



"Helping others receive grace, purpose and direction by proclaiming Christ's love."

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

www.calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org

308-632-8023

CHRISTMAS EVE 2022

Welcome to Calvary Lutheran Church, a congregation in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We are so thrilled to have you join us. If you have any questions about Calvary, feel free to reach out at 308.632.8023 or calvarylutheranscottsbluff@gmail.com – We would love to hear from you!

This Christmas Eve, we gather as God's people to worship our Lord. We pray our worship together would strengthen your faith and desire to know and serve the One who loves us with an everlasting love as made known to us in Jesus Christ.

*Visitors, if you are worshipping with us today,
we are glad to have you with us. Please join us again soon!*

KEY: ELW and any page number = Worship hymnal (cranberry),
OSB = Other Song Book (red), W&P = Worship & Praise (purple).
* Indicates please stand if able. Congregational responses are printed in
BOLD type.

Prelude

Rhonda Boettcher

‡WE LIFT OUR HEARTS IN PRAISE AND WORSHIP‡

Hymn:

“Oh Come, All Ye Faithful”

ELW #283
vv. 1-2

1. O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him,
born the king of angels:

Refrain: O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

2. The highest, most holy,
light of light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father
now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

The Christmas Greeting and Prayer

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

May the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ, Word made flesh, born of Mary, be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

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.

✠THE GOOD NEWS FOR ALL PEOPLE✠

Old Testament Reading:

Isaiah 9:2–7

² The 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.

Hymn:

“What Child is This”

ELW #296

vv. 1-2

**1. What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds 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!**

**2. 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!**

Second Reading:

Titus 2:11-14

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Hymn:

“I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve”

**ELW #271
vv. 1**

**1. I am so glad each Christmas Eve,
the night of Jesus' birth!
Then like the sun the star shone forth,
and angels sang on earth.**

THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL

The Good News: A Child is Born.

Luke 2:1-7

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.

Hymn:

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

ELW #279

vv. 1-2

**1. O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.**

**2. For Christ is born of Mary,
and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king,
and peace to all the earth!**

The Good News is Proclaimed: The Angels Sing.

Luke 2:8-14

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!"

***Hymn:**

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

ELW #270

vv. 1-2

**1. Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"**

Refrain: **Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"**

**2. 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, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel! *Refrain***

The Good News is Received: The Shepherds Came.

Luke 2:15-20

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Response after the gospel reading concludes:

Praise to you, O Christ.

Hymn:

“Away in a Manger”

ELW #277

vv. 1&3

**1. Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.**

The Christmas Message

Pastor Brett

Hymn:

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

ELW #275

vv. 1-2

**1. Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
once you sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

**2. Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
yonder shines the infant light.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

‡WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GIFT OF A SAVIOR‡

***Profession of Faith: the 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.**

The Prayers of the People

Each portion of the prayers ends with:

**Incarnate God,
hear our prayer.**

The prayers conclude with:

**Receive our prayers, Incarnate God, and fill us with hope as we behold your presence
among us in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

The Peace

**The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.**

Special Music

**Adam Martin @ 5 p.m.
Rhonda Boettcher @ 7 p.m.**

***Offertory Prayer**

Holy God,

your beauty shines forth from the manger and your love flows from the cross. As you gather us around these signs of your love come among us, warm us to extend your love and care among the hungry and all in need. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

‡WE CELEBRATE IMMANUEL-GOD WITH US‡

Here our Lord Jesus gives to us His own Body and Blood for the forgiveness of all our sins.

Confession of Sins and Assurance of Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, Father, ‡ Son and Holy Spirit who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Amid the darkness of this world, let us confess our sin and welcome the light of God's forgiveness.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of grace and truth,

In Christ Jesus you come among us as light shining in the darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light, and have not trusted the good news of great joy. Forgive us and renew our hope, so that we may live in the fullness of your love, trusting in the grace of Christ our Lord. Amen.

The angel said, you shall call his name Jesus for he will save his people from their sins. With great joy, I announce to you the entire forgiveness of your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ‡ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

***The 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.

It is indeed right and salutary... and join their unending hymn...

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.

Words of Institution

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.

Invitation to Communion

In this holy sacrament God makes a home with us.

Let us approach in wonder and joy at all that God has done for us.

Distribution of Communion

Christ is truly present in the Lord’s Supper with gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation.

All are welcome and invited to receive Holy Communion.

(Communion will be served continuously at two stations in the front of the church.

WHITE GRAPE JUICE and GLUTEN FREE WAFERS are available. Just ask the server.

Children who are not yet communicants are invited to come forward for a blessing.)

Distribution Music

Hymn:

“Joy to the World”

ELW #267

vv. 1-2

1. 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.

2. 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.

Hymn:

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

ELW #282
vv. 1-2

1. It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,
from heav'n's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.
2. Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heav'nly music floats
o'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hov'ring wing,
and ever o'er its babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.

Hymn:

“The First Noel”

ELW #300
vv. 1-2

1. The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.

**2. They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. Refrain**

***Post-Communion Blessing and Prayer**

Christmas Candle Lighting Ceremony

The minister lights a large candle from an altar candle, which symbolizes Christ, the Light of the world of whom John's gospel speaks. The ushers light their candles from the minister's candle, then light the candle of each worshiper nearest the aisle. The lighted candle is never tilted, but is always held upright when giving light to another.

The Gospel of the Incarnation *(read as the candles are lit)*

John 1:1-5, 14

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

After all candles have been lit, we sing:

Hymn:

“Silent Night, Holy Night!”

ELW #281

**1. 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.**

**2. 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!**

(Candles are raised)

**3. Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.**

The candles are extinguished.

***The Blessing and Dismissal**

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary,
the obedience of Joseph,
the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the determination of the magi,
and the peace of the Christ child.
Almighty God, Father, Son ✠ and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Go forth in joy to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Postlude

The Liturgy for today is from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2018 Augsburg Fortress. Annual License #43625. The songs are reprinted by permission under OneLicense.net A-705226 & CCLI License #1825044. and LicenSing Online #601700.

Music: **O Come, All Ye Faithful:** Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, sts. 1, 3-4; tr. unknown, st. 2 ©Public Domain; **What Child Is This:** Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898 Music: English ballad, 16th cent. ©Public Domain; **I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve:** Text: Marie Wexelsen, 1832-1911; tr. Peter A. Sveeggen, 1881-1959 Text © 1932 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress. OneLicense.net #A-705226; **O Little Town of Bethlehem:** Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893, ©Public Domain; **Hark! The Herald Angels Sing:** Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt. ©Public Domain; **Away in a Manger:** Text: North American, 19th cent. ©Public Domain; **Angels, from the Realms of Glory:** Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt., sts. 1-3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4 ©Public Domain; **Angels We Have Heard on High:** Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864 ©Public Domain; **Joy to the World:** Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, ©Public Domain; **It Came upon the Midnight Clear:** Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810-1876 ©Public Domain; **The First Noel:** Text: English traditional ©Public Domain; **Silent Night, Holy Night!:** Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885©Public Domain

DECEMBER 24, 2022
CHRISTMAS EVE



Jesus is born as the Prince of Peace.

CHRISTMAS EVE BIBLE READINGS

Take time to read and reflect on these Bible passages as part of your Christmas Eve celebration.

Saturday **Isaiah 9:2-7** **A child is born**
Luke 2:1-20 **The birth of Jesus**

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

For 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. Isaiah 9:6 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for Christmas Eve:
Glory to you O God, glory to you Lord Christ; lead us to praise you and to trust your reign of hope, peace, joy, and love now and always. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:
Now the silence, now the peace, we pray that all hunger in the world may cease. In Jesus' name, amen.

A Blessing to Give:
May the news of Jesus' birth give you peace and joy now and always.

DECEMBER 24, 2022
HYMN FOR CHRISTMAS EVE
Silent Night, Holy Night!



CHRISTMAS EVE MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What is something you look forward to doing on Christmas Eve?
- Jesus is called "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." What do each of these names mean to you?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 2:1-20.

The story of Jesus' birth begins within an international and political context: Emperor Augustus is dictating orders from Rome, Quirinius is governor of Syria, and occupation forces control the land of Jesus' birth. The decree has to do with taxes and keeping control of the people. People are forced to be registered in their hometowns. As a result, Joseph and Mary, poor and vulnerable and expecting their first child, have to travel from Nazareth to Joseph's home town of Bethlehem. God's entry into the world is announced by angels sent to shepherds in the fields. Shepherds, the least influential group, become the first evangelists, messengers with good news—the best news ever. Many ponder, shepherds rejoice, and the Roman government has no idea how the world is turning away from its grip. God is unleashing a power that shakes the foundations of the mighty through a defenseless baby soon to be celebrated as "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).

Discuss: How do you see the good news of Jesus' birth shaping the world in which you live?

Pray: Lord God, for the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ that changes everything for us and for the world, we give you thanks for your promise of life and peace and salvation. Amen.

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this day, how might you help others to know of God's love through Jesus?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

During the four weeks of Advent, we prepared our hearts and minds for the day of Jesus' birth and his coming again. Light the four candles of hope, peace, joy, and love on the Advent wreath. Then light the white one, the Christ candle, in the center of the wreath. This night, we focus on God's unconditional love for us and our love for one another. Dim the lights in the room and have a moment of silence to gaze upon the candles.

Leader: *The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.* (Isaiah 9:2)

All: Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord, the light of Christ that gives us hope, peace, joy, and love.



© 2022 Milestones Ministry, LLC. All rights reserved.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org

For a larger printable 'Taking Faith Home' go to our website calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org