

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Congregation  
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod  
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# Christmas Eve

December 24, 2017

## Preservice Music

*Please take this time before the service to meditate with the calm and quiet that is Christmas Eve.*

## Opening Bells

### Hymn 55

“Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful”

*Congregation sings the verses and the responses in bold.*

**Verse 1**      **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.**

P: Arise, shine for your light has come!

**C: OH, COME, LET US ADORE HIM**

P: And the glory of the Lord rises upon you!

**C: OH, COME, LET US ADORE HIM**

P: And the nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn!

**C: OH, COME, LET US ADORE HIM, CHRIST THE LORD**

**Verse 2**      **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.**

P: Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy, that will be for all the people.

**C: OH, COME, LET US ADORE HIM**

P: For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord!

**C: OH, COME, LET US ADORE HIM**

P: And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**C: OH, COME, LET US ADORE HIM, CHRIST THE LORD**

**Verse 3** Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;  
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.

### **Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true light. Grant that as we have known on earth the wonder of that light, we may also behold him in all his glory in the life to come; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **The Journey to Bethlehem**

**Luke 2:1-5**

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.

### **Christmas Anthem**

**“Joyful, Joyful”**

*Colossians 3:16*

### **The Savior Is Born**

**Luke 2:6-7**

While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 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.

### **Hymn 35**

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

**Of the Father’s love begotten, Ere the worlds began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending he,  
Of the things that are, that have been, And that future years shall see  
Evermore and evermore.**

**Oh, that birth forever blessed, When the virgin full of grace,  
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, Bore the Savior of our race,  
And the babe, the world’s Redeemer, First revealed his sacred face,  
Evermore and evermore.**

**Let the heights of heav’n adore him, Angel hosts his praises sing,  
Pow’rs, dominions bow before him, And extol our God and King,  
Let no tongue on earth be silent, Ev’ry voice in concert ring,  
Evermore and evermore.**

### **The Angels Appear to Shepherds**

**Luke 2:8-14**

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 cloths 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.”

Soloist: Hymn 53 v 1, 3, 6

“To Shepherds as They Watched by Night”

Hymn 61

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

*Congregation sings the verses in bold*

To shepherds as they watched by night  
Appeared a host of angels bright;  
“Behold the tender babe,” they said,  
“In yonder lowly manger laid.”

**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 th’ angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”  
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”**

Oh, then rejoice that through his Son  
God is with sinners now at one;  
Made like yourselves of flesh and blood,  
Your brother is the eternal God.

**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 th’ incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel!  
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”**

You shall and must at last prevail.  
God’s own you are; you cannot fail.  
To God forever sing your praise  
With joy and patience all your days.

**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 newborn King!”**

The Shepherds Tell The Good News

Luke 2:15-19

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.

Hymn 67

“What Child Is This”

**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!**

**Why lies he in such mean estate  
Where oxen now are feeding?  
Good Christians, fear; For sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading.  
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 Mary!**

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
Come, peasant, king, to own him.  
The King of kings Salvation brings;  
Let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high;  
The virgin sings her lullaby.  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the Son of Mary!**

## Sermon

Luke 2:13-14

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly hosts 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.”

## “The Peace of Christmas!”

## Christmas Anthem

“Come and Worship”

*Colossians 3:16*

## Offering

## Prayer of the Church (Pastor/Congregation)

Let us pray to God our Father and worship Christ our Savior, everlasting God and Mary’s Son.

Heavenly Father, on Christmas night you sent the angels to preach the good news of Jesus’ birth. Give to your Church the peace of sins forgiven and your continued grace and favor. Fill us with joy that we may take the news of the Savior’s birth into every nation, land, city, and home. Oh, come, let us adore Him,

**Christ the Lord!**

Bless our country, all its citizens, and all who are in authority over us. Remember the homeless, the sick, and the suffering, and grant them hope and relief. Cause your glory to dwell among us, and let your mercy, truth, and justice prevail everywhere. Oh, come, let us adore Him,

**Christ the Lord!**

We thank you for the joys of family and friends this Christmas season. In the birth of your Son, you have clothed us with eternal life. This evening, may our voices unite in thanksgiving for the precious gift of faith, and the certainty of the everlasting life to come. Oh, come, let us adore Him,

**Christ the Lord!**

For all these things, we ask you to hear us gracious Father, through Jesus Christ our Savior, whom together with the Holy Spirit we praise, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Hymn 68 v 3

*Congregation Sings*

“Away In A Manger”

**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 take us to heaven to live with you there.**

## Blessing

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



# Silent Night! Holy Night

*We light each other's candles off of the one Christ candle. This represents our fellowship with Jesus, the Light of the World, and with each other.*

Stille Nacht, heilige nacht, Alles schlaeft, einsam wacht  
Nur das traute hoch-heilige Paar Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar;  
Schlaf in himmlische Ruh', Schlaf in himmlische Ruh'!

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.

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*The special Christmas Eve bulletin covers are given to the glory of our Savior by  
Sherman Williams in loving memory of his wife, Crystal.*

## The poinsettias in the sanctuary and narthex are given to the glory of God by:



- Gary and Addie Jackson in memory of Carey Jean Jackson
- Marilyn Abbey in memory of Ed Abbey
- Marilyn Abbey in memory of Erwin and Ethel Klatt
- Jim and Marcia Pflum in memory of Rich Eckert
- Jim and Marcia Pflum in memory of Charles Pflum
- Larry and Lou Lohse in memory of Lawrence and Georgia Lohse
- Jean Colla in memory of her son Michael J. Colla
- The Dale Lubeck family in memory of Edward Georg
- The Dale Lubeck family in memory of Roy Meyer
- Dick and Beverly Putz family in memory of Lloyd Putz, and Cliff and Joyce Becker
- Jean and Tom Hanewall in memory of her mother Lorene Oldenburg
- Tim, JoAnn and Ashlee Kent in memory of Mary and Donald Giese
- Dewane and Mary Scheidt in memory of Jolene Scheidt, and Laurence Leo Egbert
- Don Habeck in memory of David and Lorraine Habeck
- Don and Vonni Dunn in memory of Bill and Mary Lou Vilski
- Jan Westphal and family in memory of David Westphal
- Barb Barton and Joanne Vetter in memory of Lyle and Audrey Dilts
- Barb Barton and Joanne Vetter in memory of Brenda Barton
- Lyle Gorske family in memory of Beatrice Gorske
- Their children in memory of John and Mary Trewin
- The Fell family in memory of Douglas Fell
- The Tamm family in memory of Wendy Tamm

- Phil and Carolyn Kramer in memory of daughter Michele, and mother Gertrude Krueger
- Karla Lockwood in memory of parents John and Barb Pitzlin
- Harry R. Rapp in memory of son Todd, and past and present veterans
- Dave Oelke in memory of his mother and father
- The family of Mark Krewald in memory of Mark Krewald
- John and Julie Shafer in memory of Tom Kemnitz
- John and Julie Shafer in memory of John Shafer Sr.
- Mark and Betty Orvis in memory of Edna Orvis, and Lucille and Joseph Grailer
- Jon, Barb, Scott and Stephanie Kramer in memory of Victor and Delores Kleist
- The Joy and Brian Schwark family in memory of David and Bonny Zarbock
- The Brian and Joy Schwark family in memory of Barbara Schwark
- Kylie Baxter in memory of Michael Baxter
- The Fisher family in memory of Mel Pipping
- The Fisher family in memory of Ian Schoeneberg
- Nathan Butzke in memory of Kaytie Butzke

