *Lori Kruger*  
*Acolyte*     *Mathias Liepold & Caleb Laabs*  
*Usher*       *Brandon & Sarah Laabs*

## **We Remember in our Prayers**

*Marilyn Bauer in Hospice following a stroke*  
*Dory Poppe recovering from knee surgery*  
*Anitra Carlson, daughter-in-law of Roger and Beth Carlson, recovering from surgery*  
*Silas Liepold recovering from surgery*  
*Clyde Daberkow in Hospice*  
*Those who have lost loved ones over the past year*  
*Our residents at Colonial Manor, Valley View, Golden Horizons in Worthington, Accura HealthCare in Milford, Koronis in Paynesville, Good Sam in Estherville*  
*Lila Voehl, Jan Bakalyar, Merlyn Rossow, Keith Kolander, dealing with health issues*  
*Marla Holcomb, sister of Wade and Alan Salzwedel; Mary Beth Baumann, sister-in-law of Myleen Swanson & LaNell Rossow; Mackenzie Erickson, friend of Amber Liepold; Diane Hansen, wife of Pastor David McDonald (Trinity Brewster), Miles Ramsey, toddler cousin of Amy Altman; Pastor Dennis Brech; Joyce Urmie, sister-in-law of Vickie Baumann; Pastor Ben Rucker; Mitch Voehl, son of Lila Voehl; Denny Daberkow; dealing with cancer*  
*Jeff Lillquist, friend of Bruce and Jan Bakalar; Chad Kolander, brother of Keith and Corey Kolander; David Morrison, brother of Jan Bakalyar; Curt Gates, brother-in-law of Miles Voehl (Lila's son), dealing with health issues*  
*Our Missionaries in the Field*  
*Our Country and Our Military*

*Join us for worship on Christmas Day!*  
*Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.*

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