



Glory to God

+ IN THE +

Highest

LUKE 2 : 14

December 24, 2023

KING OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Christmas Eve

PRESERVICE

HYMN

Now Sing We, Now Rejoice | #135

INVOCATION

Isaiah 60:1–3

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: For darkness shall cover the earth,

C: And thick darkness the people;

P: But the Lord will arise upon you,

C: And his glory will appear over you.

P: Nations shall come to your light,

C: And kings to the brightness of your dawn.

HYMN

I Am So Glad When Christmas Comes | #127

GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:26–35

²⁶In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin pledged in marriage to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women."

²⁹But she was greatly troubled by the statement and was wondering what kind of greeting this could be. ³⁰The angel said to

her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, because you have found favor with God. ³¹Listen, you will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will never end."

³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵The angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

ANTHEM

Where Shepherds Lately Knelt

*Where shepherds lately knelt and kept the angel's word,
I come in half-belief, a pilgrim strangely stirred;
But there is room and welcome there for me,
But there is room and welcome there for me.*

*In that unlikely place I find him as they said:
Sweet, newborn Babe, how frail, and in a manger bed:
A still small voice to cry one day for me,
A still small voice to cry one day for me.*

*How should I not have known Isaiah would be there,
His prophecies fulfilled? With pounding heart, I stare:
A Child, a Son, the Prince of Peace for me,
A Child, a Son, the Prince of Peace for me.*

*Can I forget how Love was born and burned its way into my heart:
Unasked, unforced, unearned,
To die, to live, and not alone for me,
To die, to live, and not alone for me.*

THE NATIVITY

Psalm 123:1–9

P: Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

C: Sing to the LORD, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day.

P: Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

C: For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods.

P: For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the LORD made the heavens.

C: Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and glory are in his sanctuary.

P: Ascribe to the LORD, O families of nations, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

C: Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering and come into his courts.

P: Worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness; tremble before him, all the earth.

HYMN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing | #125

GOSPEL READING

Luke 2:1–7

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governing Syria. ³And everyone went to register, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the town of Nazareth, into Judea, to the town of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was from the house and family line of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, his wife, who was pledged to him in marriage and was expecting a child.

⁶And so it was that while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son, wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

HYMN

O Little Town of Bethlehem | #137

THE ADORATION

Psalm 98

P: Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things.

C: His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

P: The Lord has made his salvation known.

C: And revealed his righteousness to the nations.

P: He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to the house of Israel;

C: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

P: Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

C: Burst into jubilant song with music;

P: Make music to the Lord with the harp.

C: With the harp and the sound of singing,

P: With trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn –

C: Shout for joy before the Lord, the King.

P: He provided redemption for his people; he ordained his covenant forever.

C: Holy and awesome is his name.

P: Let the sea resound, and everything in it,

C: The world, and all who live in it.

P: Let the rivers clap their hands.

C: Let the mountains sing together for joy;

P: Let them sing before the Lord, for he comes to judge the earth.

C: He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity.

ANTHEM

Love's Pure Light

*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, 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, Son of God, love's pure light,
Son of God, love's pure light,
Son of God, love's pure light. Love's pure light.*

GOSPEL READING

Luke 2:8–14

⁸There were in the same country shepherds staying out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock at night. ⁹An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified! ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. For behold, I bring you good news of great joy, which will be for all people: ¹¹Today in the town of David, a Savior was born for you. He 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." ¹³Suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude from the heavenly army, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward mankind."

HYMN

Angels We Have Heard on High | #116

SERMON

HYMN

Away in a Manger | #119

OFFERING

PRAYER

P: Heavenly Father, thank you for all the good things you continue to provide for us. Don't let us take your gifts for granted or abuse them. Instead, help us always to rely on you in faith. Use us and what you have given us for your good purposes. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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.

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

P: Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true light. Grant that as we have known on earth the wonder of that light, we may also behold him in all his glory in the life to come; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Lighting of the Candles

HYMN

Silent Night | #140: v.1-3

BENEDICTION

P: May Christ the Son of God give you joy and peace by his presence with you; and the blessing of almighty God — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—be with you always.



C: A - men, a - men, a - men.

Please leave your candle at the end of the pew to be collected afterwards.

Preacher	Pastor Bernt Tweit
Liturgist	Pastor Aaron Ferkenstad
Choir Director	Allen Labitzky
Organist / Accompanist	Karen Merseth
Instrumentalists	Tim Guillaume, Johnny Moldstad Mia Moldstad, Ann Werner



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