

St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church  
1615 N. Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa, WI 53213  
*Christmas Eve Family Service*  
*December 24, 2018, 4:00 p.m.*

## *O Come All Ye Faithful*

Prelude  
Christmas Greeting

### Gathering

*(Please stand as you are able)*

Lighting the Christ Candle and Opening Litany

- P** In the hustle of Bethlehem, you quietly come to a stable where animals reside.
- C** **We welcome you into the world, Baby Jesus.**
- P** The gift we celebrate today is the Light of the World, born in humble Bethlehem.
- C** **Let us spread the light of God's love in Bethlehem to the people gathered here.**
- P** And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
- C** **Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Gathering Carol

**#283 O Come, All Ye Faithful**

Greeting

- P** Good news of great joy, light and grace and peace be with you all.
- C** **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

- P** Let us pray. Dear God, we thank you this night for the gift of your Son, who comes to save the world from sin. Help us to love as Jesus loves and spread the good news to all the world. This we pray through your Son, Jesus Christ and newborn King.
- C** **Amen.**

*(Please be seated)*

Praise Kids! Anthems

Everybody Sing, Jesus Is Born! by Milton LeDoux  
Praise Kids!

*Come to the manger, Jesus is born. Come on everybody sing, "Jesus is born!"  
Angels are singing, "Glory to God." Come on everybody sing, "Glory to God!"  
See all the shepherds worship the King. Come on, everybody let's worship the King!*

Come and See the Baby arr. by Terry Taylor  
Praise Kids!

*Come and see the Baby lying in the hay.  
1. Come and see the Baby born on Christmas Day.  
2. Heaven's special gift to us this Christmas Day.  
Glory! Praises fill the sky! Glory Sing to God on high!*

## *In the Beginning was the Word*

### Word

*(Children are invited to come forward)*

### The Christmas Gift

Carol

#### The First Noel

*The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; In  
fields where they lay, keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
**Refrain:** Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.*

Carol

#### Away in a Manger

*Away in a manger, no crib for his 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.*

*Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay  
close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care  
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.*

*(Children may return to their seats during this time)*

*(Please stand as you are able)*

## Sharing of Christmas Peace

- ☐ At the birth of Christ the angels sang of peace and goodwill. May the peace of the Lord be with you always.
- ☑ **And also with you.**

## *And the Word was Made Flesh*

*(Please be seated)*

### Christmas Story

Carol

#### What Child is This

*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!*

Scripture

Luke 2:4-7 *The Birth of Jesus Christ*

- ☐ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.
- ☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Carol

#### Angels We Have Heard on High

<p><i>Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains, And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains. Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.</i></p>	<p><i>Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heav'nly song? Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.</i></p>
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*(Please stand as you are able)*

Scripture

Luke 2:8-15 The Shepherds and the Angels

**A** And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. 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. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Thanksgiving

Offering Carol

**Silent Night, Holy Night**

*(Prayer cards will be collected at this time)*

*Two hundred years after “Silent Night” was first performed in Oberndorf, it is counted among the best known and most beloved Christmas songs — taken up and interpreted by musical artists from across every genre. Every year on Christmas, it is sung by around two billion people across the globe. Tonight, we join with the multitude rejoicing in our savior’s birth sharing Silent Night with each other.*

1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,  
 2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake  
 3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.  
 at the sight; glo - ries stream\_ from heav - en a - far,  
 love's pure light ra - diant beams\_ from your ho - ly face,

Ho - ly In - fant so ten - der and mild, sleep in  
 heav'n - ly host\_\_\_ sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the  
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus,

heav - en - ly peace,\_\_\_ sleep\_ in heav - en - ly peace.\_\_\_  
 Sav - ior, is born!\_\_\_ Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!\_\_\_  
 Lord, at your birth,\_\_\_ Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.\_\_\_

Tune: Stille Nacht, Irr. Music: Franz Gruber, 1787-1863. Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885.  
 (Please stand as you are able)

### Christmas Offertory Prayer

- ☐ Let us pray. Almighty God, we are thankful for the gift that you gave us in a manger at Bethlehem. Humbly we offer our gifts of service and possessions in joyful thanksgiving for the love you have shown us.
- ☑ **We bring as well the concerns of our hearts for ourselves and for others. Hear our prayers and accept these gifts for the sake of your Son who was born this day, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### Christmas Prayers

- ☐ Rejoicing that the grace of God has been revealed in the birth of Jesus Christ, the light of the world, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

### The 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

*And Dwelt Among Us.*

Sending

Benediction

- Ⓟ And now, little children, abide in him.
- Ⓒ **See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God!**
- Ⓟ May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the faithfulness of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. May the almighty God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.
- Ⓒ **Amen!**

Closing Hymn

**#270 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

Dismissal

- Ⓟ As heralds of God's peace, go forth in joy to love and serve the Lord.
- Ⓒ **Thanks be to the newborn King!**

Postlude

*Postlude on "Puer Nobis Nascitur"*  
 by Aaron David Miller

*And of His Reign There Will Be No End!!*

St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church  
1615 N. Wauwatosa Avenue, Wauwatosa, WI 53213

## *Christmas Eve 2018*

7:00 & 10:00 p.m.

### *O Come All Ye Faithful*

Prelude

6:45 *Prelude on "Vom Himmel hoch, da Komm' ich her"*  
by Johann Pachelbel, Organ

**Carol #278 Away in a Manger** arr. by Jeff Reeves  
*We Three Kings* arr. by Valerie W. Stephenson & Jeff Reeves  
Righteous Ringers, Abigail Hughes, Horn and Jack Dankwardt,  
Trombone

**Carol #269 Once in Royal David's City** - Stanza 1: Solo by George Ubell

9:45 *Prelude on "Vom Himmel hoch, da Komm' ich her"*  
by Johann Pachelbel, Organ  
*Angels' Carol* by John Rutter – Fallen Angels Quintet  
*Comfort, Comfort Ye My People* arr. by Kevin McChesney  
Bells Angels

**Carol #269 Once in Royal David's City**

### *In the Beginning was the Word*

*This Christmas Eve's Communion Service is based on The Festival of Lessons and Carols, a service of Christian worship celebrating the prophecy, birth and adoration of Jesus that is traditionally followed at Christmas. The story of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus is told in Bible readings from Genesis, the prophetic books and the Gospels, interspersed with the singing of Christmas carols, hymns and choir music. We hope you find this worship service filled with the Hope, Love, Peace and Joy that is found in the Savior's birth.*

## The First Lesson

*(Please remain seated.)*

### **Genesis 1:1-5 *The Beginning***

**P** In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and He separated the light from the darkness. God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

### ***Silent Night, Holy Night - John Malloy, Guitar***

*Two hundred years after “Silent Night” was first performed in Oberndorf, it is counted among the best known and most beloved Christmas songs — taken up and interpreted by musical artists from across every genre. Every year on Christmas, it is sung by around two billion people across the globe. Tonight we join with the multitude rejoicing in our savior’s birth sharing Silent Night with each other.*

*(Please stand as you are able as the Processional Cross passes)*

Processional Carol

### **#283 O Come, All Ye Faithful**

Greeting

*(from Isaiah 9)*

**P** The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**C** **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

**P** To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

**C** **In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

**P** For unto us is born this day in the city of David, a Savior who is Christ the Lord.

**C** **He is called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

**P** Good news of great joy, light and grace and peace be with you all.

**C** **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

**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 your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C** **Amen.**

*(Please be seated)*

Christmas Greeting

# *Christ is Born in Bethlehem*

## The Second Lesson

### **Micah 5:2-5a - A Promised Ruler from Bethlehem**

▣ “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.” Therefore, Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor gives birth and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. 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.   ▣ **Thanks be to God.**

(7:00) Carol

**#279 O Little Town of Bethlehem** (Stanza 1)

(10:00) Anthem

*Change Ring Prelude on “Divinum Mysterium”*

arr. by Fred Gramann – Bells Angels

## The Third Lesson

### **Luke 1:26-35, 38a The Birth of Jesus Foretold**

▣ In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.” Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He 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, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end.” “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?” The angel answered, “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. “I am the Lord's servant,” Mary answered. “May it be to me as you have said.”   ▣ **Thanks be to God.**

(7:00) Anthem

*Shepherds, Awake* by Mark Patterson

New Creation & New Generation Choirs

(10:00) Anthem

*Before the Marvel of This Night* by Carl Schalk

Senior Choir

*(Please stand as you are able)*

## The Fourth Lesson

### **Luke 2:4-7 The Birth of Jesus Christ**

**P** Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

*(Please be seated)*

(10:00) Anthem

*Silent Night* by Michael John Trotta -Fallen Angels Quintet

*Every year on Christmas Silent Night is sung around the world: on all continents and in 300 languages and dialects. Now we share two variations of the hundreds of translations and interpretations of the original German text. This version creates a new tune to highlight the poem that Joseph Mohr wrote in 1816, two years prior to the premiere of the text and familiar tune as we know it today.*

*Silent night, holy night, Earth is hushed, Heav'n alight!*

*Angels throng the starlit air,*

*Whispering round the Child so fair:*

*Sleep, O sleep, O Baby King! Sleep, they softly sing.*

-Translator Unknown

*Silent night, hallowed night, Earth awake, silence break.*

*Silent Night, hallowed night, earth is hushed.*

*High your anthem's melody raise, Heav'n and earth in chorus  
praise: Peace forever shall reign.*

-J.F. Warner, 1849

Sermon

Pastor Christopher Manke

*(Please stand as you are able)*

Carol of the Day

**#296 What Child is This?**

*(Prayer Cards will be collected during the Hymn)*

*(Please be seated)*

## *O Come Let Us Adore Him*

### The Fifth Lesson

#### **Luke 2:8-15 *The Shepherds and the Angels***

- A** And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. 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. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

- C** **Thanks be to God.**

Carol

**#289 Angels We Have Heard on High**

### The Sixth Lesson

#### **Matthew 2:1, 7-11 *The Visit of the Magi***

- A** After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem. Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.” After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.

- C** **Thanks be to God.**

(10:00) Anthem

*Go, Tell It on the Mountain* arr. by Linda McKechnie  
Bells Angels

*(Please stand as you are able)*

Prayers of Intercession

- ☐ Rejoicing that the grace of God has been revealed in the birth of Jesus Christ, the light of the world, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Sharing of Christmas Peace

- ☐ And now my friends I tell you that this night a Child was born; a son was given.  
 ☑ **And the Word was made Flesh and dwelt among us.**  
 ☐ At the birth of Christ the angels sang of peace and goodwill. May the peace of the Lord be with you always.  
 ☑ **And also with you.**

*(Please be seated)*

## *And the Word was Made Flesh*

(7:00) Musical Offering

*Christmas Songs of Peace* by Joseph M. Martin  
 New Creation & New Generation Choir

(10:00) Musical Offering

*O Come, Divine Messiah!* arr. by Howard Helvey  
 Senior Choir

*(Please stand as you are able)*

Offertory Carol

**#276 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly**

Offertory Prayer

- ☐ Let us pray. We celebrate this night the greatest gift the world has known, the gift of God's own beloved Son. Wrapped in flesh, swaddled in strips of cloth, your gift represents life, light and love. A gift beyond measure. What can we offer you, O God, except ourselves. Accept our gifts. This we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
 ☑ **Amen.**

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

page 145 (Traditional Version)

Invitation to Communion

- ☐ The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory.  
 ☑ **Make yourself known to us, O Christ, in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup.**

*(Please be seated)*

(7:00) Communion Music

*A Time for Christmas Joy* arr. by Cynthia Dobrinski –  
Righteous Ringers

**#300 The First Noel**

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*  
arr. by Mark Hayes, Piano

(10:00) Communion Music

*'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime* arr. by Richard  
Erickson – Senior Choir

*A Baby in an Ox's Stall* by Thomas Hewitt Jones – Fallen Angels Quintet  
*The Virgin Mary bore a son: It was God's plan to bring to us the Holy one, the Saviour,  
God in man. A Holy boy by a virgin birth, He lives on Earth: A saving grace for  
one and all, a baby in an ox's stall.*

*The Angel Gabriel said to Mary "Do not be afraid." She would surely bear a son, a  
promise that the Lord hath made. The chosen seed of Israel's race, Ransomed  
from the fall. A saving grace for one and all, a baby in an ox's stall.*

*The star that shone across the night To Bethlehem, Leading onward, beaming bright,  
bring forth the royal diadem. As shepherds hurried on their way to see the day:  
A saving grace for one and all, a baby in an ox's stall.*

*With all about gathered at the manger, the child within Had brought to us the Holy word  
To save us all from sin. We join the Saviour's everlasting song: A saving grace  
for one and all, a baby in an ox's stall.*

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*  
arr. by Mark Hayes, Piano

*(Please stand as you are able)*

Communion Response

**P** May the body of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in God's light  
and grace.

**C** **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

**A** Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious light that spilled out on Bethlehem's  
hillsides shines at this table, in our midst, in our hearts. Here you repeat the  
mystery of your incarnation, here we see you face-to-face. We thank you and  
bless you for you are the Lord forevermore.

**C** **Amen.**

# *Glory to the Newborn King*

## The Seventh Lesson

**10:00 Service:** *A worship leader will come down to share the light of Christ. Please share the light carefully with your neighbors. Place the unlit candle into the wick of the lit candle. To prevent dripping, keep lit candles vertical. After Silent Night please gently blow out the candle and hold until wax hardens. Please place used candle in the bins at the church entrance when you exit.*

### **John 1:1-2, 4-5, 9-14** *The Word Became Flesh*

- Ⓟ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. In him was life, and that life was the light of all. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not overcome it. The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.

## Carol

## Silent Night, Holy Night

[10:00 Service with Bells Angels – Watch for entrances]

1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,  
 2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake  
 3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.  
 at the sight; glo - ries stream\_ from heav - en a - far,  
 love's pure light ra - diant beams\_ from your ho - ly face,

Ho - ly In - fant so ten - der and mild, sleep in  
 heav'n - ly host\_ sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the  
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus,

heav - en - ly peace, sleep\_ in heav - en - ly peace.  
 Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
 Lord, at your birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

Tune: Stille Nacht, Irr. Music: Franz Gruber, 1787-1863. Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885.

☐ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision, but born of God. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

## Benediction

☐ Jesus is the Word made flesh in our midst. May his incarnation fill your hearts with hope, peace, joy and love. Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

☑ **Amen.**

Recessional Carol

**#270 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

Dismissal

- P** To us a Child is born!
- C** **To us a Son is given!**
- P** And his name shall be called...
- C** **Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**
- P** May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy and make you heralds of the gospel.
- C** **Thanks be to God! Amen!**

Postlude

*Postlude on "Puer Nobis Nascitur"*  
by Aaron David Miller

*And of His Reign There Will Be No End!*

St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church  
1615 N. Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa, WI 53213  
*Christmas Day 2018*  
*10:00 a.m.*

## *Glory to the Newborn King!*

Prelude

*Vom Himmel hoch, da Komm' ich her*  
by Johann Pachelbel, Organ

Christmas Greeting

### *Gathering*

*(Please stand as you are able)*

Confession and Forgiveness

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

**C** **Amen.**

**P** Amidst the darkness of this world, let us confess our sin and welcome the light of God's forgiveness.

*(Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination)*

**P** Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus.

**C** **Forgive our lack of faith and trust in your will.**

**P** Your Son was born in the poverty of a stable.

**C** **Forgive our neglect of the poor.**

**P** The shepherds left their flocks and went to Bethlehem.

**C** **Forgive our selfishness and complacency.**

**P** The Magi followed the star to find the Savior of the nations.

**C** **Forgive our reluctance to seek you with all our hearts.**

**P** The angel said, you shall call his name Jesus for he will save his people from their sins. With great joy, I announce to you the entire forgiveness of your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Gathering Carol

**#283 O Come, All Ye Faithful**

## Christmas Litany &amp; Apostolic Greeting

- P** Love's pure light dawns on the world.  
**C** **In the midst of our darkness, we can see light.**  
**P** Light in the night sky, light in deep space--  
**C** **Stars shine upon the kingdom of love.**  
**P** Light in the stable, light in the stall--  
**C** **Jesus Christ glows with love from above.**  
**P** Light on the hillside, light in the field--  
**C** **Angels in glory tell of God's love.**  
**P** May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you always.  
**C** **And also with you.**

Carol of Praise  
Prayer of the Day

**#289 Angels We Have Heard on High**

## *In the Beginning was the Word*

### Word

*(Please be seated)*

First Reading

Isaiah 52:7-10

*A messenger races home to Jerusalem with the marvelous words: "Your God reigns!" In comforting the people, God proves to be the best brother or sister [redeemer] they have ever known. Everyone will witness the victory [salvation] of God.*

Second Reading

Hebrews 1:1-4 [5-12]

*This letter opens with a lofty declaration of Jesus' preeminent status as the Son through whom God created the world and through whom our sins are cleansed. God speaks to us now through the Son, who is exalted even above the angels.*

*(Please stand as you are able)*

Gospel Acclamation

**#288 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice**

Gospel

John 1:1-14

*The prologue to the Gospel of John describes Jesus as the Word of God made flesh, the one who reveals God to be “full of grace and truth.”*

Gospel Response

**P** The Gospel of the Lord for you this day

**G** **Thanks be to God.**

*(Please be seated)*

Christmas Message

Pastor Matthew Schlake-Kruse

*(Please stand as you are able)*

Hymn of the Day

**God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen**

*(Prayer Cards will be collected during the Hymn)*



1. God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, Let no - thing you dis - may,  
 2. From God, our heav' - nly Fa - ther A bless - ed an - gel came,  
 3. But when to Beth - le - hem they came, Where at this in - fant lay,  
 4. Now to the Lord sing prais - es, All you with - in this place,



For Je - sus Christ, our Sa - vior Was born up - on this day,  
 And un - to cer - tain shep - herds Brought ti - dings of the same,  
 They found him in a man - ger, where ox - en feed on hay;  
 And with true love and bro - ther - hood Each oth - er now em - brace;



To save of all from Sa - tan's pow'r When we were gone a - stray:  
 How that in Beth - le - hem was born The Son of God by name:  
 His moth - er Mar - y knee - ling, Un - to the Lord did pray:  
 This ho - ly tide of Christ - mas All oth - ers do de - face:



O — tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and joy,



O — tid - ings of com - fort and joy.

Tune: English traditional, 18th Century. Text: found in Three New Christmas Carols, c. 1760.

Nicene Creed

Inside Back cover of the Hymnal

The Prayers of Intercession

**P** Filled with wonder and joy that God's gift of grace has been given in the Son born for us, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

**P** ...Lord in your mercy.

**C** **Hear our prayer.**

- P** Into the manger of your love, holy God, we lay our prayers, trusting in your promise made known to us in Jesus the Christ, our brother and Savior.  
**C** **Amen.**

### Sharing the Peace of Christ

- P** At the birth of Christ the angels sang a song of peace and goodwill. May the peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**C** **And also with you.**

## *And the Word was Made Flesh*

### Meal

*(Please stand as you are able)*

Offertory Carol

**#276 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly**

### Offertory Prayer

- A** Let us pray. You reign, O God. "Through him all things came into being." You reign, O God. "Without him not one thing came into being." Accept our gifts. Accept our selves. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**C** **Amen.**

### Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

page 145 (Traditional Version)

### Invitation to Communion

- P** The Word became flesh and lived among us and we have seen his glory.  
**C** **Make yourself known to us, O Christ, in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup.**

*(Please be seated)*

Communion Carol

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

*(Please stand as you are able)*

Communion Response

- P** May the body of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in God's light and grace.
- C** **Amen.**

Post-Communion Prayer

- A** Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious light that spilled out on Bethlehem's hillsides shines at this table, in our midst, in our hearts. Here you repeat the mystery of your incarnation, here we see you face to face. We thank you and bless you for you are the Lord forevermore.
- C** **Amen.**

*And Dwelt among us.*

*Sending*

Benediction

- P** May Christ, born of Mary, dwell in your hearts and lives this Christmas and always. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

Closing Carol

**#270 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

Dismissal

- A** Glory to God in the highest!
- C** **Peace to God's people on earth!**
- A** Filled with the joy of Christ's birth, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

*Postlude on "Puer Nobis Nascitur"*  
by Aaron David Miller

*...And of His Reign there will be no End!!*