

Christmas Eve Vespers



Our Savior Lutheran Church
Westminster, MA

Gloria in Excelsis Deo! Christus Natus Est!

The liturgy is spoken.

Offerings may be placed in the wooden box at the back as you enter the sanctuary.

HYMN – TUNE: TLH 90 – TEXT: LSB 375, STS. 1–2, 4, 6

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| <p>1 Come, your hearts and voices raising,
Christ the Lord with gladness praising;
Loudly sing His love amazing,
Worthy folk of Christendom.</p> <p>2 Christ, from heav'n to us descending
And in love our race befriending;
In our need His help extending,
Saved us from the wily foe.</p> | <p>3 From the bondage that oppressed us,
From sin's fetters that possessed us,
From the grief that sore distressed us,
We, the captives, now are free.</p> <p>4 Gracious Child, we pray, O hear us,
From Your lowly manger cheer us,
Gently lead us and be near us
Till we join Your choir above.</p> |
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THE INCARNATION PROCLAIMED BY ST. JOHN

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only-begotten Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. No one has ever seen God; the only-begotten God, who is at the Father's side, He has made Him known.

God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, so that whoever believes in Him may not perish but have everlasting life.

John 1:1–4, 10–12, 14, 18; 3:16

O Lord, open Thou my lips
And my mouth shall show forth Thy praise.

Psalm 51:15

Make haste, O God, to deliver me.

Psalm 70:1

Make haste to help me, O Lord.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

The Prophecy through Isaiah

HYMN – TUNE: TLH 62 – TEXT: LSB 357, STS. 1–2, 6

- 1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
- Refrain* Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!
- 2 O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
Who ord’rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go.
Refrain
- 3 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death’s dark shadows put to flight.
Refrain

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The Angel Appears to Joseph

THE PSALMODY

Psalm 110; antiphon: v. 2a

The LORD sends forth from Zion Your mighty scepter.

*The LORD says to my Lord: “Sit at My right hand,
until I make your enemies your footstool.”*

The LORD sends forth from Zion Your mighty scepter.

Rule in the midst of Your enemies!

*Your people will offer themselves freely on the day of Your power, in holy garments;
from the womb of the morning, the dew of Your youth will be Yours.*

The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind,

“You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.”

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

The LORD sends forth from Zion Your mighty scepter.

The Child Is Born

- 1 Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming as prophets long have sung,
It came, a flow'ret bright,
Amid the cold of winter, when half-spent was the night.
- 2 Isaiah 'twas foretold It, the Rose I have in mind;
With Mary we behold It, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright,
She bore to us a Savior, when half-spent was the night.
- 3 This Flow'r, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor the darkness ev'rywhere.
True man, yet very God,
From sin and death He saves us and lightens ev'ry load.
- 4 O Savior, child of Mary, who felt our human woe;
O Savior, King of glory, who dost our weakness know:
Bring us at length we pray
To the bright courts of heaven, and to the endless day.

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The Shepherds Hear the Good News

- 1 Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"
- 2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, hail th'incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"
- 3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

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The Sermon

THE APOSTLES' CREED: THE SECOND ARTICLE AND ITS MEANING

I believe 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 that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood, and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own, and live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

HYMN – TUNE: TLH 647 – TEXT: LSB 361

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| <p>1 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.</p> | <p>2 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!</p> |
| <p>3 O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel!</p> | |

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THE KYRIE

Mark 10:47

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Prayer for Christmas Eve

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

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.

THE COLLECT FOR PEACE

Let us pray. O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE BENEDICAMUS

[Psalm 103:1]

*Bless we the Lord
Thanks be to God.*

THE BENEDICTION

2 Corinthians 13:14

*The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God
and the communion of the Holy Ghost be with you all.
Amen.*

SUNG A CAPPELLA AFTER ORGAN INTRODUCTION

- 1 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.**
- 2 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!**
- 3 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.**

Preacher: Rev Peter F. Gregory
Organist: Anne Bennet

Christmas Day Communion 11:00 am

Merry Christmas, visitor. You are very welcome here.

Contact us with questions or prayer requests

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