

# Christmas Eve

*The Nativity of Our Lord*

BERGEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 24, 2021 – 4:00 p.m.



## **The Boundless Series:**

*God offers us so much more than we could ever want or need.*

*Love – Joy – Peace – Hope – **Spirit** – Life*

# *Gathering*

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

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS CANDLE

### WELCOME

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things.

**Amen.**

The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory.

**Oh, come, let us worship him.**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**The light shines in the darkness, -- and the darkness did not overcome it.**

Those who lived in a land of deep darkness--on them light has shined.

**We have seen Christ's glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.**

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us.

**What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

Christ is born; salvation has appeared.

**Glory to God in the highest! Alleluia!**

## GATHERING HYMN

*Please stand.*

### **O Come, All Ye Faithful ELW 283**

Oh, come, all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant!

Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;

Come and behold him, Born the king of angels:

Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh,  
come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

The highest, most holy,

Light of light eternal

Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;

Son of the Father Now in flesh appearing!

Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh,  
come, let us adore him,

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God whose great love and compassion  
came into our world in the person of your incarnate son,  
Jesus Christ, plant in every heart  
your concern and care for all humankind.  
May the light of Christ ignite our hearts  
and shine out brightly from our lives,  
proclaiming your salvation to all the earth.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

# Word

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

ISAIAH 9:2-7

## **Hark, The Herald Angels Sing ELW 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 triumph of the skies;  
With angelic hosts proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn king!"

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace!  
Hail the sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
Ris'n 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.  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn king!"

## TITUS 2:11-14

### **It Came Upon A Midnight Clear ELW 282**

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, good will to all,  
From heav'n's all-gracious king."  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
To hear the angels sing.

3. And you, beneath life's crushing load,  
Whose forms are bending low,  
Who toil along the climbing way  
With painful steps and slow:  
Look now, for glad and golden hours,  
Come swiftly on the wing;  
Oh, rest beside the weary road,  
And hear the angels sing!

4. For lo! The days are hast'ning on,  
By prophets seen of old,  
When with the ever-circling years,  
Shall come the time foretold,  
When peace shall over all the earth,  
It's ancient splendors fling,  
And all the world give back the song,  
Which now the angels sing.

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### WELCOMING THE GOSPEL

#### **Angels We Have Heard on High ELW 289**

1. Angels we have heard on high,  
Sweetly singing o'er the plain,  
And the mountains in reply,  
Echoing their joyous strains,  
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?  
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo

#### GOSPEL: LUKE 2:1-20

Our Christmas Eve story comes from the Gospel of Luke.

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. To us is born a Savior.

#### **Jesus Christ our Lord.**

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. To us is born a Savior.

#### **Jesus Christ our Lord.**

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. To us is born a Savior.

**Jesus Christ our Lord.**

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. To us is born a Savior.

**Jesus Christ our Lord.**

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." To us is born a Savior.

**Jesus Christ our Lord.**

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 among those whom he favors!" To us is born a Savior.

**Jesus Christ our Lord.**

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. To us is born a Savior.

**Jesus Christ our Lord.**

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. To us is born a Savior.

**Jesus Christ our Lord.**

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. To us is born a Savior.

**Jesus Christ our Lord.**

## CELEBRATING THE GOSPEL

### **Angels We Have Heard on High ELW 289**

3. Come to Bethlehem and see,  
Him whose birth the angels sing,  
Come, adore on bended knee,  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King,  
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

## MESSAGE



## HYMN OF THE DAY

### **I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve ELW 271**

Jeg er så glad hver julekveld,  
ti da blev Jesus født;  
da lyste stjernen som en sol,  
og engler sang så sødt.

- 1 I am so glad each Christmas Eve,  
the night of Jesus' birth!  
Then like the sun the star shone forth,  
and angels sang on earth.
- 2 The little child in Bethlehem,  
he was a king indeed!  
For he came down from heav'n above  
to help a world in need.
- 3 He dwells again in heaven's realm,  
the Son of God today;  
and still he loves his little ones  
and hears them when they pray.
- 4 I am so glad each Christmas Eve!  
His praises then I sing;  
he opens now for ev'ry child  
the palace of the king.
- 5 And so I love each Christmas Eve,  
and I love Jesus too;  
and that he loves me ev'ry day  
I know so well is true.

*Please stand for our confession of faith.*

## CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ,  
God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge  
the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

## THE CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Almighty God, our Father,

**We praise You for the gift of Your Son,  
and the opportunity to celebrate  
His coming into the world.**

**Open our ears that we may again  
hear the angelic chorus of old,  
open our lips that we too may sing  
praises unto Him,  
and open our eyes**

**that we may visualize anew  
His presence as the light of the World.**

**Grant this, we pray,  
in the name of Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Please share the peace with a wave to your brothers and sisters in Christ.*

*Please be seated.*

A stylized, handwritten-style signature that reads "Meal". The letters are bold and black, with a cursive, flowing appearance. The "M" is particularly large and prominent.

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

## OFFERING PRAYER

Glory to God, who has given us Jesus, your gift of love to a world in need. We offer you our gifts of love – these gifts of money, our time, and our talents. Take them and as we pray, to bring glory to your name as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace. **Amen.**

### **Birthday of A King**

*Congregation sing the refrain:*

Alleluia, O how the angels sang!

Alleluia, How it rang!

And the sky was bright with a holy light

'Twas the birthday of a king.

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

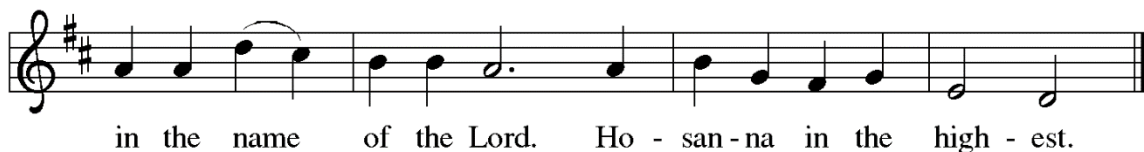
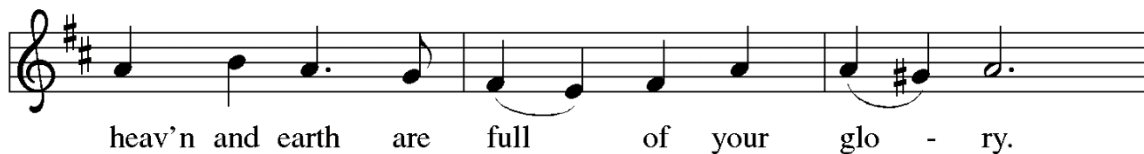
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places

give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful  
God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.  
In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh  
you have opened the eyes of faith  
to a new and radiant vision of your glory,  
that, beholding the God made visible,  
we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:  
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.  
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.  
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.  
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.  
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.  
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,  
the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you  
and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup  
we remember your Word dwelling among us,  
full of grace and truth.  
We remember our new birth in his death and  
resurrection.  
We look with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.  
Come among us.  
Bless this meal.  
May your Word take flesh in us.  
Awaken your people.  
Fill us with your light.  
Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours,  
Holy One of Israel,  
Word of God incarnate,  
Power of the Most High,  
one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as  
Jesus taught us.

**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.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

In Christ's manger, at Christ's table,  
come, see what God makes known for you.

## COMMUNION

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus,  
God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine.  
As we have shared this feast of love,  
strengthen us to share your love with all the world.  
In Jesus' name we pray.  
Amen.

# *Sending*

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

## LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

*CANDLELIGHT SERVICE -- The light that shines forth from our candles is symbolic of Jesus as the Light of the World. He is the light that the darkness of humanity cannot overcome. Through Christ, God shares this light with us so that we might share it with others. The light of our candles declares the good news of Jesus' birth. The ushers will light the candle of those sitting on the aisle. When your candle is lit, please turn toward your neighbor, and allow them to light their candle from yours. Please keep your candle upright when lit to prevent the dripping of wax. When the final verse of 'Silent Night' has been sung, please extinguish your candles and return them to the ushers as you leave the sanctuary.*



Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

**The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light.**

God, who commanded the light to shine out of the darkness, has shined into our hearts.

**To give us the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.**

### **Silent Night ELW 281**

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 your holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

*Please extinguish your candles and return them to the ushers as you leave the sanctuary.*

## BLESSING

The God of hope †  
fill us with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that we may abound in hope  
by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
through Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh.

**Amen.**

## CHIMES OF BLESSING

## SENDING HYMN

### **Joy To The World ELW 267**

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive its 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.

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.

No more let sin and sorrow 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 nation's prove  
The glories of his righteousness  
And wonders of his love,  
And wonders of his love,  
And wonders, wonders of his love.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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***Gathered in Faith ~ Sent to Serve***

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JESUS CHRIST  
KING OF KINGS  
*Lord of Lords*



*Gathered in Faith - Sent to Serve*

**Healing Waters Parish**

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