

Salem Lutheran Church
401 S. Lake St. Lake Mills IA 50450

Welcome to the House of the Lord

CHRISTMAS EVE 2020 –
Service of Holy Communion



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In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

GATHERING

PRELUDE
BELL
ANNOUNCEMENTS

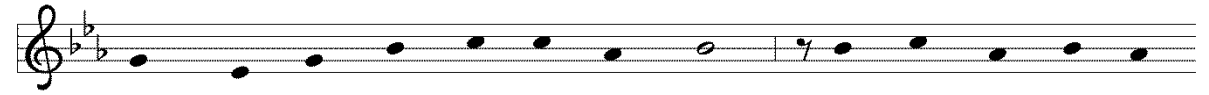
CALL TO WORSHIP

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
In the Word was life,
and the life was the light of all people.
The Word became flesh and lived among us,
and we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.

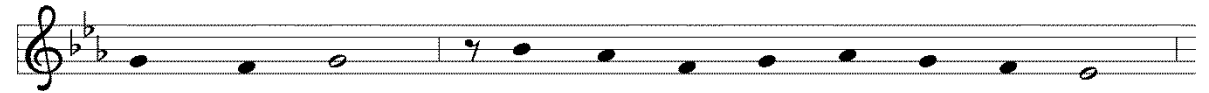
GATHERING HYMN “*Creator of the Stars of Night*”

ELW #245

During the Gathering Hymn the Advent wreath and chancel candles are lit.



1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, your peo - ple's ev - er -
2 When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but not in
3 At your great name, O Je - sus, now all knees must bend, all
4 Come in your ho - ly might, we pray, re - deem us for e -
5 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the Spir - it,



last - ing light, O Christ, re - deem - er of us all,
splen - dor bright, not as a mon - arch, but the child
hearts must bow: all things on earth with one ac - cord,
ter - nal day; de - fend us while we dwell be - low
Three in One, praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be



we pray you hear us when we call.
of Mar - y, bless - ed moth - er mild.
like those in heav'n, shall call you Lord.
from all as - saults of our dread foe.
from age to age e - ter - nal - ly. A - men.

CHRISTMAS PRAYERS

Faith Formation

Since March our faith formation, from the preschool play and pray, to Elementary and Middle School Sunday School, and Confirmation programing, all have been affected by the changing Covid-19 infection rates, Governor's proclamations and our Council's decisions to respond in caring ways in regard for health and safety of each other. Our youth board has responded with creativity hosting family home easter egg hunts, biblically themed craft kits, virtual VBS and in the Advent and Christmas season posted readings of favorite Christmas stories. Their faithfulness and creativity has reached even beyond these walls and for that we are grateful. This evening we share this holiday gift from our youth and faith formation board, a virtual recording entitled Our Christmas prayers.

THE TRUE STORY OF CHRISTMAS

Finn Ritter

One of the Advent Faith Formation activities this year was posting to Facebook, a child or adult reading their favorite Christmas Story. Listen to Finn Ritter read his favorite, The True Story of Christmas.

READING THE CHRISTMAS STORY

Whirl Story Bible

When we baptize a child we make some holy promises on their behalf. One of those promises is to place in their hands the Holy Scriptures. The first bible a child at Salem receives is on the day of their baptism, a board book they can grip and chew on...the second bible is presented as our 4-year-old's enter our Sunday morning Faith Formation program on Rally Sunday...our 3rd graders generally begin preparing to receive their third bible after some instruction leading up to Reformation Sunday, but that couldn't happen. So, this year the idea was to have the bibles for our 4-year-olds and 3rd graders in the Manger and invite them up come up and receive their bibles on Christmas Eve. It was Luther who said, Scripture is the manger in which we find the Christ Child. We couldn't do that, so our 4-year-olds and 3rd graders had their bibles delivered to their homes and are now invited to open their Whirl Bibles to the story of the birth of Jesus found on page 183 as we read the Christmas Story. But first a prayer for those who received their bibles as a gift in this Advent and Christmas Season.

Let us Pray,

Gracious God, your holy word speaks to us a message of love and forgiveness, with the promise of your presence in the world past, present and future. Bless Reece Helgeson, Josslyn Helgeson, Molly Koeppen, Emma Menke, Paisley Nickson-Wilkinson, Finn Ritter, Taryn Wempen and Danika White; as they are gifted by God's word, placed in their hands, may their enjoyment of God's story fill their hearts with inspiration to love and serve you always. May they come to know your presence in their lives. Amen.

READING

A Tiny Baby Is Born

Whirl Bible p.182-184

SPECIAL MUSIC

Mary Did You Know

Bruce Adams

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW #236

Canon

Ma- gni- fi- cat, ma- gni- fi- cat, ma- gni- fi- cat a- ni- ma me- a Do- mi- num.

Ma- gni- fi- cat, ma- gni- fi- cat, ma- gni- fi- cat a- ni- ma me- a!

GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-14

The Holy Gospel according to Luke

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before 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 see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

ELW #270



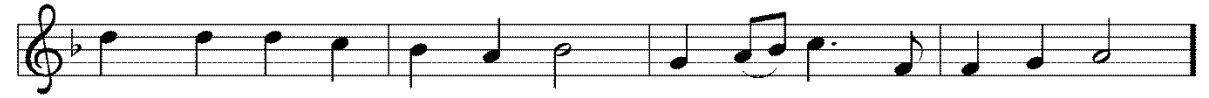
1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king;
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!



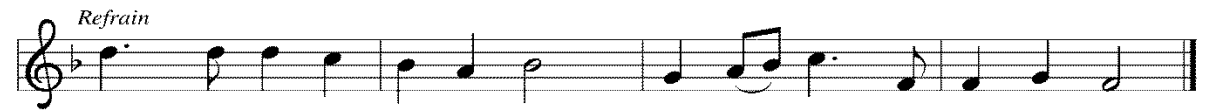
peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



Refrain
Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten
of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things
were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was
incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and**

was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

The shepherds sing, “Jesus Christ is born!” Let your church throughout the world proclaim this good news, over the hills and everywhere. Unite the voices of all your faithful people in songs of praise and rejoicing. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Heaven and nature sing, “Joy to the world!” Give respite to flocks, fields, and those who tend them. Come near to us in the beauty of nighttime, the shining of the stars, and the hush of a world at rest. May our wonder at your creation rouse our care for all the earth. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

The angels sing, “Peace on earth!” Come quickly to still the strife of this world. Hush the noise of war and violence in places of unrest (*especially*). Inspire leaders of nations to seek lasting peace and sustainable provision for all in their care. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Mary sings melodies of comfort to her newborn child. Bring rest and reassurance to those facing struggles this night. Shelter travelers and those without homes. Console those who lie awake due to pain or anxiety. Heal those who are sick or hurting. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Love sings through the sound of a new baby’s cry. Bless new parents and expectant parents. Comfort those who long for children, especially those running out of hope or options. Surround families of every shape and size with your love and care. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

The heavenly chorus sings, “Glory to God in the highest!” We give you thanks for all the saints who have proclaimed your glory in word and deed. Let us join them this night in joyful praise around your eternal throne. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious God, you came to us as one unknown, bringing joy and salvation to the earth. Nourish us at your banquet table, that with all who welcome your birth we may proclaim your peace, revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy God, Creator of all and Source of life, at the birth of time your word brought light into the world. In the fullness of time, you sent your Word, born of Mary, to shine in our darkness and to make us your daughters and sons.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his birth and life among us, his death and resurrection,
we await his coming again when all things will be restored in him. By your Spirit
bless us and this bread and cup, that, held and nourished by you, we may live as
your children, shining with the light of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church, both now and forever.

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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The Word is revealed in a manger, in simple bread and wine.
Come meet Christ in this meal.

DISTRIBUTION

CANDLE LIGHTING





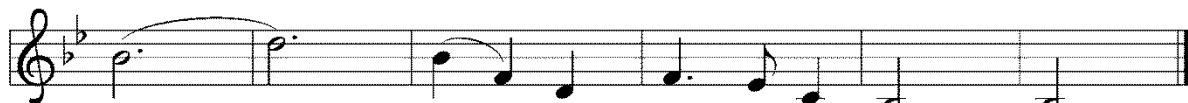
Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,
 1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.
 all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,



Hold - er Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher
 Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
 heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your



Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We give you thanks, gracious God, that you have once again fed us from your very self with the body and blood of Christ. Through this mystery, send us forth to proclaim your promise to a world in need, through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

BLESSING

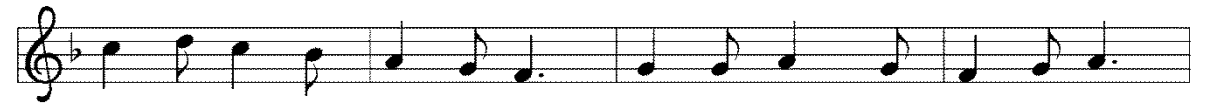
Almighty God, who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary, proclaimed joy through the angels, sent the shepherds with good news, and led the magi by a star, bless you this day ✝ through the Word made flesh.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN “*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*”



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
 He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Preaching: Pastor Joel Guttormson

Organist: Ruth Sheldon

Altar Guild for December:

All Guild members

The radio broadcast this morning is given by members of Salem.

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BibleWise

Nativity Word Search

Find the important words in the Nativity Story. You will find them hiding up, down, forward, backward, and diagonally.

Jesus	Herod	Inn	Nazarene	Mary	Hay
Wisemen	John	Manger	Frankincense	Taxes	Anna
Joseph	Angels	Bethlehem	Myrrh	Star	City of David
Gabriel	Elisabeth	Virgin	Sheep	Gold	Jerusalem
Zacharias	Shepherds	Holy Ghost	Egypt	Staff	Simeon



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God's Son Is Born

(Luke 2)

Mary and Joseph decided to stay in a stable. During the night, a wonderful thing happened! Mary gave birth to Jesus—God's own son. She wrapped Him in a cloth and placed Him in a manger.

Use the code to color the picture.

