

*Berea Lutheran Church*  
*Christmas Eve*

**PRELUDE**

*"Pastorale on 'Silent Night'"*  
*"Silent Night "*

*Paul Cordes*  
*Alex Taden*

**OPENING HYMN**

**"O Come All Ye Faithful"**

*LSB 379*

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)*

*(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 ex-ul-ta-tion  
Sing, all ye Citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God \_\_\_ In \_\_\_ the \_\_\_ highest; *(Refrain)*

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to Thee \_\_\_ be \_\_\_ glory giv'n!  
Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing! *(Refrain)*

**INVOCATION AND RESPONSIVE READING**

**P:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

**P:** Arise, shine, for your light has come:

**C: And the glory of the Lord has risen upon You!**

P: And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising!

**C: Oh, Come, let us adore Him.**

P: Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy

**C: Which shall be to all people.**

P: For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior,

**C: Which is Christ the Lord!**

P: Oh, come, let us adore Him!

**C: Oh, come, let us adore Him!**

P: Oh, come, let us adore Him!

**C: Christ the Lord!**

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. O Lord, tonight in this service of song and praise, as midnight comes and our candles we raise, fill us with all the glad joy of these days.

**C: Amen**

*(Please be seated)*

## ISAIAH PROCLAIMS

**HYMN**

**“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”**

LSB 359

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

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

## **ISAIAH 9:2-7**

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as men rejoice when dividing the plunder. For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

## **HYMN**

### **"It Came upon the Midnight Clear"**

*LSB 366*

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, good-will to all, From heav'n's all gracious king."  
The world in solemn stillness lay To hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days have come to pass By prophets seen of old,  
When down into the circling years Came Christ as was foretold.  
His word of peace shall to the earth God's ancient promise bring,  
And all who take this gift will hear The song the angels sing.

**PRAYER: Almighty and most merciful God, in the fullness of time, You sent forth Your Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem this fallen world and make us Your very own. We give thanks that the good news of the Savior's birth continues to be proclaimed throughout the world. Oh , come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!**

**MICAH 5:2, 4**

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times. He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. And he will be their peace.”

**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.

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;  
Oh, come to us, Abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!

**MARY SINGS**

**LUKE 1:46-55**

And Mary said:

“My soul glorifies the Lord  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant.  
From now on all generations will call me blessed,  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me—  
holy is his name.  
His mercy extends to those who fear him,  
from generation to generation  
He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;

he has scattered those who are proud  
in their inmost thoughts  
He has filled the hungry with good things  
but has sent the rich away empty.  
He has helped his servant Israel,  
remembering to be merciful  
to Abraham and his descendants forever,  
even as he said to our fathers.”

**HYMN**

**“Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”**

*LSB 374*

Gentle Mary laid her child Lowly in a manger;  
There he lay, the Undeiled, 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.

Gentle Mary laid her child Lowly in a manger;  
He is still the Undeiled 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!

**PRAYER: Gracious God, Your Son entered this world not with mighty demonstrations of power but in humility and meekness. Guide Your holy church as she goes about the work You have given her to do. Let us not be enticed by the world’s demand for success; rather, enable us to trust in Your promise that Your Word will not return void but will accomplish its purpose—the salvation of souls. Oh, come to us, with us, Our Lord Immanuel!**

## **JOSEPH OBEYS**

### **MATTHEW 1:18-21**

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy spirit. Because Joseph her husband was a righteous

man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

**HYMN**

**“What Child Is This”**

*LSB 370*

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!

**MATTHEW 1:22-25**

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel – which means, “God with us.” When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

**HYMN**

**“On Christmas Night All Christians Sing”**

*LSB 377*

On Christmas night all Christians sing  
To hear the news the angels bring  
On Christmas night all Christians sing  
To hear the news the angels bring  
News of great joy, news of great mirth,  
News of our merciful King’s birth.

**SERMON**

**“On Christmas Night”**

**PRAYER: Almighty God, from the house of Your servant David You raised up Joseph to be the guardian of Your incarnate Son and the husband of His mother Mary. Grant us grace to follow the example of this faithful workman in heeding your counsel and obeying your commands. Our Lord Immanuel!**

**JESUS ARRIVES**

**HYMN**

**“Joy to the World”**

*LSB 387*

Joy to the world, the Lord is Come! Let earth receive its king;  
Let every 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.

**LUKE 2:1-7**

**Pastor:** In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. This was the first taxing when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be taxed, each to his own city.

**Men:** And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city 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 taxed with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

**Women:** and while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first born Son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

## ANGELS PRAISE

HYMN

**“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”**

*LSB 380*

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 the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”  
Hark! The Herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

Hail, The heav’nborn 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!”

### **LUKE 2:8-15**

Pastor: and in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, “Be not afraid; for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which will come to all people; for to you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior who is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign for you. You will find a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of heavenly host, praising God and saying:

**All: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace and good will among men!**

**PRAYER:** Merciful Lord, in his announcement to the shepherds, the angel gave them a sign to that they might find the newborn Savior. Grant Your people faithfulness to look to the places where You have promised to be present for them now—in your holy word. Help us to trust that through your word we meet the very Savior who was born in Bethlehem so that we might know the saving peace that he has won for all people. Oh, come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!



**OFFERING**

**SHEPHERDS RESPOND**

**HYMN**

**“Go Tell It on the Mountain”**

*LSB 388*

*(Refrain)*

Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and everywhere;  
Go tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born

While Shepherds kept their watching O’er silent flocks by night,  
Behold, throughout the heavens There shone a holy light. *(Refrain)*

The shepherds feared and trembled When lo, above the earth  
Rang our the angel chorus That hailed the Savior’s birth *(Refrain)*

Down in a lonely manger The humble Christ was born;  
And God sent us salvation That blessed Christmas morn. *(Refrain)*

**LUKE 2:16-20**

And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told to them.



**HYMN**

**“Away in a Manger”**

*LSB 364*

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the bright 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 side until 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

## ***Lighting of the Candles***

Pastor: As the light of these candles illumines our faces, it symbolizes the light of Christ, seen in the child lying in the manger in Bethlehem, on the face of the Savior suffering our death on the cross, and soon to be revealed again when he comes from his throne on high. He is our light here on earth and the eternal light who enlightens where there is no need of candle or sun. Rejoice on this night for the light of the world has come. The light who makes us to shine with the brightness of his glory.

**C: With unveiled faces we reflect the Lord's glory and are being made into his likeness with ever increasing glory which comes from the Lord.**

*(Lighting of the Candles)*

*(Note of caution: The lit candle always stays upright.  
Those receiving should tip their candle to the lit one.)*

P: You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and then cover it's light. Instead they set the lamp upon it's stand, set up high, so that it lights everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine in the world, that people may see your good works and give praise to your father in heaven.

**CLOSING HYMN:**

**“Silent Night, Holy Night”**

*LSB 363*

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.

**May the Gift of Jesus** have the central place in your heart and your home this night and forever!

**POSTLUDE**

*Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!*



**Christmas Day Worship Service**

**9:00 am Christmas Day Communion Service**