

The Nativity of Our Lord
Ascension Lutheran Church Livestream Worship
December 24, 2020 – 4:00pm

Welcome! A few pointers to make this worship service meaningful:

- *Set the space. Clear a table of everything except the screen, a Bible, and the candle.*
- *Join us as for communion this evening. Have your bread and wine or grape juice ready.*
- *We encourage you to join us in singing Silent Night by candlelight at the end of the service.*
- *Thank you for supporting the ministry of Ascension. You can give online at www.ascensioncos.org/give or mail a check to:*
*Ascension Lutheran Church
2505 N Circle Dr.
Colorado Springs, CO 80909*
- *If you have prayer requests or concerns, visit ascensioncos.org or call 719-634-1694*
- *Join us for a Christmas Eve radio service at 8pm this evening on KCME, 88.7 FM*

Prelude

“Suite for Christmas” by Arcangelo Corelli
arr. by Sue Mitchell-Wallace and John H. Head

Micah Holt

“O Holy Night” arr. By Lloyd Larson

Scott Crump

Christ Candle Presentation

“In The Bleak Midwinter”

Megan Miller

The Invocation

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

O come, let us adore him!

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

O come, let us adore him!

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given!

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

As was spoken to the shepherds long ago, so too does God announce to us this night: “Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.”

Amen!

Gathering Hymn

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:

O Come All Ye Faithful (283)

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*

Refrain

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

3. Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
in the highest: *Refrain*

4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing: *Refrain*

Greeting

Today Christ is born: Alleluia, alleluia! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God , and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

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

Special Music

“Angels We Have Heard on High”
arr. by Martha Lynn Thompson

Womens' Handbell Ensemble

The Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

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.**

You 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.**

For 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.**

For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

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.**

His 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.

+ Gospel Acclamation

The musical notation consists of three staves of music in G major, common time. The lyrics are: "Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?" followed by "Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life." and finally "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia."

Gospel

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And 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.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “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.

Luke 2:1-14

“O Come, Little Children” arr. Kathleen M. Basi

Stefanie Schore

Children’s Sermon

Sermon

Pastor Dan Holt

+ Hymn of the Day

1. Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo.

Angels We Have Heard on High (289)

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heav'nly song? *Refrain*
3. Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn king. *Refrain*

Prayer

We thank you, O God, that you have sent your light into deepest darkness.

May that light cast out fear, shine hope into places of despair, and grant healing to all who face illness of body or spirit, for the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it.

We thank you, O God, that you have sent your Wonderful Counselor to lead us.

May he lead and guide all people into wisdom and compassion, and may that guidance give us, the church, the courage and delight to proclaim the good news of this night.

We thank you, O God, that you have sent the Prince of Peace into our world.

May his reign of peace bring to an end all war and violence, that our mourning might be turned into dancing.

Holy God, Emmanuel,

**we pray that you might be born in us, and that we, in turn, might bear fruit of love and joy.
To you, who has given us more than we can ever comprehend, be given praise and glory forever.
Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving tune: *Good Christian Men, Rejoice*

Oh, may the good Lord be with you.

And may the Lord be with you too.

Lift your hearts to God in praise.

To the Lord our hearts we raise.

Let us offer praises true.

It is fitting so to do. Gratefully we sing to the Lord, our King!

The Sanctus tune: *As with Gladness*

1. Holy, holy, holy Lord! God of hosts, by all adored.

Heav'n and earth cannot contain, all the glory of Your name!

With the heav'nly host we sing highest praises to our King!

**2. Hail! Hosanna! Endless fame be to Him who, in God's name,
now draws nigh with us to dwell, Jesus, Our Emmanuel!**

Hail! Hosanna! Praises be to the Lord eternally!

Eucharistic Prayer and Words of Institution

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

Amen.

In the night in which he was betrayed, ...

Together, let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Tune: *Away in a Manger*

1. Our Father in heaven, all praise to Your name!
Your kingdom among us, Your will done the same.
By mortals and angels, come, Lord, reign alone.
Oh, hear us and bless us from heaven's high throne.
 2. The bread that we yearn for provide us each day;
as we forgive others, our sins take away;
in times of temptation, to lead us be near;
from evil deliver Your children most dear.
 3. For Yours is the kingdom; o'er all things You reign.
And Yours is the power; all things You maintain.
To You be the glory, resounding again
from all of creation, forever! Amen!

Invitation to Communion

We encourage you to have your bread and wine/grape juice ready. When the pastor says "The body of Christ given for you" and "The blood of Christ shed for you", eat and drink trusting that this is God's free gift of grace for you. If you are worshiping with others, one may give the bread and wine to the rest offering those same words. All are welcome to the Lord's table.

Communion Music "A Tapestry of Lullabies" arr. Lani Smith **Sylvia Holt and Teresa Allen**

Prayer after Communion

*God for whom we wait,
you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. Make us ready always to welcome
Christ into our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world, announcing your coming
among us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

The Candlelight Service

(Light candles and turn off other sources of light.)

The whisper of God has become a shout!

Jesus, the Savior is born!

Praise the Lord with heart-filled joy!

We praise Him! We bless Him! Christ our newborn King!

And He blesses you with His presence...then and now and always!

Amen!

Hymn**Silent Night! Holy Night! (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, heavenly hosts sing alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!
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.

Hold high your candle's light. Celebrate the divine, shining bright! A sign of God being born among our community.

A sign of God shining through us for eternity.

Sending Hymn**Joy to the World (267)**

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 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.
3. No more let sin and sorrow 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.
4. 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.

Benediction**Dismissal**

Go in peace, Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“Joy to the World” arr. by Sue Mitchell-Wallace and John H. Head

Micah Holt

“Two French Carols” arr. Brant Adams

Gail Tucker

“I Saw Three Ships/Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella” arr. Kathleen M. Basi

Stefanie Schore