

“I bring you
**GOOD
NEWS**

of *great joy*
for all people

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2022

Celebrating the Birth of Our Lord

Christmas Eve – December 24, 2022

2:30 p.m. & 4:30 p.m.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC AND A TIME FOR PRAYER

RINGING OF THE BELLS

OPENING CALL TO WORSHIP

O Come, All Ye Faithful

LSB 379

WELCOME

OUR BEGINNING IN JESUS

OPENING SENTENCES

L: In quiet joy, we gather this evening, this very special night.

C: **We gather to celebrate the gift of Jesus.**

L: We gather from our busy lives, our hurried routines, the loud noises of life,

C: **We gather in quiet joy as we await our Savior's birth.**

L: We bring our wearied bodies, our troubled hearts, and our restless souls in hope,

C: **We gather to receive the peace and rest Jesus brings.**

OUR CONFESSION OF SIN AND JESUS' FORGIVENESS

L: Brothers and sisters, as we gather this night in quiet joy, remembering and celebrating the gift of Jesus, we also recognize why Jesus came. Jesus came for us, to do what we are unable to do. He came to live the perfect life that we have failed to live, to die the death that we deserve, and to defeat the enemies that we are unable to defeat. We desperately need the forgiveness, life, and victory found in Jesus, and so let us go to God, seeking His forgiveness and His power to amend our sinful lives.

We pause for a moment of silent confession...

We confess together...

C: Lord Jesus, we have not loved You with our whole heart, and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have sinned against You and against one another by our thoughts, words, and deeds. Without Your help, we cannot change. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

L: Christ has come for us. He was born in order to suffer and to die in payment for our sin. Through His Cross, His death, and His resurrection, He grants forgiveness to all who confess His Name. And so, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

2:30 p.m. Choir Special

“The First Noel”

4:30 p.m. Handbell Choir

“Do You Hear What I Hear”

LISTENING TO GOD SPEAK TO US THROUGH HIS WORD

Old Testament

Isaiah 9:2–7

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 shone. ³ You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. ⁴ For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵ For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this. (ESV)

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

New Testament

Titus 2:11–14

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹² training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³ waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. (ESV)

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

2:30 p.m. – *Choir Special*

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

4:30 p.m. – *Handbell Choir*

“I Wonder as I Wander”

Holy Gospel

Matthew 1:18–25

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³ “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). ²⁴ When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: He took his wife, ²⁵ but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus. (ESV)

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

SERMON HYMN

Angels We Have Heard on High

LSB 368

SERMON

The Light Has Come
Pastor Adam Ray

OFFERING

SPECIAL MUSIC

2:30 p.m. – Kristin & Ted Hesse, Melissa Saurmann

“Light of The World”

4:30 p.m. – Amanda Ray

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

The Leader will conclude every prayer with: “Lord, in Your mercy...”

People respond with: “Hear our prayer.”

LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be 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.

CELEBRATION OF JESUS’ PRESENCE AS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

(Pastors will light the candles of ushers, who will light the candles of people sitting by the aisles. They in turn light those next to them, tipping unlit candles toward lit ones.)

2:30 p.m. - Trumpet Solo by Neal Smith

“O Holy Night”

4:30 p.m. (Sung while candles are lit)

What Child Is This

LSB 370

L: Those who walk in darkness have seen a great light.

C: **Jesus is the Light of the world, whoever walks in Him does not walk in darkness but has the Light of life.**

L: Just as light pierces into the darkness, so does Jesus, the Light, pierce through the darkness of our sin. Through the times of joy and the times of sorrow, Jesus is with us, giving us the light of His salvation that offers us hope and peace. Jesus is the light that the darkness can never overcome or snuff out.

May this light serve to remind us of Jesus, the Light of the world, who shines the light of His love in the darkness of our lives - forgiving us, strengthening us, and giving us hope.

C: **Amen.**

Carol Pelz.....Piano
Christine SmithOboe
Neal SmithTrumpet

Merry Christmas
Christmas Service at 9:30 a.m. with
Communion

Poinsettias In Memory of

Lois Garrett

In Memory of Don Garrett

Jenette Heideman

*In Memory of Arthur & Ella Heidemann,
Dewayne Heidemann
John & Helena Backhus,
Herman & Minnie Heidemann*

Janis Karasch

*In Memory of Adam & Augusta Yobski
Fred & Margaret Karasch
Bill Karasch*

The Family

In Memory of Kenny & Sue Lake

Gavin & Carolyn Marquis

*In Memory of Parents, John & Frieda Sendzik,
Brother, Dan Sendzik*

Jerome & Carol Pelz

*In Memory of Carl & Kathryn Brink
Curtis & Georgia Ann Pelz*

Saurmann Family

In Memory of Frederick R. Saurmann III

Gary & Vicki Schwartzle

*In Memory of Paul & Amelia Ponewash
Dale & Eleanor Schwartzle*

Shirley Taylor

In Memory of Larry Taylor

The Family

In Memory of Cheri Trimmer

Dave Vanskike

In Memory of Parents & Grandparents

*Judy Voelker,
Julie & Tony Cox*

*In Memory of Leonard, Margaret, Michael, John Tanzyus;
Brian Puckett; Jerry, Phil, Hilda & Ed Voelker*

Denny & Marsha Ward

In Memory of Chad Ward

Larry & LuAnne Westbrook

In Memory of James Swartz, Phyllis Boland, Greg Walsh

Joan Wyant

In Memory of John Wyant & Loved Ones