

# Christmas Eve Family Service

December 24, 2017

5:00 PM

St. John Lutheran Church  
Champaign, Illinois

*Welcome to our Christmas Eve family service. May the joy of Christ's coming into the world lift your hearts and bring you lasting joy. Please complete the registration card in the pew holder and place it in the offering plate as it is passed. If this is your first time at our church, we invite you to visit us again to hear more about the good news that is yours through Jesus. Our regular Sunday services are at 8:00am and 10:45am and we also offer worship on Wednesdays at 7:15pm.*

**Prelude** Carol Medley  
Christmas Quodlibet  
In dulci jubilo

Alleluia Ringers  
Craw family  
Bach & Dupre

## ***Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful***

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!

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.....

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.....

**Pastor:** In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** Amen.

**Pastor:** In days of old the word of the Lord came to the prophet Isaiah, "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." Through the centuries the people of God waited for this messiah to come to be their king. (Isaiah 7:14)

***O Come, O Come, Emmanuel***

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Thou Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Desire of nations, bind, in one the hearts of all mankind;  
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease, and be Thyself our King of Peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

***The Holly and the Ivy*** arr. Curry

Men's Choir, Alleluia Ringers

**Pastor:** In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." (Luke 1:26-33)

***Hark! The Herald Angels Sing***

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."  
Joyful, all ye 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!"

(A verse will be played by the Alleluia Ringers)

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold Him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail the incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel!  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

**Pastor:** 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. (Luke 2:1-7)

***Away in a Manger***

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

***Lo, How a Rose*** arr. Pasquet

Mixed Choir

**Pastor:** 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 great fear. And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of 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!” (Luke 2:8-14)

***Angels We Have Heard on High***

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

(A verse will be sung by the Choir. All join in the refrain.)

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.

***Where Shepherds Lately Knelt*** arr. Courtney

Men’s Choir, Flute, Piano

**Pastor:** 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. (Luke 2:15-18)

**The Christmas Message** “*The Incarnation Revealed to Some, for All*” Luke 2:8-14

**The Offering is collected.**

*The Shepherd’s Carol*

William Billings

Mixed & Men’s Choir

**Pastor:** Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. (Matthew 2:1-2; 9-11)

*In the Bleak Midwinter*

arr. Printz

Mixed Choir, Alleluia Ringers

***What Child is This***

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary’s lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherd watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies He in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!

So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh; come peasant, king, to own Him.  
The King of kings, salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

## **The Christmas Prayers**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

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 Benediction**

#### ***Silent Night***

(Verse 1 will be sung first by the choir in German, then all verses will be sung in English.)

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 Thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

#### ***Joy to the World***

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.

(Choir sings verse 3.)

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.

**Postlude**     *Gloria, from "Christmas Cantata"*

Pinkham

Preaching & Presiding: Rev. Jeff Caithamer  
Choir Director: Keith Williams  
Organist: Mark Dirksen  
Trumpet: Sal  
Flute: Karen  
Elders: Dave, Steve

The pastor and staff of St. John Lutheran Church and School thank God's people for their gifts of love and encouragement and wish everyone a blessed Christmas and peace in the New Year!

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