



For

unto us

a child is born,

Unto us

a son is given

AND HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED

Wonderful Counsellor

THE MIGHTY GOD

The Prince of Peace

Isaiah 9:6

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
December 24, 2025 7 pm

AS WE GATHER

It is at the darkest time of the year that we celebrate that “to us a child is born, to us a son is given” (Isaiah 9:6). Tonight we remember “God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people” (Titus 2:11). Jesus came into the darkness of our world, as He was born of Mary, to redeem us. God shines a great light on all who live in this land of deep darkness tonight to increase our joy. He is called “Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6). We celebrate the birth of the One who rules with justice and righteousness now and forever.

CALL TO WORSHIP

“God’s Gift To Us” Choir

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WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONG “O Come All Ye Faithful”

CHORUS 1

**For He alone is worthy,
for He alone is worthy
For He alone is worthy,
Christ the Lord!**

VERSE 1

O come all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant
O come ye O come ye to Bethlehem
Come and behold Him,
born the King of angels

CHORUS 2

**O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord**

VERSE 2

Sing choirs of angels,
sing in exultation

O sing all ye citizens of heav'n above
Glory to God all,
glory in the highest

CHORUS 2

VERSE 3

Yea Lord we greet Thee,
born on Christmas morning
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing

CHORUS 2

CHORUS 3

**We'll praise His name forever,
we'll praise His name forever
We'll praise His name forever, Christ the
Lord!**

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INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

People: **those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.**

Pastor: There were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

People: And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

People: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, **we gather on this not-so-silent night to celebrate the birth of the One who brings us peace. Yet, we are not at peace with You, with one another, or with ourselves. Our sinfulness can cause us to be filled with fear. For the sake of Jesus, the Child who was born and the Son who was given to redeem us from all lawlessness, purify us as Your people and make us zealous for good works.**

Pastor: The angel said to the shepherds, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people." So, as God's servant, I say to you, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy." As a called and ordained servant in Christ's church and with His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Let us join our voices with the multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

People: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!"

HYMN OF PRAISE

LSB 380 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

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 the angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

REFRAIN

**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 the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel! Refrain

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.

REFRAIN

**Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"**

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SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, we praise and thank You for bringing salvation for all people. Train us as we wait for our blessed hope that will come when You appear again in glory at the end of the age; for You live and rule with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

People: **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 9:2–7

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. ³You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. ⁴For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord. People: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN LSB 387 “Joy to the World”

1 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.

2 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.

3 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.

4 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.

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EPISTLE Titus 2:11–14

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹²training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL Luke 2:1–20

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And 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, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And 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. ⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰And 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. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!” ¹⁵When 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.” ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON SONG "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

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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 How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming;
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him,
Still The dear Christ enters in.</p> <p>4 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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SERMON "A Lifetime to Unwrap"

NICENE CREED

People: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

People: 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.

OFFERING

OFFERING SONG "Away In A Manger (Forever Amen)"

Words by John Thomas McFarland | Martin Luther Words Adapter by Phil Wickham | Jonathan Smith
Music by James Ramsey Murray Music Arranger by Phil Wickham | Jonathan Smith

VERSE 1

A - way in a manger, no crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus lay down His sweet head
The stars in the sky look down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus a - sleep on the hay
Turnaround

VERSE 2

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes
The dawn of sal - vation be - ginning to break
I love thee, Lord Jesus, oh, gift from above
The King of the heavens for - ever with us

VERSE 3

I worship You,
Jesus, for all of my days
The highest of praises be unto Your name
My God and my Savior,
my King and my friend

Yours is the glory for - ever, a - men
Yours is the glory for - ever, a - men
Yours is the glory for - ever, a - men

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, the Child who was born, the Son who was given and was born in the city of David, our Savior, Christ the Lord. We celebrate the grace of God appearing, bringing salvation for all people.

Gathered this night, we remember Your birth and celebrate the gifts of Your life, death, and resurrection. Forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat at Your banquet Table and receive Your body and blood to redeem and purify us. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver us from our fears, and give us peace and favor; for You rule and reign with the Father and the Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

People: Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

People: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

LSB 366 "It Came upon the Midnight Clear"

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

2 Still through the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heav'nly music floats
O'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hov'ring wing,
And ever o'er its babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

3 All you, beneath your heavy load,
By care and guilt bent low,
Who toil along a dreary way
With painful steps and slow:
Look up, for golden is the hour,
Come swiftly on the wing,
The Prince was born to bring you peace;
Of Him the angels sing.

4 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.

Text: Public domain

LSB 370 "What Child Is This"

1 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!

2 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!

3 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!

Text: Public domain

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray.

We thank You this night for the glory of the Lord appearing to us in, with, and under the bread and wine to give us forgiveness and peace. Renew our hearts and lives so we may reveal Your grace and favor to the world; for You live and reign as one God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—now and forever.

People: Amen.

LIGHTING OF CANDLES

GOSPEL OF THE INCARNATION John 1:1-14

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, and without him was not anything made that was made. 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. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. 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 people 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, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

SILENT NIGHT

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.

Text: Public domain

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

CLOSING SONG **LSB 368** “Angels We Have Heard on High”

1 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.

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
 Why your joyous strains prolong?
 What the gladsome tidings be
 Which inspire your heav’nly song?

REFRAIN

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

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

REFRAIN

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

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DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

People: **Thanks be to God**



MERRY CHRISTMAS

from
Emmanuel Lutheran
Church



Christmas Day
December 25, 2025

**One Service
10:00 am**





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Lutheran**
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ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

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Admin. Assistant: Shari Reaves
Asst. Principal/MS English: Denise Ball
Director of Admissions: Emily Leatherwood
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First Grade: Kerry Stead /Mackenzie Knapp
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Third Grade/Curriculum Coordinator: Kiara Studer
Fourth Grade: Chelsey Towery
Fifth Grade: Emily Lundquist
MS Science: Leigh Conner
MS Math: Jenelle Lanham
MS Social Studies: Mindy Stackhouse
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Director: Nicole Loria
Admin Assist: Carolyn Mashburn
Younger Infants: Paula Jones and Rachel Bishop
Older Infants: Becky Swatzell & Hydeia Beck
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Toddler2: Neesie Castillo
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PS3: Madison McDonald and Jasmine Riddle
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