

*“I bring you good news of great joy  
that will be for all the people.  
Today in the town of David  
a Savior has been born to you;  
he is Christ the Lord.”*

*Luke 2:10-11*



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**Christmas Eve  
December 24, 2023  
3:00 and 5:00 p.m.**

Our Savior Lutheran Church  
1103 North Broad Street  
Mankato, MN 56001

507-385-2180  
contact@oslcmandato.org  
www.oslcmandato.org



Pre-Service Music:  
“I Heard the Bells”

Christmas Ensemble  
Kathy Schiffman

Entrance Hymn

*Oh, come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant!  
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold Him, Born the King of angels:*

**Refrain:** *Oh, come, let us adore Him, Oh, come, let us adore Him,  
Oh, come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!*

*Highest, most holy, Light of Light eternal,  
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;  
Son of the Father Now in flesh appearing! (Refrain)*

*Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God in the highest: (Refrain)*

Opening Verses

- P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.
- P** The Word was made flesh, and we beheld His glory.  
**Oh, come, let us worship Him!**
- P** The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.  
**The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**
- P** Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them has Light shined.  
**We have beheld Christ’s glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.**
- P** For to us a Child is born; to us a Son is given.  
**And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**
- P** In Him was life, and the life was the light of men!  
**Today Christ is born; today salvation has appeared.**
- P** Today the just exult and say,  
**“Glory to God in the highest!”**

## A Service of Christmas Lessons and Carols

**Carol** *Come, your hearts and voices raising, Christ the Lord with gladness praising;  
Loudly sing His love amazing, Worthy folk of Christendom.*

*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.*

*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.*

*Oh, the joy beyond expressing When by faith we grasp this blessing  
And to You we come confessing That Your love has set us free.*

**First Reading:** Luke 2:1-5

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

**Carol** *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!*

**Second Reading:** Luke 2:6-7

And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

**Carol** *Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.*

*The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.*

*Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,  
And take us to heaven, to live with Thee there.*

### **Third Reading: Luke 2:8-14**

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

**Carol** *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!”*

*Christ, by highest heaven 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!”  
Hail, the heav’n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!*

*Light and life to all He brings, Risen 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!"*

**Fourth Reading:** Luke 2:15-18

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.

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

**Refrain:** *Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heav'nly song? (Refrain)*

*Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King. (Refrain)*

**Fifth Reading:** Luke 2:19-20

But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**Carol** *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.*

## Collect for Christmas Eve

**P:** O God, because you once caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light, grant that we who have known the mystery of that Light here on earth may come to the full measure of its joys in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** Amen.

**Carol** *What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The Babe, the Son of Mary!*

*Why lies He in such mean estate Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here The silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The Babe, the Son of Mary!*

*So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peasant, king, to own Him;  
The King of Kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
Raise, raise the song on high, The virgin sings her lullaby;  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The Babe, the Son of Mary!*

## Sermon

### Prayers of the Church

#### The Lord's Prayer

**All:** 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.

## Collect for Peace

P: O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed, give unto 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 by You from the fear of our enemies, may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

**Carol** *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: The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious unto you.  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C: Amen.

## Postlude

### **Serving Today**

<i>Liturgist and Preacher</i> .....	<i>Rev. Adam M. Matheny</i>
<i>Organist</i> .....	<i>Edith Williams</i>
<i>Special Music</i> .....	<i>Kathy Schiffman, vocal solo</i>
.....	<i>Christmas Ensemble</i>
<i>Elder of the Day</i> .....	<i>[3:00] Mike Holub; [7:00] Dave Hendley</i>

*Chancel flowers are provided by the Meyer family in loving memory of Ruth.*

*Divine Service with Holy Communion will be celebrated Christmas Day at 9am.*