

Be Born In Us Today Bringing Light

A Service for Christmas Eve

Order of Service

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:11

Opening Hymn ... Joy to the World LSB #387

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, Rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love, And wonders, wonders of his love.

Invocation and Lighting of the Advent Wreath

P In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

(The three blue or purple candles, the pink or rose candle and the Christ candle are lit.)

P On this holy night, we light the Christ candle on the Advent wreath as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Light of the world. The apostle John writes, "In him was life and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:4-5).

C Holy Child of Bethlehem, be born in us today. Fill our lives with your life and light.

P Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12).

C Holy Child of Bethlehem, be born in us today. Help us by your Spirit to reflect your light and love in our lives.

Confession and Absolution

P Let us confess our sins to God and ask his forgiveness.

C Almighty God, we live in the light of our Savior, but we are still tempted by the darkness of sin. We follow our selfish desires. We turn from your Word to listen to the temptations of the world. We fail to love others as we should because we do not let Jesus' light shine through our lives. Have mercy on us. Forgive our sins and turn our hearts and minds to the light of Jesus.

P God has had mercy on us. By his death and resurrection, Jesus, the Light of the world, has overcome the darkness of sin, death and Satan. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

C Lord, lead us to live as children of light!

Prayer of the Day

Hymn ... From Heaven Above to Earth I Come LSB #358

"From heav'n above to earth I come To bear good news to ev'ry home;
Glad tidings of great joy I bring, Whereof I now will say and sing:

"To you this night is born a child Of Mary chosen virgin mild;
This little child of lowly birth Shall be the joy of all the earth.

"This is the Christ, our God Most High, Who hears your sad and bitter cry;
He will himself your Savior be From all your sins to set you free."

Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child, Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
A quiet chamber set apart For you to dwell within my heart.

My heart for very joy must leap; My lips no more can silence keep.
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue That sweetest ancient cradlesong:

Glory to God in highest heav'n, Who unto us his Son has giv'n!
While angels sing with pious mirth A glad new year to all the earth.

Old Testament Reading ... Genesis 15:1-6

Epistle Reading ... 2 Corinthians 4:1-6

Gospel Reading ... Luke 2:1-7

Hymn ... O Little Town of Bethlehem LSB #361

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth.
And praises sing to God the king and peace to all the earth.

Gospel Reading ... Luke 2:8-14

Hymn ... Angels We Have Heard on High LSB #368

Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherd, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heav'nly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Gospel Reading ... Luke 2:15-20

Sermon Hymn ... Gentle Mary Laid Her Child LSB #374

Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;
There he lay, the Undefined, to the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place, can he be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race who have found his favor.

Angels sang about his birth, wise men sought and found him.
Heaven's star shone brightly forth glory all around him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, heard the angels singing;
All the plains were lit that night, all the hills were ringing.

Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;
He is still the undefiled but no more a stranger.
Son of God of humble birth, beautiful the story;
Praise his name in all the earth; hail the King of glory!

Sermon

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 everlasting. Amen.

Offering - Prayers

P Lord and Savior, through your birth in Bethlehem, through your life, death and resurrection, you brought the light of hope to the world. Comfort those who are suffering through illness or grief. According to your will, bring them healing and hope through the promises of your Word. Jesus, Light of the world,

C Shine in us and through us. Teach us according to the wisdom of your Word and lead us by the Holy Spirit to reflect the light of your forgiveness and love.

P Lord and Savior, Word made flesh, you are the Light no darkness can overcome. By your death and resurrection, you overcame the darkness of sin, death and the devil. You have brought us life and light, now and for all eternity. Jesus, Light of the world,

C Shine in us and through us. Help us to be bold witnesses for you, so that others will come to trust in you for salvation and live in the light of your love.

P Lord and Savior, through Baptism we were created anew as children of light, delivered from the domain of darkness and brought into your kingdom. Jesus, Light of the world,

C Shine in us and through us. Lead us to walk in love and to serve others in your name.

P Lord and Savior, Light of the world, hear our prayers and accept our praise.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Candle Lighting Hymn ... Silent Night LSB #363

(Note: As the ushers go down the center aisle of the main sanctuary and one end of the rows in the overflow they will start the row of candles. Members and guests are encouraged to finish the row. During this time we will also have the lighting of the Cross. Once all candles are lit we will then sing.)

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.

Benediction

P "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

C "And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

P And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

C "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" (Luke 2:11-14).

P "Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thessalonians 5:23).

C Amen.

Closing Hymn ... Once in Royal David's City LSB #376

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven, who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
With the poor and mean and lowly lived on earth our Savior holy.

For He is our childhood's pattern, Day by day like us He grew;
He was little, weak, and helpless, Tears and smiles like us He knew;
And He feels for all our Sadness, And He shares in all our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His own redeeming love;
For that child so dear and gentle Is our Lord in heav'n above;
And He leads His children on To the place where He is gone.