

For the grace of
GOD
has appeared,
bringing
salvation to all.

Titus 2:11, NRSV





“Let All Creation Rejoice—Jesus Christ is Born!”

Celebration of the Nativity of Jesus + December 24, 2021

Welcome to Our Redeemer

“God so loved the world.” We know these words by heart, and we rejoice to see them fulfilled. God revealed his love to all people when he sent his Son into this world to be its Savior. As a result of God’s love, and the faithful work of Jesus, we know God’s favor and God’s peace. These are gifts which comfort, fill us with joy, and encourage us this evening, and always.

About this Service

The Order of Worship on the evening of our Savior’s birth is printed in this folder. If you are unfamiliar with the melodies of the hymns, they are printed in the copies of Christian Worship in the book racks in front of your aisle. May the Lord’s richest blessings be with you as you come and worship your new-born Savior, Jesus Christ.

For Parents with Small Children

There are children’s service folders available in the basket by the front door. Please pick one up as you enter. There is also a “cry room” and rest rooms in the fellowship hall. After you go through the doors of the church, turn left. In addition, you may watch the service on the monitor in the fellowship hall.

The Order of Worship

Pre-Service Music

Welcome

Dialogue at the Birth of Jesus

P: ¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³Through him everything was made, and without him not one thing was made that has been made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of mankind. ⁵The light is shining in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

C: ¹⁴**The Word became flesh and dwelled among us. We have seen his glory, the glory he has as the only-begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.** *John 1:1-5 & 14*

Congregation sings

“Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord”
Christian Worship 28 st. 1

Let the earth now praise the Lord, who has truly kept his Word
And at last to us did send Christ, the sinner’s help and friend.

P: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ—he has kept his ancient promise, and in faithful love sent his Son to be born of a virgin.

C: **But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son to be born of a woman, so that he would be born under the law, in order to redeem those under the law, so that we would be adopted as sons.** *Galatians 4:4-5*

Congregation sings

“Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord”
Christian Worship 28 st. 2

What the fathers most desired, what the prophets’ heart inspired,
What they longed for many a year stands fulfilled in glory here.

P: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ—he

sent his Son as a humble child to demonstrate his undeserved love for all. No one is overlooked by his ever-searching eye. No one is excluded from his outstretched arms. No one is denied the comfort of his never-failing presence.

C: To a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this. *Isaiah 9:6-7*

Congregation sings “Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord”
Christian Worship 28 st. 3

Abram's promised great reward, Zion's helper, Jacob's Lord —
Him of two-fold race behold—truly came, as long foretold.

P: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ—he sent his Son as the Savior to deliver all from the curse of sin, the power of death, and the judgment of hell. He came to be our Substitute under the law. He came to be the innocent Lamb of sacrifice. He came to die and rise again to give us life forever.

C: You who bring good tidings to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout; lift it up, do not be afraid. See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and his arm rules for him. He tends his flock like a shepherd; he gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young. *Isaiah 40:9-11*

Congregation sings “Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord”
Christian Worship 28 st. 5

Crush for me the serpent's head
That, set free from doubt and dread,

I may cling to you in faith, safely kept through life and death.

P: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ—he sent his Son as the Light of the world to shatter the blackness of sin and overcome the dreaded darkness of death. Let the peace proclaimed by the angels, be our peace. Let the joy shared by the shepherds, be our joy. Let the treasure Mary pondered in her heart, be our treasure.

C: I will praise you, O LORD. Although you were angry with me, your anger has turned away and you have comforted me. Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The LORD, the LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. Sing to the LORD, for he has done glorious things; shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel among you.

Isaiah 12:1-6

Congregation sings

“Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord”

Christian Worship 28 st. 4

Welcome, O my Savior, now! Joyful, Lord, to you I bow.
Come into my heart, I pray; oh, prepare yourself a way.

Prayer for Christmas Evening

P: O merciful Father and God of all compassion, we rejoice in your unfailing love. Instead of rejecting us, you reached out to us in your mercy. Instead of justly condemning us, you declared us not guilty through Jesus’ death on the cross. Instead of abandoning us, you adopted us through your Son’s precious work. On this night as we remember Jesus’ birth, lead us to recognize the undeserved love and favor you have shown us. Purify our minds from every distraction, and our hearts from empty desires, so we can approach you in humbleness and great joy. Bless us through our heartfelt and sincere worship as we recall all the great things you have done for us through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

Song by Children

“This Little Light of Mine”

This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine;
This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine:
This little light of mind, I’m gonna let it shine,
Let it shine, let is shine, let it shine.

Jesus is the Light, I’m gonna let him shine;
Jesus is the Light, I’m gonna let him shine;
Jesus is the Light, I’m gonna let him shine,
Let him shine, let him shine, let him shine.

The Lessons from God’s Word

First Lesson

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light. For those living in the land of the shadow of death, the light has dawned. ³You have multiplied the nation. You have increased its joy. They rejoice before you like the joy at harvest time, like the celebration when people divide the plunder. ⁴For you have shattered the yoke that burdened them. You have broken the bar on their shoulders and the rod of their oppressor, as you did in the day of Midian. ⁵Every boot that marched in battle and the garments rolled in blood will be burned. They will be fuel for the fire.

⁶For to us a child is born. To us a son is given.

The authority to rule will rest on his shoulders.

He will be named:

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷There will be no limit to his authority
and no end to the peace he brings.

He will rule on David’s throne and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness
from now on, into eternity.

The zeal of the LORD of Armies will accomplish this.

Psalm of Praise*Psalm 96*

P: ¹ Sing to the LORD a new song.
Sing to the LORD, all the earth.
² Sing to the LORD. Praise his name.
Proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
³ Tell about his glory among the nations,
about his marvelous deeds among all peoples.
⁴ For great is the LORD and worthy of great praise.
He is to be feared above all gods.
⁶ Splendor and majesty are before him.
Power and beauty are in his sanctuary.
¹¹ Let the heavens rejoice. Let the earth celebrate.
¹² Let the fields be overjoyed, and everything that is in them.
Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy
¹³ before the LORD, for he comes,
for he comes to judge the earth.
He will judge the world in righteousness
and the peoples in his faithfulness.

Second Lesson*1 John 4:9-14*

This is how God's love for us was revealed: God has sent his only-begotten Son into the world so that we may live through him. ¹⁰This is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Dear friends, if God loved us so much, we also should love one another.

¹²No one has ever seen God. If we love one another, God remains in us and his love has been brought to its goal in us. ¹³This is how we know that we remain in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴We have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.

Confession of Faith

C: I believe that Jesus, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord.

**He has redeemed me a lost and condemned creature,
purchased and won me from all sins, from death and from the
power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with his holy,
precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death.**

**All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him
in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness,
innocence, and blessedness, just as he has risen from death
and lives and rules eternally. This is more certainly true.**

Handbells

“Born is the King of Israel”
*Arranged by Sandra Eithun
Concordia Publishing House*

Let All Creation Rejoice and Sing
The Lesson of the Three Trees

There once was a splendid olive tree . .

“A Nobler Service”

⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son, wrapped him in
swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no
room for them in the inn.

Hymn

“O Jesus Christ, Your Manger Is”
Christian Worship 40 st. 1, 3-5

O Jesus Christ, your manger is
My paradise where my soul is reclining.
For there, O Lord, we find the Word
Made flesh for us—your grace is brightly shining.

Dear Christian friend on him depend;
Be of good cheer and let no sorrow move you.
For God’s own child in mercy mild
Joins you to him — how greatly God must love you!

Ponder again what glory then
The Lord will give you for your earthly sadness.
The angel host can never boast
Of great glory, greater bliss or gladness.

The world may hold her wealth and gold;
But you, my heart, keep Christ as your true treasure.
To him hold fast until at least
A crown is yours and honor in full measure.

There once was a great oak tree . . .

“A Greater Purpose”

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³Thoughhimeveyrthing was made, and without him not one thing was made that has been made. ⁴In him as life, and the life was the light of mankind. ⁵The light is shinning in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. ¹⁴The Word became flesh and dwelled among us. We have seen his glory, the glory he has the only-begotten from the Father, full of grace and true.

Hymn

“To Thee My Heart I Offer”
Christian Worship 43 st. 1, 3-4

To thee my heart I offer, O Christ-child sweet and dear,
Upon thy love relying; oh, be thou ever near!
Take thou my heart and give me thine,
and let it be forever mine,
O Jesus, holy, undefiled, my Savior meek and mild.

What brought thee to the manger, O Christ-child sweet and dear?
Thy love for me a stranger—oh, be thou ever near!
O Lord, how great is this thy love
that reaches down from heav’n above,
Thy love for us, by sin defiled, that made thee, God a child!

Let me be thine forever, O Christ-child sweet and dear.
Uphold me with thy mercy; oh, be thou ever near!
From thee I gladly all receive,
 and what is mine to thee I give;
My heart, my soul, and all I own —let these be thine alone.

There once was a soaring pine tree . . .

“A Greater Proclamation”

¹⁸This is how the birth of Jesus Christ took place. His mother, Mary, was pledged in marriage to Joseph. Before they came together, she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Joseph, her husband, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace he. So he decided to divorce her privately. ²⁰But as he was considering these things, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

Hymn

“Joy to the World, the Lord is Come”

Christian Worship 62

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 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 sins and sorrows 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 nations prove
The glorious of his righteousness
And wonders of his love, and wonders of his love
And wonders, wonders of his love.

Psalm of Praise

Psalm 111

P: Great are the deeds of the LORD.
They are studied by all who delight in them.
Glorious and majestic is his word
and his righteousness stands forever.
Gracious and compassionate is the LORD.
He remembers his covenant forever.
He has declared the power of his deeds to his people.
All his precepts are trustworthy,
steadfast forever and ever,
done in truth and uprightness.
He sent redemption for his people.
He commanded his covenant forever.
Holy and awesome is his name

Handbells

“For Unto Us a Child is Born”
Arranged by Sandra Eithun
Concordia Publishing House

Prayers of Thanksgiving

“Glory to God in highest heaven who unto us his Son has given!”

Prayers for Christmas Evening

P: Almighty God, heavenly Father, we are thankful that you fulfilled all of your ancient promises and sent a Savior, who is Christ, the Lord. Your Son left the glory of heaven and became flesh of our flesh. He became our brother so that through him we might become your children. We marvel at his grace, that though he was rich, yet for our sakes he became poor, so that we through his poverty might become rich. We are indeed rich, for we have peace with you and access to your throne in every need.

**C: What brought you to the manger,
O Christ-child sweet and dear?
Your love for me, a stranger—Oh, be forever near!
O Lord, how great is this your love
that reaches down from heaven above,
Your love for us, by sin defiled,
that made you, God, a child!**

P: Dear Savior, give us a simple, childlike faith that sees your glory especially in your lowliness. Help us all rejoice in your birth, and in sincere faith, believe the message of the prophets and the angels. May the truth and love you have proclaimed dwell in our hearts and lives. Like believers throughout every generation let us cherish your words of promise and truth.

**C: Let me be yours forever, O Christ-child sweet and dear.
Uphold me with your mercy; oh, be forever near!
From you I gladly all receive,
and what is mine to you I give;
My heart, my soul, and all I own—
let these be yours alone.**

P: As you have proclaimed your glory to us on this holy evening, make us ready and willing to listen to, and live in the glorious good news of the birth of your Son. Make it our joy for the present and our confidence for the future. In time, make it our song of praise in heaven. Hear us, O Lord, for the sake of your name, and hear us as we pray —

Lord's Prayer

(the congregation joins with the pastor)

**C: Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory
are yours now and forever. Amen!**

Hymn by congregation

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Christian Worship 61

Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the new-born King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all you nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With th’ angelic host proclaim
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the new-born King!”

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 God-head see,
Hail th’ incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel!

Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the new-born King!”

Hail, the heav’nly 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 us from the earth,
Born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the new-born King!”

“From Out of Darkness, We Have Joy!”

The Christmas Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governing Syria. ³And everyone went to register, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the town of Nazareth, into Judea, to the town of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was from the house and family line of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, his wife, who was pledged to him in marriage and was expecting a child.

⁶And so it was that while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son, wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

⁸There were in the same country shepherds staying out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock at night. ⁹An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified! ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. For behold, I bring you good news of great joy,

which will be for all people: ¹¹Today in the town of David, a Savior was born for you. He is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³Suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude from the heavenly army, praising God and saying, ¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward mankind.”

¹⁵When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Now let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they had seen him, they told others the message they had been told about this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it were amazed by what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Hymn by congregation

“Silent Night, Holy Night”
Christian Worship 60

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.

Closing Response of Praise*Luke 1:68-75*

P: ⁶⁸ Blessed is the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has visited us and prepared redemption for his people. ⁶⁹ He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, ⁷⁰ just as he said long ago through the mouth of his holy prophets. ⁷¹ He raised up salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us, ⁷² in order to show mercy to our fathers by remembering his holy covenant, ⁷³ the oath which he swore to Abraham our father, ⁷⁴ to grant deliverance to us from the hand of our enemies, so that we are able to serve him without fear, ⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

**C: I will give you thanks among the peoples, LORD,
and I will make music to you among the nations,
because your great mercy reaches above the heavens,
and your faithfulness to the skies.
Be exalted above the heavens, O God.
Let your glory be over all the earth.
So that the ones you love may be rescued,
bring salvation by your right hand.**

Benediction

P: ²⁵ Now to him who is able to strengthen you—
according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus
Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that
was veiled in silence for long ages past, ²⁶ but now
has been revealed through the prophetic Scriptures
and made known to all the Gentiles, in keeping with
the command of the eternal God, resulting in the
obedience of faith—²⁷ to God, who alone is wise, be
glory forever through Jesus Christ.

C: Amen!

Closing Hymn

“Oh Come, All Ye Faithful”
Christian Worship 55 st. 1-3

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.

God from true God, and Light from light eternal,
Born of a virgin, to earth he comes,
Only begotten Son of God the Father.

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

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exaltation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above.
Glory to God, all Glory in the highest.

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

Silent Prayer

Announcements

This Evening—In our blessed Savior's name, *WELCOME!* It is our joy and privilege to share this precious message with you tonight. It is also our prayer that this message will be a blessing to you—today and every day. If you are visiting this evening, please sign the guest book, and worship with us again, soon!

- We invite all our worshipers to enjoy some refreshments following the service. They are served in the fellowship hall. Please go through the church doors to the adjoining building.

Tomorrow—We invite everyone to join us for our **Christmas Day service at 9:30 am**. Through the words of the apostles and prophets we will have the privilege to thank the Lord for his faithfulness in sending the Savior. It will be both a live-streamed and in-person service.

Sunday, December 26th—The celebration of our Savior’s birth continues! Our Sunday Worship and Live-streaming will begin at 9:30 am. We know that Jesus was born of the virgin Mary. We also know he became fully human, but why did Jesus have to take flesh and blood to himself? He did this to become our servant, the one who rescues us, and the one who reigns in love over us.

- There will be no Christian Education this Sunday. However, there will be Bible Study on January 2nd. This will be the lesson on the “Magnificat,” Mary’s song of praise to the Lord.
- Following the worship service, Pastor Proeber will travel to Phoenix to do some home repairs. If you need to contact him, please call the parsonage, or his cell phone.

Thank You

To all those who made our service so special this evening—Al Todd our pianist and Hymnsoft operator; to the Sunday School children and the Handbell Choir; to Jim Everson and Josh Schueler for controlling the audio and video of the live-stream; to those who helped decorate the sanctuary for our Christmas season of worship; and to those who brought refreshments for the fellowship time after the service.





OUR REDEEMER
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod
770 Vala Drive
Santa Barbara, California 93111
www.orlcsb.net

For more information, contact
pastor.orlcsb@gmail.com
James N. Proeber, Pastor
967-1128—Office & 967-3570—Home