



## The Order of Worship

### Pre-Service Music

#### Welcome

#### Dialogue at the Birth of Jesus

P: <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>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 1:1-5 & 14*

#### *Congregation sings*

“Let All Together Praise Our God”

*Christian Worship 41 st. 1*

Let all together praise our God before his highest throne;  
Today he opens heav’n again and gives us his Son,  
and gives us his own Son.

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

*The Candle of God’s Faithfulness is Lit*

#### *Congregation sings*

“Let All Together Praise Our God”

*Christian Worship 41 st. 2*

He leaves his heav’nly Father’s throne,

is born an infant small,  
And in a manger, poor and lone lies in a humble stall,  
lies in a humble stall.

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 us 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*

*The Candle of God’s Love is Lit*

*Congregation sings*                      “Let All Together Praise Our God”  
*Christian Worship 41 st. 3*

He veils in flesh his pow’r divine a servant’s form to take;  
In want and lowliness must die  
Who heav’n and earth did make,  
who heav’n and earth did make.

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*

*The Candle of God's Lasting Joy is Lit*

***Congregation sings***

**“Let All Together Praise Our God”**

*Christian Worship 41 st. 4*

A wondrous change which he does make;  
he takes our flesh and blood,  
And he conceals for sinners' sake,  
his majesty as God, his majesty as God.

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*

*The Candle of God's Peace is Lit*

***Congregation sings***

**“Let All Together Praise Our God”**

*Christian Worship 41 st. 5 & 6*

He serves that I a lord may be—a great exchange indeed!  
Could Jesus' love do more for me,

To help me in my need? To help me in my need?

For us he opens wide the door of paradise today.  
The angel guards the gate no more;  
To God our thanks we pay, to God our thanks we pay.

**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 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 when we remember Jesus' birth, lead us to recognize the undeserved love and favor you have shown us. Rid 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 sincere worship as we recall all the great things you have done for us through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**C: Amen.**

**Hymn by congregation**      "Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord"  
*Christian Worship 28 st. 1-3*

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.

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

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

## Throughout the Years, the Message is the Same!

### Christmas of the Past

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*Isaiah 9:1-2, 6-7*

<sup>1</sup>Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for the land that was in anguish. In former times, he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will cause it to be glorious, along the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, in Galilee of the Gentiles.

<sup>2</sup>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.

<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.

<sup>7</sup>There 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.

### Handbells

“The First Noel”

*Arranged by Jason W. Krug*

*Published by Hope / Agape*

### Psalm of Praise

*Psalm 98*

P: 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: The LORD has made his salvation known, and revealed his righteousness to the nations.**

P: He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to the house of Israel;

**C: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

P: Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth,

**C: Burst into jubilant song with music.**

P: Let them sing before the LORD,

**C: For he comes to judge the earth.**

P: He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity.

**Hymn by Congregation**

“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.

<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.

**Psalm of Praise**

*Psalm 111*

P: Great are the works of the LORD;  
they are pondered by all who delight in them.  
Glorious and majestic are his deeds,  
and his righteousness endures forever.  
He has caused his wonders to be remembered;  
The LORD is gracious and compassionate.  
The works of his hands are faithful and just;  
all his precepts are trustworthy.  
He provided redemption for his people;  
He ordained his covenant forever —  
holy and awesome is his name.



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!”

## Christmas of the Future

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*Revelation 1:4-8*

<sup>4</sup>Grace to you and peace from him who is, who was, and who is coming, and from the seven spirits that are before his throne, <sup>5</sup>and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his own blood <sup>6</sup>and made us a kingdom and priests to God his Father—to him be the glory and the power forever. Amen.

<sup>7</sup>Look, he is coming with clouds,  
and every eye will see him,  
including those who pierced him.

And all the nations of the earth will mourn because of him.

Yes. Amen.

<sup>8</sup>“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, the one who is, and who was, and who is coming, the Almighty.”

## Psalm of Praise

*Psalm 96*

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

*During the singing of “Joy to the World,” 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.*

**Hymn by congregation**

“Joy to the World”  
*Christian Worship 62 st. 1, 3 & 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.

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.

**Pray, Praise, and Give Thanks**

**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 even 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, let it become 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!**

**Handbells**

“Away in the Manger”  
*Arranged by Jason W. Krug*  
*Publihsed by Agape / Hope Publishing*

## The Service of Light

### **Lighting of the Christ Candle**

<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)*

**Hymn**

“On Christmas Night All Christians Sing”  
*Christian Worship 52 st. 1 & 3*

On Christmas night all Christians sing  
to hear the news the angels bring;  
On Christmas night all Christians sing  
to hear the news the angels bring,  
News of great joy, news of great mirth,  
news of our merciful King's birth.

From out of darkness we have light  
which made the angels sing this night.  
From out of darkness we have light  
which made the angels sing this night:  
“Glory to God and peace to men—  
now and forevermore. Amen!”

**The Promise of Light**

*Isaiah, Selected Verses*

P: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;  
On those living in the shadow of death a light has dawned.  
Arise and shine for your light has come;  
And the glory of the Lord rises upon you.  
See darkness covers the earth;  
And thick darkness is over the people.  
But the Lord rises upon you; and his glory appears over you.  
Nations will come to your light and kings to the brightness of  
your dawn.

**C: The LORD is my Light and my Salvation; of whom shall I  
be afraid?**

**The Light of Jesus' Birth gives Eternal Light**

*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.*

<sup>1</sup>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.

**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**

<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>3</sup>Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of  
salvation.

<sup>4</sup>In that day you will say:

Give thanks to the LORD! Proclaim his name.



Declare among the peoples what he has done.  
Proclaim that his name is exalted!

*Isaiah 12:1-4*

**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!**

*When the lights come on, please extinguish your candle promptly; As you are dismissed from the service, you may place it in the box by the door.*

*Thank You!*

**Closing Hymn**

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

*Christian Worship 63*

Angels we have heard on high,  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply,  
Echoing their joyous strain.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be

Which inspire your heav'nly song?  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the new-born King.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

### **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 a guest card or our 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 and to the left.

**Tomorrow**—We invite everyone to join us for our **Christmas Day service at 9:30 am.** We will turn our attention to the “great songs” of Christmas. These were songs of joy and faith sung by those who rejoiced to see the birth of their Savior.

**Friday**—Office Hours from 10:30—2:30 pm.

**Saturday**—Cleaning: Aitkins

- Lawn beginning December 24th—C. Schueler

**Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>**—**In person worship and live streaming at 9:30 am.** As we rejoice in the birth of our Savior, we can meet the new year with joy and confidence. As Paul writes to the Christians in Colosse, and to us today, we are blessed with a Savior who gives us the greatest of gifts.

- There will be no Bible Study after the service.



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OUR REDEEMER  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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