

A

*Savior*

IS BORN



## CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

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### SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH

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## WELCOME

We are glad that you have chosen to spend time with us in worship. In our worship, we gather, before Jesus, our Good Shepherd, to offer him our love and praise. Our Lord builds us up in faith through his Word and equips us for living now and in eternity. Our prayer is that the good news of Christ's love touches your heart and transforms your life. Whether you're worshipping with us here today or watching online, we are happy you have joined us.

## WORSHIP SERVICE

The goal of our worship is to praise God and enrich your faith through his Word. To make your experience this morning easier, the worship folder you're holding has the entire order of service. The pieces marked [P] are spoken by the pastor, and the parts marked [C] are to be spoken or sung by the congregation.

## FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

Our congregation enjoys the "worshiping family." Each service includes a children's message which teaches God's truth to your kids. Parents with small children are an essential part of God's kingdom. That's why children are never considered an inconvenience to our worship. We also want your family to be comfortable. There is a cry room outside the main doors to the right if you need a moment.

## SERVICE OF LESSON AND CAROLS

Our Christmas Eve service this morning will be a Service of Lessons and Carols. The theme for worship today is: "A Savior is Born". The progression of lessons and songs gradually reveals more and more about our Savior who has come to bring us forgiveness, life, and salvation. As we celebrate Jesus' birth, we also look forward to seeing our Savior in heaven where God's "praise will sound" for all eternity!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Altar Flowers:** The flowers on the altar this morning are given to the glory of God by Pat and Lorene Fleming.

**Thank You Students:** Thank you to all of the Sunday School and Youth Group classes for leading us in worship last week for your Christmas Program. Thank you for using your gifts to share the good news of Jesus in Word and song, as we celebrate the birth of our Savior.

**New Year's Eve Service:** Next Sunday, December 31st, at 9:00 AM, we will have a special New Year's Eve worship service with holy communion. As we prepare to close another year, we are reminded of all the blessings that God has given to us and also look ahead to a New Year guided by his grace and mercy.

**No Midweek Service:** Midweek worship will resume on **Wednesday, January 10th at 7:30 PM.** During the weeks between Christmas and New Year there will not be a Midweek Service (December 27th, January 3rd).

**After Service Ministries:** All of our after service ministries will **resume on Sunday, January 7th.** We will be taking a break from Adult Bible Study, Sunday School, Youth Group, and Youth Confirmation Class for the weekends for Christmas and New Years Eve.

1 Oh, come, all ye faith-ful, Joy-ful and tri-um-phant,  
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Beth-le-hem;  
Come and be-hold him, Born the King of an-gels.

Refrain:

Oh, come, let us a-dore him,  
Oh, come, let us a-dore him,  
Oh, come, let us a-dore him,  
Christ the Lord.

2 God from true God, and Light from Light e-ter-nal,  
Born of a vir-gin, to earth he comes,  
On-ly be-got-ten Son of God the Fa-ther.

Refrain

3 Sing, choirs of an-gels, sing in ex-ul-ta-tion  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n a-bove.  
Glo-ry to God, all Glo-ry in the high-est.

Refrain

4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this hap-py morn-ing;  
Je-sus, to thee be all glo-ry giv'n,  
Word of the Fa-ther, Now in flesh ap-pear-ing.

Refrain

## INTRODUCTION AND CHRISTMAS EVE PRAYER

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P: Brothers and sisters in Christ, in this Christmas season it is our privilege and delight to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind, to go even to Bethlehem and see this thing which has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us, the Christ-child, lying in a manger.

Heavenly Father, we pray for ourselves and all people who worship you and your Son this day. By your holy Word, lead us to say with the angels,

**C: Glory to God in the highest!**

P: Oh gracious and almighty Father, we praise you that you kept your ancient promises by sending your everlasting Son in human flesh.

**C: On this day, receive our thanks and devotion, our songs and prayers.**

P: You sent Jesus as a lowly child to demonstrate your concern for all, the weak and lonely, the troubled and frightened, the timid and helpless. No one is overlooked by your ever-seeking eyes. No one is denied the love and help of your outstretched hand.

*Continued on the next page...*

**C: Bless with a childlike faith that you love and care for us always.**

**P:** You sent Jesus as the Savior of the world to deliver all from the curse of sin, the power of death, and the torment of hell. He took our place. He became the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, so that we might live eternally. Firmly implant this good news in our hearts, and fill us with an eager desire to spread the Word concerning what will hear tonight.

**C: May all who hear this message, be amazed and believe what is told them about this child.**

**P:** You sent Jesus as the Light of the world to drive out the darkness that would rob us of the full life you intend for us. May the joy that will be for all people be our joy. May the peace on earth to all on whom his favor rests be our peace.

**C: Today in the town of David, a Savior has been born. He is the Christ the Lord.**

**P:** We humbly offer these prayers and praises in the words that Jesus taught us:

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.**

✧ GOD PROMISES HOPE IN OUR NEED ✧

## FIRST LESSON

Genesis 3:8-15

<sup>8</sup> Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup> But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" <sup>10</sup> He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." <sup>11</sup> And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" <sup>12</sup> The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." <sup>13</sup> Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." <sup>14</sup> So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. <sup>15</sup> And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

## CAROL

**"Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord"**

CW 28 vs.1-4

**1 Let the earth now praise the Lord,  
Who has tru-ly kept his word  
And at last to us did send  
Christ, the sin-ner's help and friend.**

**2 What the fa-thers most de-sired,  
What the proph-ets' heart in-spired,  
What they longed for man-y a year  
Stands ful-filled in glo-ry here.**

3     **A-bram's prom-ised great re-ward,  
Zi-on's help-er, Ja-cob's Lord  
Him of two-fold race be-hold  
Tru-ly came, as long fore-told.**

4     **Wel-come, O my Sav-ior, now!  
Joy-ful, Lord, to you I bow.  
Come in-to my heart, I pray;  
Oh, pre-pare your-self a way.**

✧ **A GREAT LIGHT FOR THOSE IN DARKNESS** ✧

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**SECOND LESSON**

Isaiah 9:1-3, 6-7

Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the Gentiles, by the way of the sea, along the Jordan—

2     The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;  
on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

3     You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy;  
they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest,  
as men rejoice when dividing the plunder.

6     For 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.

7     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.

**CAROL**

**"Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel"**

CW 23 vs.1-2,4

1     **Oh, come, oh, come, Em-man-u-el,  
And ran-som cap-tive Is-ra-el  
That mourns in lone-ly exi-le here  
Un-til the Son of God ap-pear.  
Re-joyce! Re-joyce!  
Em-man-u-el Shall come to you, O Is-ra-el!**

2     **Oh, come, O Root of Jes-se, free  
Your own from Sa-tan's tyr-an-ny;  
From depths of hell your pe-ople save,  
And bring them vic-t'ry o'er the grave.  
Re-joyce! Re-joyce!  
Em-man-u-el Shall come to you, O Is-ra-el!**

4     **Oh, come, O Key of Da-vid, come,  
And o-pen wide our heav'n-ly home.  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to mi-ser-y.  
Re-joyce! Re-joyce!  
Em-man-u-el Shall come to you, O Is-ra-el!**

## ✧ A BRANCH WITH ROYAL ROOTS ✧

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### THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-9

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. <sup>2</sup> The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him— the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD— <sup>3</sup> and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; <sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.

<sup>5</sup> Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist. <sup>6</sup> The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. <sup>7</sup> The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup> The infant will play near the hole of the cobra, and the young child put his hand into the viper's nest. <sup>9</sup> They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

### CAROL

“Once in Royal David’s City”

CW 50 vs.1-3

- 1    **Once in roy-al Da-vid’s city, Stood a low-ly cat-tle shed.  
Where a moth-er laid her ba-by, In a man-ger for his bed.  
Ma-ry was that mo-ther mild, Je-sus Christ her lit-tle child.**
- 2    **He came down to earth from heav-en, Who is God and Lord of all,  
And his shel-ter was a sta-ble, And his cra-dle was a stall.  
With the poor and mean and low-ly, Lived on earth our Savi-or ho-ly.**
- 3    **But our eyes at last shall see him, Through his own re-deem-ing love,  
For that child, so dear and gen-tle, Is our Lord in heav’n a-bove,  
And he leads his chil-dren on, To the place where he is gone.**

## ✧ A RULER FOUND IN A SMALL TOWN ✧

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### FOURTH LESSON

Micah 5:2-5

<sup>2</sup> But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
though you are small among the clans of Judah,  
out of you will come for me  
one who will be ruler over Israel,  
whose origins are from of old,  
from ancient times.”

<sup>3</sup> Therefore Israel will be abandoned  
until the time when she who is in labor gives birth  
and the rest of his brothers return  
to join the Israelites.

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- <sup>4</sup> He will stand and shepherd his flock  
in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
And they will live securely, for then his greatness  
will reach to the ends of the earth.
- <sup>5</sup> And he will be their peace.

## CAROL

**“O Little Town of Bethlehem”**  
CW 65 vs.1-3

- 1 O lit-tle town of Beth-le-hem, how still we see thee lie!  
A-bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si-lent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shin-eth the ev-er-last-ing light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to-night.
- 2 For Christ is born of Ma-ry, And, gath-ered all a-bove.  
While mor-tals sleep, The an-gels keep, Their watch of won-d’ring love.  
O morn-ing stars, to-geth-er, Pro-claim the ho-ly birth,  
And prais-es sing, To God the King, An peace to all the earth.
- 3 How si-lent-ly, how si-lent-ly the won-drous gift is giv’n!  
So God im-parts to hu-man hearts the bles-sings of his heav’n.  
No ear may hear his com-ing, but in this world of sin  
Where meek souls will re-ceive him still, the dear Christ en-ters in.

## ✧ GOD’S CHOSEN SHEPHERD FOR HIS PEOPLE ✧

### FIFTH LESSON

Ezekiel 34:11-17, 30-31

- <sup>11</sup>“For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. <sup>12</sup> As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness. <sup>13</sup> I will bring them out from the nations and gather them from the countries, and I will bring them into their own land. I will pasture them on the mountains of Israel, in the ravines and in all the settlements in the land. <sup>14</sup> I will tend them in a good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing land. There they will lie down in good grazing land, and there they will feed in a rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. <sup>15</sup> I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign LORD. <sup>16</sup> I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock with justice.
- <sup>30</sup> Then they will know that I, the LORD their God, am with them and that they, the house of Israel, are my people, declares the Sovereign LORD. <sup>31</sup> You my sheep, the sheep of my pasture, are people, and I am your God, declares the Sovereign LORD.”

## CAROL

“Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising”

CW 42 vs.1-3

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 <b>Come, your hearts and voic-es rais-ing,<br/>Christ the Lord with glad-ness prais-ing<br/>Loud-ly sing his love a-maz-ing<br/>Wor-thy folk of Chris-ten-dom.</b> | 2 <b>See how God, for us pro-vid-ing,<br/>Gave his Son and life a-bid-ing;<br/>He our wea-ry steps is guid-ing<br/>From earth’s woe to heav’n-ly joy.</b> |
| 3 <b>Christ, from heav’n to us de-scend-ing<br/>And in love our race be-friend-ing,<br/>In our need his help ex-tend-ing,<br/>Saved us from the wi-ly foe.</b>       |   |

## ✧ A MIRACULOUS CHILD ✧

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### SIXTH LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”

<sup>29</sup> Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end.” <sup>34</sup> “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

<sup>35</sup> The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. <sup>37</sup> For nothing is impossible with God.”

<sup>38</sup> “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May it be to me as you have said.” Then the angel left her.

## CAROL

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

CW 2 vs.1-4

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 <b>Savior of the nations, come;<br/>Virgin’s Son, make here your home.<br/>Marvel now, O heav’n and earth,<br/>That the Lord chose such a birth.</b> | 2 <b>Not by human flesh and blood,<br/>By the Spirit of our God<br/>Was the Word of God made flesh,<br/>Woman’s offspring, pure and fresh.</b>    |
| 3 <b>Wondrous birth! O wondrous Child<br/>Of the virgin undefiled,<br/>Though by all the world disowned,<br/>Yet to be in heav’n enthroned!</b>        | 4 <b>From the Father’s throne he came<br/>And ascended to the same,<br/>Captive leading death and hell --<br/>High the song of triumph swell!</b> |

## WORSHIPING THE LORD WITH OUR OFFERINGS

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Members of Shepherd of the Hills respond to their Savior's love with offerings that are given joyfully and freely according to how the Lord has blessed them. If you are a guest today, please know that there are no expectations for you to make a donation. If you wish to support us by making an online offering, visit our website: [www.dulutheran.org](http://www.dulutheran.org) and click on the "GIVE" tab.

### ✧ GOD'S PROMISE FULFILLED ✧

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#### SEVENTH LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. <sup>2</sup> (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup> And everyone went to his own town to register. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup> and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

#### CAROL

**"What Child Is This"**  
CW 67 vs.1-2

- 1     **What child is this who, laid to rest, On Ma-ry's lap is sleep-ing?  
Whom ang-els greet, With an-thems sweet While shep-heds watch are keep-ing?  
This, this is Christ the King, Whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing.  
Haste, haste to bring him laud, The babe, the Son of Mar-y!**
  
- 2     **Why lies he in such mean es-tate, Where ox-en now are feed-ing?  
Good Chris-tians, fear; For sin-ners here The si-lent Word is plead-ing.  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through; The cross he'll bear for me, for you.  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the Son of Mar-y!**

### ✧ GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY FOR THE WORLD ✧

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#### EIGHTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-20

<sup>8</sup> And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

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<sup>15</sup> 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.” <sup>16</sup> So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

<sup>17</sup> When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

## CAROL

## “Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

CW 57

### Refrain

Go, tell it on the moun-tain, O-ver the hills, and ev-‘ry-where;  
Go, tell it on the moun-tain, That Je-sus Christ is born.

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing, O’er si-lent flocks by night,  
Be-hold, through-out the heav-ens, There shone a ho-ly light.

### Refrain

2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled, When lo, a-bove the earth  
Rang out the an-gel cho-rus, That hailed our Sav-ior’s birth.

### Refrain

3 Down in a low-ly man-ger, The hum-ble Christ was born;  
And God sent us sal-va-tion, That bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

### Refrain

## CLOSING PRAYER & BLESSING

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P: O God, who makes us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your only Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that, as we joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, so may we also behold him with sure confidence when he will come again to bring us to our heavenly home, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

P: May he who by his incarnation gathered things earthly and heavenly into one, fill us with such joy that comes with the knowledge of the forgiveness of sins and hope of eternal life. And the blessing of God Almighty—the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit—be upon you and remain with you always.

C: **Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN

“Silent Night”

CW 60

1      Si-lent night! Ho-ly night!  
All is calm, all is bright,  
Round yon vir-gin mo-ther and child.  
Ho-ly In-fant, so ten-der and mild,  
Sleep in heav-en-ly peace,  
Sleep in heav-en-ly peace.

2      Si-lent night! Ho-ly night!  
Shep-herds quake at the sight.  
Glo-ries stream from hea-ven a-far;  
Heav'n-ly hosts sing, Al-le-lu-ia;  
Christ, the Sav-ior, is born!  
Christ, the Savi-or, is born!

3      Si-lent night! Ho-ly night!  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Ra-diant beams from thy ho-ly face  
With the dawn of re-deem-ing grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

