



# A SAVIOR IS BORN



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## Christmas Eve

*Theme: A Savior is born to  
change the world!*

**W**elcome! Thank you for joining us for worship today. In our services we gather before our almighty God to receive his gifts and to offer him our worship and praise. Through God's powerful Word and sacraments he renews our faith and strengthens us to serve in joy.

**PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP:** God almighty, you are worthy of every praise and glory. Thank you for your Christmas gifts of forgiveness and life in Jesus. Amen.

**OUR WORSHIP SERIES:** That first Christmas the angel told the shepherds, "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you." *Savior* is a heavy word. It says as much about us as it does about this child. If the angel had said "a teacher or a mentor has been born" it would mean that we have within us the potential to fix what's wrong. It would mean we just need a bit of help: a coach, a mentor, a source of inspiration. But the angel said, "A Savior has been born." Humanity doesn't need help - we need saving. At Christmas God sent more than a coach. He sent his only Son to be the Savior we need.

**SERVICE THEME:** Families cherish their Christmas traditions. Year after year, they decorate the tree with the same ornaments, play the same music, bake the same Christmas cookies. If you try to change your family's Christmas traditions, you just might pick a fight! When it comes to family Christmases, people generally don't like things to change.

Christmas traditions are wonderful. But make no mistake about it. Christmas is all about change. The Lord God came to change the world by becoming part of the world. Because we are part of the world, that means Christmas changes us too. This Christmas Eve, we see how.

### ***SERVING GOD, SERVING US:***

Preacher: Pastor Jake Schram

Worship Leader: Pastor Ryan Wolfe

Piano: Jessica Klatt, Lauren Shult

Choir & caroling director: Roger Zollman

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# Order of Worship



## LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE

### Christmas Eve - The Christ Candle

As we light the last Advent candle, we are reminded that Jesus is the “Lamp of God’s Glory.” *And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb.* – Rev 21:23

#### **RESPONSIVE READING** (Based on Advent Candle themes)

M: Jesus, be the light in our darkness. As we light the candle of hope,

**C: we pray for those feeling hopeless.**

M: As we light the candle of love,

**C: we pray for those who have never felt love and for those who struggle to love others.**

M: As we light the candle of joy,

**C: we pray for the heavy-hearted.**

M: As we light the candle of peace,

**C: we pray for all who suffer the consequences of war and for all victims of violence and abuse.**

M: The candle at the center reminds us that Jesus is the light in all darkness.

**C: Help us to reflect your glorious light into the darkest corners of our sin-filled world. Amen.**

M: “He will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.” (*Luke 1:16–17*)

**C: What John the Baptist did for Israel, Advent has done for us.**

M: We need a savior. “Search me, O God, and know my heart! Test me and know my anxious thoughts! See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!” (*Psalms 139:23-24*)

**C: Let every heart prepare him room.**

**Rejoice in the Lord always. Again, I say rejoice.**

**All: Come quickly, Lord Jesus. Come!**

## **Men's Chorus Anthem**

*Angels from the Realms of Glory*

Arr. by D. Forrest

Angels from the realms of glory wing your flight o'er all the earth.  
Ye who sang creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth.  
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King!

Shepherds in the field 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!

Sages, leave your contemplation, brighter visions beam afar.  
Seek the great Desire of Nations, ye have seen His natal star.  
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King!

All creation join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son.  
Ever more your voices raising to the eternal Three in One!  
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King!



## **Part 1: Christmas Promised**

### **Introduction to the Lessons**

#### **Scripture Reading**

*Isaiah 9:2, 6-7*

<sup>2</sup>The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

<sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>Of the greatness 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.

## Scripture Reading

Micah 5:2

<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.”



## Scripture Reading

Galatians 4:4–5

**M:** But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman,  
born under the law,

**C:** to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.

## Choir Anthem

See Amid the Winter's Snow

Arr. by D. Forrest

Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia.

See, amid the winter's snow, born for us on earth below.

See the tender Lamb appears, promised from eternal years.

Hail, thou ever blessed morn, Hail redemption's happy dawn,

Sing through all Jerusalem: "Christ is born in Bethlehem."

Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia.

Lo, with in a manger lies He who built the lofty skies,

He, who, throned in light sublime, sits amid the cherubim.

Hail thou ever blessed morn, Hail, redemption's happy dawn,

Sing throughout Jerusalem, "Christ is born in Bethlehem."

Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia.

Sacred infant, all divine, tender love was Thine,

Thus to come from highest bliss, down to such a world as this.

Hail thou ever blessed morn, Hail redemption's happy dawn,

Sing through all Jerusalem, "Christ is born in Bethlehem."

Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia.



## Part 2: Christmas Delivered

### Introduction to the Lessons

### Scripture Reading

Luke 2:1-7

<sup>1</sup>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 their 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 guest room available for them.

### Hymn: O Little Town of Bethlehem

CW 333

All sing verses 1 and 4. Women sing verse 2. Men sing verse 3.



- 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 ti - dings 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!

## Scripture Reading

Luke 2:8–14

<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 that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup>Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, 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 heaven,  
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”





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 ti - dings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.



Glo - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo -



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

**Scripture Reading**

Luke 2:15-20

<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.



See the weary pair, nestled in a stable bare,  
Gazing at their baby boy, filled with love and praise.  
Earth and heaven sing, worshiping the newborn King,  
Who has come to change the world. Join in songs to praise.

Holy, holy, holy is the blessed one.  
Heav'n and earth are filled with your glory.  
Holy, holy, holy is the promised Son.  
Glory be to God in the highest!

See the shepherds run, searching for God's precious Son;  
Kneeling at this manger bed, filled with love and praise.  
Ev'ry knee will bow. Ev'ry tongue confessing now.  
Jesus Christ is Lord of all. Join in songs of praise.

Holy, holy, holy is the blessed one.  
Heav'n and earth are filled with your glory.  
Holy, holy, holy is the promised Son.  
Glory be to God in the highest!  
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord.



## Part 3: Christmas Remembered

### ***Introduction to the Lesson***

### ***Scripture Reading***

*Titus 2:11–14*

<sup>11</sup>For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. <sup>12</sup>It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup>who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

# Hymn: All My Heart Again Rejoices

CW 329 sts. 1, 4-6



1 All my heart a - gain re - joic - es as I hear  
4 See the Lamb, our sin once tak - ing to the cross,  
5 Soft - ly from his low - ly man - ger Je - sus calls  
6 Come, then, ban - ish all your sad - ness! One and all,



far and near sweet - est an - gel voic - es.  
suf - f'ring loss, full a - tone - ment mak - ing.  
one and all, "You are safe from dan - ger.  
great and small, come with songs of glad - ness;



"Christ is born!" their choirs are sing - ing till the air  
For our life his own he ten - ders, and his grace  
Chil - dren, from the sins that grieve you you are freed;  
we shall live with him for - ev - er there on high



ev - 'ry - where now with joy is ring - ing.  
all our race fit for glo - ry ren - ders.  
all you need I will sure - ly give you."  
in that joy which will van - ish nev - er.

## Offering



Connect Card

Our members give offerings to support God's work in our church. Offerings can be put in the basket or made online by scanning the code. Visitors may give, but aren't expected to.

We ask members and visitors alike to fill out the connection card and place it in the basket now or as you leave. Please share your prayer requests that we can pray for you.



Give Online

Please stand.

## **Prayer of the Church**

- M: 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 holy night, receive our thanks and devotion, our songs and prayers.**
- M: 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 excluded from your upholding arms. No one is denied the comfort and help of your outstretched hand.
- C: Bless us with a childlike faith in the divine assurance that you love and care for us always.**
- M: You sent Jesus 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 was born under the law to set us free. He became the innocent lamb of sacrifice. He came to die and rise again in order 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 we have heard tonight.
- C: May all who hear the message, in every nation under heaven, be amazed and believe what is told them about the Child.**
- M: You sent Jesus as the Light of the world to drive out all darkness that would rob us of the full life that 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 that rests on us. May the treasure that Mary pondered in her heart be our treasure.
- C: For today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to us. He is Christ, the Lord. Amen.**

## **Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*



## **Lighting of the Christmas Candles**

*We light our individual candles at this time. The pastors light their candles from the white candle on the Advent wreath. This is the Christ candle, which symbolizes Christ, the Light of the world. The ushers light their candles from the pastors' candles, then light the candle of each worshiper nearest the aisle. In this way the light of Christ is shared with all who worship here tonight.*

*The lighted candle is never tilted, but is always held upright when giving light to another.*

## **Christmas Prayer**

**M:** 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 Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** **Amen.**

## **Christmas Blessing**

**M:** 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 the hope of eternal life.

The blessing of God Almighty – Father, Son †, and Holy Spirit – be upon you and remain with you always.

**C:** **Amen.**

## Hymn: *Silent Night, Holy Night* CW 337 sts. 1-3



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,  
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake  
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.  
at the sight. Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,  
love's pure light ra - dian't beams from thy ho - ly face



Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly  
heav'n - ly hosts— sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is  
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy



peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

## **Silent Prayer & Announcements**

*Candles may be extinguished at this time and returned to the ushers as you leave church. We leave worship tonight with the quiet joy of a promise kept. When we gather again tomorrow morning we will sing with full praise as the whole world rejoices in our Savior's birth.*

### **Service Acknowledgments**

Setting One from Christian Worship

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## *The Poinsettias on the altar are in Memory of...*

*Andrew Lochner*

*John & Jane Murray's Parents*

*Bernice Roth*

*Paul Roth*

*Connie Sweeny*

*Linda McKean*

*Hazel McKean*

*Andy McKean*

*Gerhardt, Pearl, & Baby Jane Wichelmann*

*Gene Wichelmann*

*Donald Roettger*

*Geraldine Roettger*

*Gary Campbell*

*Michael Miller*

*Janice Grobe*

*Lloyd Grobe*

*Verna & Franklin Gruetzmacher*

*Howard & Pearl Elder*

*David Richert*

*Charles & Amanda Dahlke*

*Victor Prescott*

*Knute Lewis*

*David Genter*

*Rose & Ervin Schwalich*

*Wayne Swanson*

*Robert & Delores Splieth*

*George & Adeline Light*

*Tracy Berdan*

*Ella Berdan*

*Kay Berdan*

*Linda Wohlers*

*Gib & Eulah Schmieckel*

*Harold, Carol, and Dickie Wohlers*

*Robert Golish*

*Genella Stubrud Jemelka*

*Harold & Mabel Zolldan*

*Leonard LeMay*

*Darrel Dreier*

*DeLora Dreier*

*Sue Galler*



*John & Arlene Cromien*

*Tom & Dorothy Gerson*





Good News!

THE **12** DAYS OF  CHRISTMAS 

We thank you for joining us this evening, and hope you can join us again sometime this holiday season. You are probably familiar with the song *The Twelve Days of Christmas*. It is aptly named. The early Christian church would celebrate Christmas for twelve days. The Season of Christmas begins on December 25th with the great Festival of the Nativity. On January 6th, the Festival of Epiphany brings the season of Christmas to an end.

**Sunday, December 25 at 10:00AM**

*A Savior is born to dwell among us*

In a celebratory service we ponder some of the most profound words in Scripture, teaching us the meaning of this baby in the manger. On Christmas day we marvel at the incarnation of Christ, the miracle of God taking on flesh to save mankind. Worship includes the celebration of Holy Communion for our members. All are invited to join us 15 minutes before the service to join in singing some of our favorite Christmas carols.

**Weekend of January 1st (Regular service times)**

*A Savior is born to be the true Son*

The angels sang to the shepherds a song of peace between God and men. The Son of God was born! In our service on this first Sunday after Christmas we remember that Jesus' perfect life as the true Son of God was lived so that we could be adopted into God's family ourselves. Praise our God of grace and love!

**Weekend of January 8th (Regular service times)**

*A Savior is born for all the nations*

The season of Christmas ends on January 6th, known as Epiphany, "the Gentile Christmas." On Sunday morning, January 8th we'll consider the way God guided the wise men to Jesus and made it clear that salvation in Jesus is for us Gentiles too.

# *Welcome to worship!*

## FOR OUR GUESTS

We are glad that you joined us to worship our Savior today. If you have questions about our church or service simply ask an usher or someone near you. We're happy to help. Please take note of a few helpful things:

- † **Restrooms** are located straight down the hall opposite the sanctuary entrance. Both men's and women's restrooms are equipped with **diaper changing tables** for your convenience.
- † Our sanctuary is equipped with an amplified "loop" system for **hearing assistance**. Please set hearing aids to the "T" position.
- † You will find a **connection card** in your pew. We ask members and guests to share their names and contact info, and invite you to share requests for contact or prayers.
- † Salem members give an **offering** to support the work we do for the Lord. Guests are not expected to give anything, but if you wish to make a donation you can place it in a basket at the entrance to the sanctuary or as it's passed during the service.

## FOR THOSE WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

We love to see families worship together and we welcome children to sing and pray and grow with us in our services. Please note these special worship aids and helps for families:

- † Children's bulletins & "*quiet bags*" for your child's use in worship are available in the entry, just to the left of the office hallway. Ask an usher if you need help finding them.
- † If your child needs to be nursed or quieted for a few moments you can use our "*cry room*" down the hallway across from the restrooms. The service is shown live on a TV in the room.
- † Sunday mornings, before the hymn of the day and sermon, children of all ages are invited to come to the front of church for a short devotion on God's Word. Parents may accompany their children as they wish.

Salem Lutheran Church exists to glorify God  
by teaching his timeless Truth, that all may  
grow in grace and faith to share tomorrow's eternity.

