





**“See the Wonder Before Us—God is with Us!”**

Evening of the Savior’s Birth + December 24, 2022

### **Welcome to Our Redeemer!**

This evening we are filled with awe and wonder at the Birth of Jesus Christ. It is an account which has been told countless times. Still, in the faithfulness of God the Father, in the obedience of God the Son, and in the precious birth of our Savior, we marvel at the undeserved love we have received.

### **The Order of Worship**

The service of praise at the birth of our Savior is printed in this service folder. If you are unfamiliar with the melodies of the hymns of praise, you may use one of the hymnals. May the Lord bless you richly as you rejoice in the birth of Jesus Christ.

### **Please Note**

There are children’s activity folders in the basket by the back door, please pick one up if needed. The worship service is televised in the fellowship hall, where the rest rooms are also located. After you leave the church, turn left and go through the double doors.

### **The Order of Worship**

*“A Great and Mighty Wonder; A Holy Mystery!”*

### **Pre-Service Music**

### **Invocation**

P: Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD is dawning upon you.  
Look, darkness covers the earth,  
and deep darkness covers the peoples,  
But the LORD will dawn upon you,  
and his glory will be seen over you.  
Nations will walk to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.  
Look up. Look all around and see!  
All of them have been gathered. They are coming to you.  
Your sons will come from far away,  
And people will carry your daughters on their side.  
Then you will look and be radiant.  
Your heart will race with excitement and burst with joy.

### **The Light of the Christ Candle**

#### **Opening Hymn**

“Joy to the World”  
*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 glories of His righteousness,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders of His love.

### **Dialogue at the Birth of the Savior**

P: O gracious and almighty Father, we marvel at your promise of the Savior. That promise guided and guarded your people. It also gave them hope because you proclaimed the Savior would deliver them from the deadly devices and domination of the devil.

**C: <sup>15</sup>I will put hostility between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He will crush your head, and your will crush his heel.** *(Genesis 3:15)*

P: O gracious and almighty Father, your love is an everlasting love. In that love you promised light for the world and peace to comfort the heart. Lift up our heads. Open our eyes. Fill our hearts with joy in your faithful promises.

**C: <sup>2</sup>The people walking in darkness have seen a great light. For those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. <sup>6</sup>For 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.** *(Isaiah 9:2 & 6)*

P: O gracious and almighty Father, you sent Jesus as the Savior of the world to deliver all from the curse of sin, the power of the devil, and the torment 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: <sup>10</sup>Look, God the LORD will come with strength, and his arm is ruling for him. Look, his reward is with him. The result of his work is in front of him. <sup>11</sup>Like a shepherd he will care for his flock. With his arms he will gather the lambs. He will lift them up on his lap.** *(Isaiah 40:10-11)*

P: O gracious and almighty Father, you sent Jesus as the Light of the world to shatter the darkness of sin and overcome the power of death. Make the joy you announced through the angels, our joy. Make the peace you proclaimed to all the earth, our peace. Make the treasure Mary pondered in her heart, our treasure.

**C: <sup>1</sup>In that day you will say: I will give thanks to you, LORD, for though you were angry with me, your anger has turned away, and you comfort me. <sup>2</sup>Surely God is my salvation. I will trust him and will not be afraid, because the LORD is my strength and song, and he has become my salvation. <sup>5</sup>Sing to the LORD, for he has done amazing things!** *(Isaiah 12:1-2,5)*

### 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.

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A Great and Mighty Wonder

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**The Wonder of God's Patience**

<sup>10</sup>The LORD spoke to Ahaz again. He said, "Ask for a sign from the LORD your God. Ask for it either in the depths of below or in the heights above." <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz responded, "I will not ask. I will not test the LORD."

<sup>13</sup>So Isaiah said, "Listen now, you house of David. It is not enough for you to test the patience of men? Will you test the patience of my God as well. <sup>14</sup>Therefore the LORD himself will give a sign for all of you. Look! The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and name him Immanuel." (*Isaiah 7:10-14*)

*"Why Would the LORD Be So Patient?"*

***Response to the lesson***

*Luke 1:68-75*

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

in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

**Hymn**

“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 triumphs 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!”

### **The Wonder of God's Undeserved Love**

<sup>18</sup> This 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. <sup>19</sup> Joseph, her husband, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her. So he decided to divorce her privately. <sup>20</sup> But 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. <sup>21</sup> She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

<sup>22</sup> All this happened to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> "Look, the virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son. And they will name him Immanuel," which means, "God with us."

<sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke up from his sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him. He took Mary home as his wife, <sup>25</sup> but he was not intimate with her until she gave birth to her firstborn son. And he named him Jesus. *(Matthew 1:18-25)*

*"Look at What God Accomplished with His Love!"*

***Response to the lesson***

*Psalm 98*

*(the congregation will read responsively)*

P: <sup>1</sup> Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things. His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

C: <sup>2</sup> **The LORD has made his salvation known. He has revealed his righteousness to the eyes of the nations.**

P: <sup>3</sup> He has remembered his mercy and his faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

C: <sup>4</sup> **Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Break out in joyful song! Make music!**

P: <sup>6</sup>Shout for joy before the King, the LORD. <sup>7</sup> Let the sea roar, and everything that fills it, the world, and all who live in it.

**C: <sup>8</sup>Let the mountains sing for joy together before the LORD, <sup>9</sup>for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with fairness.**

**Handbells**

“Silent Night, Holy Night”  
*Arranged by Linda R. Lamb*  
*Published by Ring Out! Press*

### **The Wonder of God’s Faithfulness**

<sup>1</sup>That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have observed and our hands have touched regarding the Word of Life—<sup>2</sup>the life appeared, and we have seen it. We testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. <sup>3</sup>We are proclaiming what we have seen and heard also to you, so that you may have fellowship with us. Our fellowship is with the Father and his Son Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>We write these things to you so that our joy may be complete. *(1 John 1:1-4)*

*“Because God is Faithful, We have Joy!”*

### **The Confession of Faith**

*Luther’s Explanation to the Second Article*

**C: I believe that Jesus Christ, 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 most certainly true.**

**Hymn**

“A Great and Mighty Wonder”  
*Christian Worship 36 st. 1-2, 4-5*

A great and mighty wonder, a glorious mystery;  
A virgin bears an infant who veils his deity.  
Repeat the hymn again: “To God on high be glory  
And peace on earth to men!”

The Word becomes incarnate and yet remains on high,  
And cherubim sing anthems to shepherds from the sky.  
Repeat the hymn again: “To God on high be glory  
And peace on earth to men!”

Since all he comes to ransom, by all be he adored,  
The infant born in Bethl’em, the Savior and the Lord.  
Repeat the hymn again: “To God on high be glory  
And peace on earth to men!”

All idols then shall perish and Satan’s lying cease,  
And Christ shall raise his scepter, decreeing endless peace.  
Repeat the hymn again: “To God on high be glory  
And peace on earth to men!”

**Prayer and Praise**

**The Distribution of the Candles**

*At this time, the ushers will pass out the candles for the  
candlelight portion of the service.  
Please use caution in the holding and lighting of the candles.*

### **The Wonder of God's Light**

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

<sup>9</sup>The real light that shines on everyone was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, yet his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who did receive him, to those who believe in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. <sup>13</sup>They were born, not of blood, or of the desire of the flesh, or of a husband's will, but born of God.

<sup>14</sup>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, selected verses)*

*“A Light for Us, and a Light in Us”*

### **The Light that gives Life Always Shines Brightly**

*The pastor will light his candle from the Christ candle, and he will go to the end of each row, lighting the first candle. Carefully bring the unlit candle to the lighted one, making sure the burning candle is not tipped. Music will play quietly until all the candles are lit, when they are lit, the lights in the church will dim, and the Christmas Gospel will be read.*

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee

to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her first born, a son. She wrapped him in strips of cloth and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.”

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

*Luke 2*

## **Hymn**

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.

**Benediction**

*Jude 20-21 & 24-25*

P: <sup>20</sup>But you, dear friends, continue to build yourselves up in your most holy faith as you keep praying in the Holy Spirit. Keep yourselves in God's love as you continue to wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, which results in eternal life.

<sup>25</sup>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, <sup>26</sup>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—<sup>27</sup>to God, who alone is wise, be glory forever through Jesus Christ.

**C: Amen!**

*After the Benediction, the lights will come on, please extinguish your candle at this time. When you are dismissed after the closing song, place the used candles and holders in the box by the door. Thank You!*

## **Handbells**

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You”

*Arranged by Bill Ingram*

*Published by Ring Out! Press*

## **Dismissal by the Pastor & Post Service Music**

**This Evening** - In our blessed Savior’s name, **Welcome!** It is a 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 us this evening, please sign the guest book.

- We invite all our worshipers to enjoy some refreshments following the service. They are in the fellowship hall next to the sanctuary.

**Tomorrow, December 25th** our Christmas worship continues at 9:30 am. The morning’s service will continue to turn our attention to the birth of our Savior with the words of the hymn-  
“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come.”

## **Thank You . . .**

To Jim Brown for operating Hymnsoft; to Josh Schueler and Jim Everson for controlling the audio and video of the live-stream; to the members of the handbell choir; to the ushers; and to all those who helped prepare the sanctuary and fellowship hall for our Christmas Season of worship and praise.

To those who provided refreshments and served following the service.



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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

805.967.1128 – Office & 805.967.3570 – Home

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