

*Bethlehem Lutheran Church—William Penn
Founded 1860—Lutheran Church Missouri Synod*

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

**DECEMBER 24, 2025
6:30 PM**



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Michael Schroeder
Shane Schroeder
Trenton Schwartz

Organist

Ann Sommer

Children's Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 2025 – 6:30 PM



EVERY HEART PREPARE

Pre-Service Music

Ringing of the Church Bell

† PREPARATION †

ENTRANCE HYMN – CONGREGATION

O Come, All Ye Faithful

LSB 379

Musical notation for the first line of the hymn, featuring a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes.

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;

Musical notation for the second line of the hymn, featuring a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes.

come ye, O come____ ye to Beth - le - hem;
Born of a vir - - gin, a mor - tal He comes;
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
Je - sus, to Thee____ be____ glo - - ry giv'n!

Musical notation for the third line of the hymn, featuring a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes.

Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God____ In____ the____ high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

Refrain

Musical notation for the fourth line of the hymn, featuring a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes.

O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,

Musical notation for the fifth line of the hymn, featuring a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes.

O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

Text: tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–80, alt. Text and tune: John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786. Text and tune: Public domain

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the **†** Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

LSB 354:1

P Arise, O Christian people! Prepare yourselves today;
C **Prepare to greet the Savior, Who takes your sins away.**
P To us by grace alone
C **The truth and light were given;**
P The promised Lord from heaven
C **To all the world is shown.**

CHRISTMAS MEDITATION

OFFERING

THE MESSAGE PRESENTED BY THE CHILDREN

† EVERGREENS †

Wyatt S: Around this time of year, we begin to see signs that Christmas is coming! Christmas trees are decorated, and wreaths are hung. Nativities are set up, and lights are strung. Gifts are wrapped, and carols are sung! Today, we look at some of these “decoration preparations” to see how they prepare us for Christmas – and for the coming of our Savior, Jesus!

Connor: We call the four weeks before Christmas *Advent*, which means “coming”. During the Advent season, we prepare for Jesus’ first coming as a baby in the manger. But we also look forward to His second coming, when Jesus will return in glory and take all believers to live with Him forever.

Norman K: From Christmas trees to garlands to wreaths, evergreens are some of the first Christmas decorations we see in Advent. The green color of evergreens signifies life. It reminds us that Jesus came to restore the eternal life that had been lost when sin came into the world. When Adam and Eve sinned, death came into the world. But our loving God promised to send a Savior who would defeat death and give us new life in Him.

Hannah: God's people waited thousands of years for the Savior. At just the right time in history, the angel Gabriel came to Mary to announce that the Savior was finally coming. The Savior would come as a baby, carried and born by her. We hear from Luke 1:30-33 "The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to Him the throne of His father David, and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.'"

ACTION RHYME

Mary saw an angel.
First she was afraid.
Then she listened carefully.
This is what he said:

"You will have a baby,
Jesus, God's own Son.
He will be the Savior
Sent for everyone."

Mary then was happy,
Are you happy too?
God, you see, sent Jesus
Down to earth for you.



CHILDREN'S SONG

“LITTLE BABY JESUS”

Little baby Jesus,
In your mother's arms;
Rocked to sleep so gently,
Safe from harm.

Little baby Jesus,
Mary's little one;
Sleeping in a stable,
God's own son.

Little baby Jesus,
You came from above;
Came to earth to save me,
All for love.

Text: kaelyn marrs. © 2015 concordia publishing house



HYMN – CONGREGATION

O Little Town of Bethlehem

LSB 361



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is giv'n!
 4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;
 While mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won-d'ring love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of His heav'n.
 Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.
 O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear His com - ing; But in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.
 And prais - es sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!
 Where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–93. Tune: Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908. Text and tune: Public domain



† CHRISTMAS LIGHTS †

Whitley: Colorful, twinkling Christmas lights are a sure sign that Christmas is coming! We put lights on our houses and on our Christmas trees.

Lily K: We place electric candles in our windows and light the candles on the Advent wreath. These lights signify hope and joy during the dark days of winter.

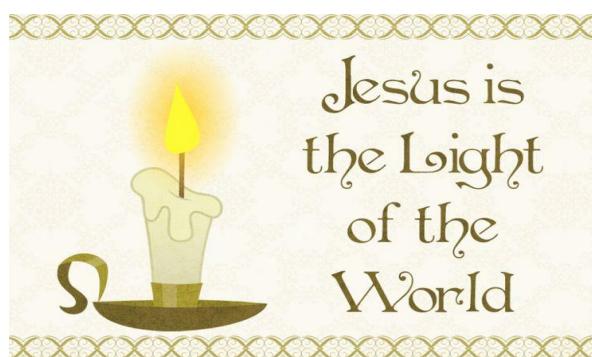
Tanner H: In the Bible, darkness symbolizes sin that separates us from God. The prophet Isaiah foretold that the Messiah would come to shine light into this dark world.

Tucker: We hear from Isaiah 9:2 “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.”

Lucas: Jesus is the light Isaiah prophesied about! The very beginning of the Gospel of John describes the light that Jesus brought into a dark world. We hear from John 1: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

Eli: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world” (vv. 1, 4-5, 9).

Henry A: The people that in darkness sat
A glorious light have seen;
The light has shined on them who long
In shades of death have been.



HYMN – CONGREGATION

What Child Is This

LSB 370

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is
 2 Why lies He in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are
 3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to

sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While
 feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The
 own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let

shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is
 si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall
 lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the

Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
 pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
 song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;

Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98 Tune: English, 16th cent. Text and tune: Public domain



† CRECHE †

Taylor N: There is one Christmas decoration that is very clearly Christian: the crèche. *Crèche* comes from the Latin word for “cradle” or “crib,” referring to Jesus’ “crib,” the manger! A crèche is a model of the nativity scene, and it tells the true story of Christmas. Figures of Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus are set in a stable, often with shepherds and animals looking on. The crèche reminds us that Jesus’ birth was a real, historical event! God came down from heaven to live as one of us. Jesus is Immanuel, God with us!

Michael H: The birth of Jesus Christ from Luke 2: “In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths and laid Him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn” (vv. 1–7).



CHILDREN'S SONG

Away in a Manger

LSB 364

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask Thee to stay

The lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet head.
 But lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing He makes.
 Close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.

The stars in the sky _____ looked down where He lay,
 I love Thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,
 Bless all the dear chil - dren in Thy ten - der care,

The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
 And stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
 And take us to heav - en to live with Thee there.

Text (sts. 1–2): Little Children's Book, 1885, Philadelphia; (st. 3): Vineyard Songs, 1892, Louisville, alt. Tune: James R. Murray, 1841–1905
 Text and tune: Public domain

† CHRISTMAS CAROLS †

Kinsley: Turn on the radio or walk into any store during Advent and you will hear them: Christmas carols! Singing Christmas carols is a beautiful way to prepare our hearts for Christmas.

Taylor H: These carols invite us to sing with the angels, proclaiming good news of great joy—a Savior has been born to us! We hear the Christmas story continued from Luke 2:

Dillon: “And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them,

Winston: ‘Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths 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, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!’” (vv. 2:8–14).

Wyatt: “When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.’ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

Norman: And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them” (Luke 2:15–20).

Amelia: Come, your hearts and voices raising,
Christ the Lord with gladness praising;
Loudly sing His love amazing,
Worthy folk of Christendom.



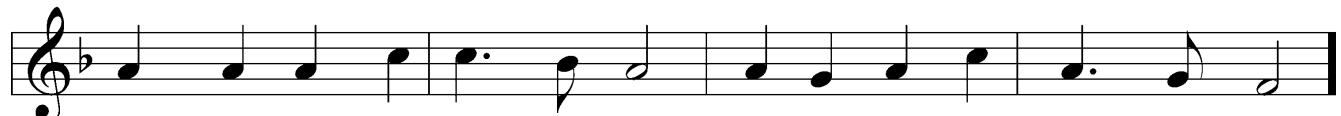
CONGREGATION & CHILDREN SONG – Congregation joins after first verse

Angels We Have Heard on High

LSB 368



1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing-ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro-long?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;



And the moun-tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain



Glo - - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -



- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - - - o.

Text: tr. The Crown of Jesus, 1862, Part 2, London, alt.. Text and tune: French. Text and tune: Public domain



† GIFTS †

Haleigh: We know Christmas is getting close when gifts start appearing under the tree! Giving gifts is one way we show friends and family that we love and care about them. But all our gifts in fancy wrapping paper seem like nothing compared to the real gift of Christmas—Jesus! God the Father gave us the gifts of forgiveness and eternal life when He sent His Son, Jesus, to earth on that first Christmas night. Jesus came to earth because of His great love for us and all people. The gift of Jesus the Savior is for everyone, for the whole world! God showed His desire for all to be saved when He placed a star in the heavens to guide Wise Men from the East to the Savior of the world. That special star guided the Wise Men to the place where Jesus was. Matthew writes, “The star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house they saw the child with Mary His mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh” (Matthew 2:9–11).

Soon, Christmas will be here! As we enjoy our Christmas decorations, we remember what they point to: the greatest gift ever given, Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world.

RECITATION

Group 4 (*LSB 361:3*)

How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming;
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

CONGREGATION & CHILDREN SONG

Joy to the World

LSB 387



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him
 ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 ground; He comes to make His bless - ings
 prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
 plains Re - peat the sound-ing joy, Re - peat the sound-ing
 flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
 ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

Public domain



APOSTLES' CREED

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life \ddagger everlasting. Amen.

RESPONSIVE READING

ADAPTED FROM LSB 354:4

P Prepare our hearts, Lord Jesus;
C turn not from us aside,
P and help us to receive You
C this blessed Adventtide.
P From stall and manger low come now to dwell within us;
C we'll sing Your praises gladly and forth Your glory show.

PRAYER

P Let us pray.
C Heavenly Father, thank You for sending Your Son to be our Savior.
You have given us the best gift of all: Christ Jesus, who came to earth so
that we might have life with You forever. In His name we pray. Amen.

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless and keep you as you celebrate the gift of Jesus, our Savior. The blessing of the Father, the \ddagger Son, and the Holy Spirit be with you today and every day.

C Amen.

HYMN

Silent Night, Holy Night

LSB 363

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

4
 all is bright Round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
 ein - sam wacht, Nur das trau - te hoch - hei - li - ge Paar
 at the sight; Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
 love's pure light Ra - diant beams from Thy ho - ly face,

7
 Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild,
 Hold - er Kna - be im lock - i - gen Haar,
 Heav'n - ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,

9
 Sleep in heav - en - ly peace,
 Schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh,
 Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 Je - sus, Lord at Thy birth

11
 Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 Schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh!
 Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 Je - sus, Lord at Thy birth.

Text: Franz Joseph Mohr; Tune: Franz Xaver Gruber – “Stille Nacht”