

ADVENT EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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CHRISTMAS EVE 7:00 PM December 24, 2021
**CANDLELIGHT SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS
WITH HOLY COMMUNION**

Greetings and Announcements

* Invocation

* Confession and Forgiveness

C: God, wonderful counselor, we confess that we have turned from your gifts and chosen our own way. We have not made room for you in our hearts or in our world. We have lived in fear; we have not welcomed the stranger; we desire gifts that will not endure. Forgive us our sins, known and unknown, and open us to receive the peach of Jesus dwelling in and among us. Amen.

P: God's loving kindness has appeared to us in Christ our Savior. We are saved, not by anything we have done, but by God's mercy poured out on us richly. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Through the Spirit living in you, God give you faith to trust Jesus, who is Love born for you, now and always **C: Amen**

* Carol "Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful" LBW # 45

* P: Blessed are you, O Christ, Son of God,
you were before time began
and came into the world to save us,
Blessed are you, Son of righteousness,
you shine with the Father's love
and illuminate the whole universe
Blessed are you, Son of Mary,
born a child, you shared our humanity.

* **C: Let heaven and earth shout their praise.**

* Carol "Joy to the World" LBW #39

* Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Share the joy of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

* **CONGREGATION STANDS**

WORSHIP NOTE

During the Candlelighting ceremony parents are asked to refrain from letting children hold the lighted candle.

A CHRISTMAS GREETING

Greetings to all who join with us this evening to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus. May you and your family have a very blessed Christmas. We cordially welcome all visitors and ask that you please sign our Guest Book in the Narthex after the service. Please come and worship with us again.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar Flowers are presented by the Hoffman Family in celebration of the birth of the Christ Child in our midst.

SERVING OUR LORD IN WORSHIP

Worship Leader

Pastor Matthew E. Ollikainen

Music Director

Michael Dettra

Worship Assistant

Jennifer McQuiggan

Guest Musicians

Adam Hershberger - Trumpet

Michael Mc Garry - Bass

CHRISTMAS EVE

9:00 p.m. CANDLELIGHT SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

CHRISTMAS I SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

9:30 a.m. Lessons and Carols Service

No Holy Communion

10:45 a.m. Fellowship Time

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh. Holy God, bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks; He broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sin. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

* 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.**

* Invitation to Communion – The gifts of God, for the people of God!

* Prayer after Communion

P: God of wonder, in Jesus we behold the light of the world come near. As you have come among us now, send us out in joy, hastening to share the good news of your love. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit dwelling among us now and forever. **C: Amen**

* Blessing

P: God the Creator who delights in you,
Jesus the Savior who is born for you,
And the lifegiving Spirit who shines on you,
† bless you and keep you in hope and peace.

C: Amen.

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* P: Blessed are you, Son of David, born to rule,
you received gifts from the Wise Men.
Blessed are you, Son of man, baptized by John,
you save us from ourselves.
Blessed are you, heavenly King,
teaching and preaching
healing and comforting,
you proclaimed the Kingdom.

* **C: Let heaven and earth shout their praise.**

* P: With all the voices of heaven we celebrate the coming of our Savior.

* **C: Let heaven and earth shout their praise.**

* P: With all the creatures on earth we sing and dance at his birth.

* **C: Praise and honor and glory to You, O Lord most high.**

* P: We rejoice in your coming, O Lord.

We remember your baptism and your life as servant of all and once more we seal our unity in the faith.

* **C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

* P: Let us Pray...Almighty God, you made this Holy Night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of His Glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

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“Come Join the Angels” Choir

The First Lesson ISAIAH 9:2-7
 Carol "Angels We Have Heard on High" LBW # 71

The Second Lesson ST. LUKE 2:1-7
 Carol "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" (vs. 1 & 4) LBW # 54

The Third Lesson ST. LUKE 2:8-14
 Carol "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" LBW # 60

The Fourth Lesson ST. LUKE 2:15-20
 Carol "O Little Town of Bethlehem" LBW # 41

Sermon

* Carol “Away in a Manger” LBW # 67

* Candlelighting Ceremony
 P: Arise, shine; for your light has come and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. Jesus said, "I am the Light of the World; he who follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." "You are the light of the world... Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in Heaven."
(Light is distributed to the Congregation)

* The Prayers
 P: God of Love, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, you were merciful to those who walked in darkness and despair, receive then the prayers we offer today for the peace of the world and the salvation of all men. Remember your church in all the world, give wisdom and courage to our pastors and to all the leaders of your people, bless the Christians of all lands and give them your peace.
C: Lord, be gracious to us all.
 P: You are a God of peace. Let peace reign all over the earth, heal the wounds of pride and arrogance, clear the vision of those blinded by greed, and let men everywhere know your word of love in Jesus Christ. **C: Lord, be gracious to us all.**

P: Your Son came like a beacon in a dark night.

Give us courage and the radiance of love to bring his light into our darkness and keep us restless until it has penetrated the whole world.

C: Lord, be gracious to us all.

P: Watch over our loved ones that they may remember your love and share with us in thanksgiving. Increase the faith and confidence of the aged, and the poor.

Encourage the afflicted. Give hope to those in despair and comfort to those who mourn.

C: Lord, be gracious to us all.

P: We remember the faithful departed who rest in your love and care. Bring us and all your children to stand in the full light of your presence and the radiance of your love.

C: Lord, be gracious to us, and give us your peace. Amen.

* Carol "Silent Night, Holy Night" LBW # 65
(Candles may be extinguished)

* The Sharing of the Peace (*nods, waves, "air hugs" to each other only*)

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

Offering (*Please leave your offering in the basket at the entrance of the Sanctuary at the end of the service.*)

* The Offertory Prayer

Gracious God, your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth. As we offer ourselves and these your gifts, prepare us to receive the grace and truth you offer at this table and renew in us the song of your salvation, in Jesus Christ Our Savior. **Amen.**

* The Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them up to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people.