

C E L E B R A T E

Christmas



**Christmas Day Service
December 25, 2024
Arlington Hills Lutheran Church**

**Thank you to staff and volunteers for the
Pre-recording of this Christmas Day Service.**

**It will be uploaded to our Website page on
Christmas Day.**

Wednesday, December 25, 2024

Nativity of Our Lord : Christmas Day

Introduction

As on the first day of creation, on this Christmas Day the Word illumines the world, shining forth to bring all things into being. Today we celebrate the incarnate Word, God becoming flesh to live among us in the person of Jesus Christ then and now. Emboldened by the good news of Christ's birth, along with the shepherds, Mary and Joseph, and all witnesses to the light of Christ, we declare to the world that we have indeed seen and been transformed by the arrival of "the salvation of our God." O come, let us adore!

Prelude

"The Christmas Angels"

Mark Adams-Westin

Welcome and Invocation

Confessions and Forgiveness

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism,
as the presiding minister begins.*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting.

All: **Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God-with-us,

All: we confess that we have turned away those seeking shelter, claiming there is no room when we have plenty. We have made power and wealth our idols, while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger. We have overlooked the shepherds, expecting good news in prettier packaging. Too often, we have valued violence instead of your peace. Turn us from our ways to your ways. Grant us the grace to begin again. Free us from all that keeps us bound, and forgive our sin, through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us. Amen.

Carol

“Good Christian Friends Rejoice:

ELW #288

All verses

1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi-ce with heart and soul and voice;
 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi-ce with heart and soul and voice;
 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi-ce with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.
 He has o - pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866
 Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German carol, 14th cent.; arr. Robert L. Pearsall, 1795–1856

Greeting

P: Alleluia. A holy day has dawned upon us. Come, you nations, and adore the Lord. For today a great light has come upon the earth.

All: **Alleluia**

Prayer of the Day

P: All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: **Amen.**

1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
 2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,
 3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
 4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,

from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
 and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.
 who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:
 when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,

“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king.”
 A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,
 look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,

The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
 and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
 oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!
 and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810-1876
 Music: CAROL, Richard S. Willis, 1819-1900

The prophet invites the people to give God no rest until God re-establishes Jerusalem. In turn, they will receive names full of promise: The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD, A City Not Forsaken.

⁶ Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the LORD, take no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth.

⁸ The LORD has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have labored; ⁹ but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the LORD, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts.

¹⁰ Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples. ¹¹ The LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, “See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.”

¹² They shall be called, “The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD”; and you shall be called, “Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken.”

Second Reading**Titus 3:4-7**

God saves us not because of what we do. Rather, God is a God of mercy and salvation who graciously cleanses us in baptism and renews our lives through the Holy Spirit.

⁴ When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. ⁶ This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

AM: Word of God, Word of Life

All: Thanks be to God.



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the
 2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -
 3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;
 sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;
 last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to
 what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the
 Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
 name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.
 gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950

Music: UN FLAMBEAU, F. Seguin, *Recueil de noëls composés en langue provençale*, 1856

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P: The gospel according to Luke the 2nd Chapter
All: **Glory to you O Lord.**

Gospel: Luke2: 1-20

The world's deep night is shattered by the light of God's new day. The glory of God is revealed to poor shepherds, who share the good news with others.

¹ In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P: The gospel of our Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon

Bet on the Baby

Pastor Mitch Kinsinger

Carol

“The First Noel”

ELW #300

Verses 1, 2 & 4



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
2 They look - ed up and saw . . a star shin - ing
4 This star drew near to the . . north - west, o'er . .



cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
in . . . the east . . be - yond . . them far; and to the
Beth - le - hem . . it took . . its rest; and there it



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
earth it gave . . . great light, and . . so it con -
did both stop . . . and stay right . . o - ver the

Refrain

night that was so deep.
tin-ued both day and night.
place where Je - sus lay. No - el, No -

el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Text: English traditional
Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional; arr. John Stainer, 1840-1901

Prayers of Intercession

AM: *Each prayer will end with: God of Grace,*

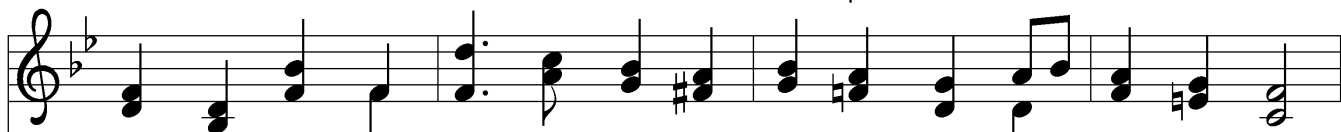
All: Receive our prayer.



All Verses



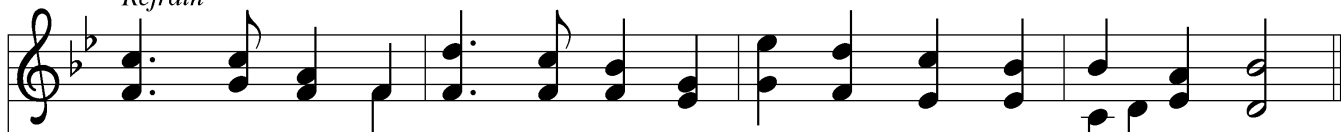
1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
 2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
 seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
 ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.



Refrain



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.



Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4
 Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

Blessing

P: The God of love, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, lavish you with grace, illumine your path, and increase your joy, today and always.

All: Amen.

Postlude

“Got A Candle In My Window”

Mark Adams-Westin

Dismissal

P: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Leading Worship Today

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Mitch Kinsinger

Intern: Bethany Ketchem

Music: Amy and Adams

Assisting Minister: Barbara Rossow

Recording Producer: Silvester Vicic

Just a reminder that the church office will be closed

December 25-December 29th. If you need to reach staff during that time, please call Mary Kowitz at 651-242-0538 or 651-653-1530 and she will help you. The office will also be closed on December 31st and January 1st.

PLEASE PRAY THIS WEEK FOR AHLC MEMBERS AND FRIENDS:

Dean Anderson, Marjorie Anderson, Sven Anderson, Sharon Anderson, Dave Balfanz, Pamela Boldt, Carol Brockway, Linda Brockway, Carolyn Brusseau, Jerry Ekblad, Richard Edge, Jan and Wayne Frankenberg, Esther Hallgren, Adeline Hansen, Jim Jaszczak, Velta Krauze, John Lind, Gene Linderkamp, Marilyn Nelson, Priscilla Reeve, Betty Richter, Marnie Rose, Betty Swanson, Ken Wagner, Gary Winter, and MaryAnn Wistrom.

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice,
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today,
Ox and ass beside him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice,
Now ye hear of endless bliss, Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice,
Now ye need not fear the grave, Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

It Came Upon The Midnight Clear

ELW# 282

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold.
“Peace on the earth, goodwill to all, from Heaven’s all gracious
King”,
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings
unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats o’er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing,
And ever over its babel sounds, the blessed angels sing.

And you, beneath life’s crushing load, whose forms are bending
low,
Who toil along the climbing way, with painful steps and slow.
Look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing,
Oh, rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing!

For lo! The days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,
When with the ever circling years shall come the time foretold,
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
And all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.

Love Has Come

ELW# 292

Love has come – a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it,
Hear how the song of joy arises:

Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior,
Love! Love! Glory to God on High.

Love is born! Come, share in the wonder,
Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of his mother,
What is the name her heart is saying?

Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers,
Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.

Love has come and never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us,
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.

Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas,
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

The First Noel

ELW# 300

The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in
fields as they lay,
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's
night that was so deep.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

They look-ed up and saw a star shining in the East beyond them
far,
And to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day
and night.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

This star drew near to the northwest, o'er Bethlehem it took its
rest,
And there it did both stop and stay right over the place where
Jesus lay.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth,
Once you 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 contemplations, brighter visions beam afar,
Seek the great desire of nations, you 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,
Evermore your voices raising to the-eternal Three in one.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the
newborn king!
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the
newborn king!



Christmas Memorial Garden 2024

In Memory of:

Loved ones by DeAnne & Robert Nelson, Amy and Mark Adams-Westin

Jeanne Soban from her loved ones.

Loved ones from Tom and Kathy Brackey

Kevin Brockway and Anita Galvin from Tom and Linda Brockway

Jerry, Gary and Kevin Brockway from the Brockway Family

Loved Ones from Carol Hansen

Father Kenneth A. Hansen from Wayne K. Hansen

Hal and Melva Helgason from Jon and Karen Helgason

Loved Ones from Cheryl Hollman

Our Parents and Siblings from Paul and Mary Kowitz

David Warren Wieken and Charles Larsen from Roxanne Larsen

Our parents/grandparents Mickey and Les Nelson from Lopez and Christensen families

Douglas Robertson, Gladys and John Robertson from Valerie Robertson-Osmundson

Our Parents and Siblings from Charle & Elaine Rohrbach

Lorraine & Robert Nyberg and Lorraine Schreiber from Shreiber, Nyberg and Hubbell Family

Jerry Schaber from loved ones.

Parents Robert and Phyliss Schmidt; Andrew Persoon from Jim Persoon and
Barbara Schmidt Persoon

Our parents Richard and Marjorie Springer from David and Mary Springer

Husband John Stickler, Parent Gladys and Russell Anderson from Beverly Stickler

Loving Memory of our daughter Jenny Wagner from Ken and Kate Wagner

In Honor of:

Children and Grandchildren from Tom and Kathy Brackey

My son and grandson from Carol Hansen

Children, Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren from Cheryl Hollman

Our Children and Grandchildren from Paul and Mary Kowitz

My son Kenneth and his wife, Kim Wieken and my Grandsons and Great Grandchildren
from Roxanne Larsen.

Our Children and their families from Elaine and Charles Rorhbach

Mother Victoria Persoon from Jim Persoon and Barbara Schmidt