



# OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

138 3rd Street NW, Valley City, ND 58072

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DECEMBER 24TH, 2024 + CHRISTMAS EVE 3:00 & 5:00 PM

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*Near the end of our worship tonight, we will participate in a candlelight vigil. You are invited to take a candle from the rear of the sanctuary for use during that time. Candles may then be returned to the same location as you leave.*

## **CALL TO WORSHIP** (Isaiah 9, Titus 2, & Luke 2)

The grace of God has appeared, bringing light and life to all.

**The hoped for time of salvation has come!**

When we choose to cling to the glories of the present age and to walk in darkness,

**Free us by your birth to be your people – holy and whole.**

For this very night, the angel says, “Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy.”

**To us in born this day in the city of David a Savior, the Messiah of the Lord.**

This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger.

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to all on earth!**

## **OPENING HYMN:**

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

#283

- 1 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant! O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem; come and behold him, born the king of angels: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**
- 2 The highest, most holy, light of light eternal, born of a virgin, a mortal he comes; Son of the Father now in flesh appearing! O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**
- 3 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God in the highest: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**
- 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n! Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

## **GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## **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 or Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.**

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

### **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT & CHRIST CANDLES**

We light these candles of hope, peace, love, and joy to remind us of God's promise. We light the Christ candle to remind us that God's promise has been fulfilled. For 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. **Blessed be the name of the Lord. Amen.**

- 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.

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7**

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. <sup>3</sup>You 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. <sup>4</sup>For 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. <sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup>For 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. <sup>7</sup>His 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.

*Response:* Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC: 3:00 p.m. – Our Savior's Choir | 5:00 p.m. – Carrie & Karli Jirava****PSALM READING: Psalm 96 (Read Responsively)**

<sup>1</sup>Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

<sup>2</sup>**Sing to the Lord, bless the name of the Lord; proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**

<sup>3</sup>Declare God's glory among the nations and God's wonders among all peoples.

<sup>4</sup>**For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised, more to be feared than all gods.**

<sup>5</sup>As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; but you, O Lord, have made the heavens.

<sup>6</sup>**Majesty and magnificence are in your presence; power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**

<sup>7</sup>Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord honor and power.

<sup>8</sup>**Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the holy name; bring offerings and enter the courts of the Lord.**

<sup>9</sup>Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; tremble before the Lord, all the earth.

<sup>10</sup>**Tell 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."**

<sup>11</sup>Let 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.

<sup>12</sup>**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O Lord, for you come to judge the earth.**

<sup>13</sup>You will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with your truth.

*Response:* Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

## **SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14**

<sup>11</sup>The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup>He 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.

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

**“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”**

**#270**

- 1 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!"**
- 2 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!"**

## **GOSPEL READING: Luke 2:1 – 20**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>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: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” <sup>15</sup>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.” <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

## **SERMON**

## **HYMN**

**“Away in a Manger”**

**#277**

## **PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE**

## **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

## THANKSGIVING FOR OFFERING AND PRAYER

(offering plates are located on the table at the back of the sanctuary)

### OFFERING HYMN:

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

#276

- 1 Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall; oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all. Swiftly winging, angels singing, bells are ringing, tidings bringing: Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
- 3 Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true. Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow: Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

### HOLY COMMUNION (p. 144)

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.**

### GREAT THANKSGIVING (p.144)

It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy...we join their unending hymn:

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow’r and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.*

### LORD’S PRAYER (p. 208)

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.

### COMMUNION HYMNS

“Lamb of God”

p. 146

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.*

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”#279

“Eat this Bread” #472

### DISTRIBUTION

POST COMMUNION PRAYER (\*Please Stand)

p. 146

## **CANDLE LIGHTING LITANY & PRAYER**

*Candles may be lit following these words. Please tip unlit candles to receive the flame.*

Hear these words from the prophet Isaiah: “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you.”

Let us pray...

### **HYMN:**

### **“Silent Night”**

**#281**

- 1 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.**
- 2 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!**
- 3 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.**

## **CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION & SENDING**

Christ the Savior is born! Repeat the sounding joy, proclaim this good news.

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to all on earth!**

*Candles may be extinguished prior to the Sending Hymn.*

### **SENDING HYMN:**

### **“Joy to the World”**

**#267**

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her 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.**
- 2 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.**
- 3 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.**
- 4 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.**

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