

HOLY CROSS CHRISTMAS EVE – THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

Contemporary Christmas Worship & Communion

December 24, 2020 – 4 PM



AS WE GATHER Preparing our Heart for Christmas this year, during the midweek Advent series, we have looked at the genealogy of Jesus, which Matthew records at the beginning of his Gospel. We have learned the following from Jesus' titles: the **Son of David** ushers in an eternal Kingdom for us, the **Son of Abraham** came that we might inherit the heavenly promised land, the **Son of scandal** graciously invites sinners to His family by Baptism, and the **Son of Joseph** remembers the forgotten people of the world but forgives and forgets their sins. This evening, we consider the last name in the list, Mary. A young girl, a virgin, from the Galilean hills will be the young mother of our Lord. Through this hand maiden of the Lord, God becomes truly human. This child will be the **Son of God**, as the Holy Spirit begets a miracle of life that the human and divine are one in Jesus although, the humble Christ has poured himself out, not considering God something to be grasped; but made himself nothing with all aspects to being fully human and thus being able to suffer and to know great pain as the **Son of Man**. Jesus is completely fully human an exact match for substituting His life for ours, though not broken by sin, yet dealing with all the sin for all of humanity - even dealing with the short comings of Mary His Mother. God showed us His love by sending His Son to be born of Mary, **Son of Mary**, and to exchange His life for ours. He came to save us all. O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord, our newborn Savior and King.

† IN DOMINE JESU †

(In the Name of Jesus)

PRESERVICE MUSIC

Becca Tutewohl

WELCOME

GATHERING CAROL

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" vs 1-2

arr. Laura Story

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,

C: and shall call his name Immanuel. (*Isaiah 7:14*)

OPENING SENTENCES

John 1:1-5, 9-14 Isaiah 9:6

P: In the beginning was the Word,

C: and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

P: He was in the beginning with God.

C: All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made.

P: In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

C: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

P: The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

C: He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world did not know him.

P: He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him.

C: But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

P: And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,

C: and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

P: The light shines in the darkness,

C: and the darkness has not overcome it.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Isaiah 9:6

P: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder.

C: We have resisted His governing; we have followed our own desires.

P: His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

C: We have followed other voices of this world and not always relied on Him. We not only sin—we were already sinful before birth when we were conceived. Help us, Lord Jesus. Forgive our sins and counsel the way to trust the eternal source of all we need. Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.

P: The Child born to us, the Son given to us, is Jesus, the Son of David, reigning forever; Jesus, the Son of Abraham, who has prepared for us the heavenly promised land; Jesus, the Son of scandal, who shows that we are children of God and heirs of heaven; Jesus, the Son of Joseph, in whose eyes every one of us is remembered even as He forgives all our sins; Jesus, the Son of Mary, whose humble birth reveals that God has not forgotten the least of his children is willing to enter our world exchanging his love for our sin. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: O Come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord. Peace on Earth, Good will to all. Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE

“Midnight Clear” (Love Song)

by Chris Tomlin

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray together, **Heavenly Father, through Your love in Christ and the Holy Spirit we are able to rejoice always and together in the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus. Thank you for sending our Redeemer in humbleness to give His life for our sins. Let us be your servant with the same heart and belief you instilled in Mary. Shine your grace in us to others to bring salvation to all; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

† THE LIVING WORD †

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 9:2–7

(Light has dawned on those living in spiritual Darkness—a Child is born!)

L: ² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. ³You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. ⁴For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

VOCAL ENSEMBLE

"All Praise to Thee"

Lyrics Martin Luther

Music by Elaine Hagenbe

**All praise to Thee, eternal God, Who, clothed in garb of flesh and blood,
Dost take a manger for Thy throne, While worlds on worlds are Thing alone.**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

**Thou comest in the darksome night To make us children of the light,
To make us in the realms divine, Like Thine own angels, round Thee shine.**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

**A little Child, Thou art our Guest That weary ones in thee may rest,
Forlorn and lowly is Thy birth That we may rise to heav'n from earth.**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

EPISTLE

Titus 3:4-7

(When our Savior appeared, He saved us according to His own mercy.)

L: ⁴But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

CAROL

"What Child Is This"

by Chris Tomlin

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20

P: The Holy Gospel, is from St. Luke, the second chapter. **C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The birth of the promised Messiah, our Savior Jesus. Please join in the responsive reading)

P: 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.

C: 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.

P: And while they were there,

C: 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.

P: 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,

C: "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."

P: And suddenly there was with the angel a 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!"

P: When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another,

C: "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us."

P: 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.

C: 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. **C: Praise to You, O Christ!**

SERMON/CREEDAL HYMN

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

LSB 359 vs. 1-2, 4

**Lo, how a rose e'er blooming From tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming As prophets long have sung,
It came, a flow'ret bright, Amid the cold of winter,
When half-spent was the night.**

**Isaiah 'twas foretold it, The rose I have in mind;
With Mary we behold it The virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright, She bore to us a Savior,
When half-spent was the night.**

**O Savior, child of Mary, Who felt our human woe;
O Savior, King of glory, Who dost our weakness know:
Bring us at length we pray To the bright courts of heaven,
And to the endless day.**

MESSAGE

"Jesus, 'Son of Mary,' Son of Man, Son of God"

"But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart." Luke 2:19

SONG OF REFLECTION

"Light of the World"

Solo by Becca Tutewohl

By Lauren Daigel

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Father, with joy and wonder we gather around the manger on this night as we recall how great is Your love for us, sending Your Son into our world wrapped in our flesh as a tiny child to forgive our sins.

C: Thank You, Lord, for this Christmas gift.

P: Jesus, on this night we recall how great is Your love for us. You gave up heaven to live on earth as one of us, and one with us, to forgive our sin.

C: Thank You, Lord, for this Christmas gift.

P: Holy Spirit, on this night we recall how great is Your love for us, gathering us together through the waters of Baptism and nourishing our faith through the Word and by the body and blood of Jesus for the forgiveness of our sin.

C: Thank You, Lord, for this Christmas gift given, received in faith, and kept unto life eternal.

P: Gracious Lord, we pray that we not shut the Lord Jesus out of our hearts nor His Holy Spirit resisting grace upon grace, which is His will, but to be filled by his Spirit and ever ready to welcome Him as

He comes to us still today, while awaiting the Last Day when He comes quickly, as the Lord of the Universe to resurrect all flesh and to make all things new. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Everlasting Lord, we pray that all the world would see Jesus not only as the baby of Bethlehem, but also honor Him as the Christ of the cross, who creates faith through His love that being enlightened, will praise Him as the King of kings and Lord of lords, both humbly adoring and proudly proclaiming Him as Lord, Savior and King. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Renewing Lord, let the Good News of Christmas inspire a renewing of hope, faith, joy, wonder, and witness in our hearts, our homes, in this congregation, and in the Church throughout the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Comforting Lord, we lift-up all those who lack joy this Christmastime due to afflictions spiritually, emotionally, and physically. We lift-up to you our immediate family, parents, children, grandparents, grandchildren, aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews, stepfamilies, the many church families, those present and not able to be with us, friends, work associates, neighbors, as well as those serving our communities including first responders, those in the armed forces here and abroad, and finally, missionaries and Christians around the world and all who do not yet know your love. Grant that the hope and promise in the Savior born for all to know you, as the true Love, that has come down to save us from our sin. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through the Savior born for us, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Thank You, Lord God, Heavenly Father for Jesus, your Christmas gift of love. Amen.

SONG OF PREPARATION

“Unto Us”

by Hillsong United

† CELEBRATION OF THE LORD’S SUPPER †

THE LORD’S PRAYER In preparation for the Lord’s supper we pray the prayer 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.**

THE PREPARATION *(please take your communion vessel in hand for our Lord’s Words of Institution)*

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and after giving thanks, He broke it and gave it to His 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 after supper, He took the cup, and after giving thanks He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this is My † blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of all your sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

ONE BODY IN CHRIST *(As brothers and sisters in Christ, as one body we communion with the invitation of the following words)*

P: Take and eat this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ given into death for all your sin.

P: Take and drink this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior shed for you for the forgiveness of all your sin.

P: The body and blood of our Lord strengthen and preserve you steadfast, in the one true faith, to life everlasting.

Go in peace, joy, love and forgiveness. Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: Let us pray together: **We give thanks to You, almighty God, that Your real presence has come to us through the bread and wine to gladden our heart. You came as true man born for us this night, and true God dying for all our sins and of the world granting all who believe, forgiveness and life everlasting. Strengthen us that we would share the gifts of grace we have received tonight, to all who do not know you, with the Good News that you are the Savior of the world and Prince of Peace; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

CANDLE LIGHTING

P: We continue with our candle lighting. As the light of these candles illumine our faces, it symbolizes the light of Christ, entering our world to exchange our sin with His sincerity of grace. He is our Light here on earth and the eternal Light who enlightens heaven, where there is no need of candle or sun. Rejoice, for the Light of the world has come, who transforms us with the brightness of His true love where all is calm and all is bright. We sing "Silent Night"

Lights are dimmed as the candlelight is sent among the congregation. Please tip the unlit candle to the flame and likewise to your family with you. (On each verse of "Silent Night," if you are able, please lift your candle higher to disperse the light making the sanctuary brighter!)

"SILENT NIGHT"

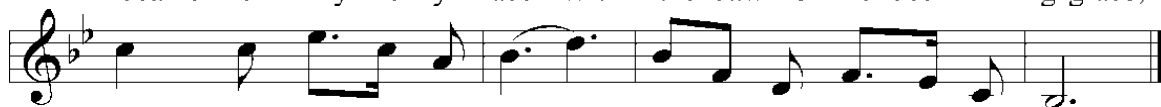
LSB 363



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright Round yon
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep-herds quake at the sight; Glo - ries
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light Ra - diant



vir - gin moth-er and child. Ho - ly In-fant, so ten-der and mild,
stream from heav-en a - far, Heav'n-ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
beams from Thy ho-ly face With the dawn of re-deem - ing grace,



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

BENEDICTION

Luke 2:10–11

P: Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy

C: that will be for all the people.

P: For unto you is born this day in the city of David

C: a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

Numbers 6:24–26

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with His favor and † give you peace. Merry Christmas

C: Amen. Merry Christmas!

CAROL OF SENDING

“Joy to the World”

LSB 387 1–2,4

**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.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**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.**

† SOLI DEO GLORIA †

(To God be the Glory)

THE POST SERVICE MUSIC

(reprise sending song)

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*A Blessed and Merry Christmas
and Blessed New Year!*

Vocal Ensemble

Soprano Becca Tutewohl

Soprano Mary Deluhery

Alto Janean Johnston

Tenor James Jobst

Bass Corey Einarson

Choir Director & Accompanist

Mui Cheng

SERVING THE LORD AND HIS PEOPLE THIS EVENING (4:00 pm)

Elder:	Brit Weimer
Lectors:	Dinah Gilberts
Ushers:	Denny Case
Acolyte:	Colin Kruse
AV:	Vivian Jobst
Music & Choir Director:	Becca Tutewohl
Guitar	Michael Hentges
Drums	Nathan Ausk
Zoom/Sound:	Michael Hentges



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