

St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church

1615 N. Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa, WI 53213

December 24th, 2023

4:30 & 7:30 Services

Christmas Eve

Introduction to this Blessed Night: In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

✧ O Come All Ye Faithful ✧

Prelude

4:20

Concerto in B Minor: Allegro by Johann G. Walther

– John Paradowski, Organ

Prelude in C – J.S. Bach – George Ubell, Piano

Bell Salutation: *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* arr. Lloyd

Larson – Righteous Ringers

7:20

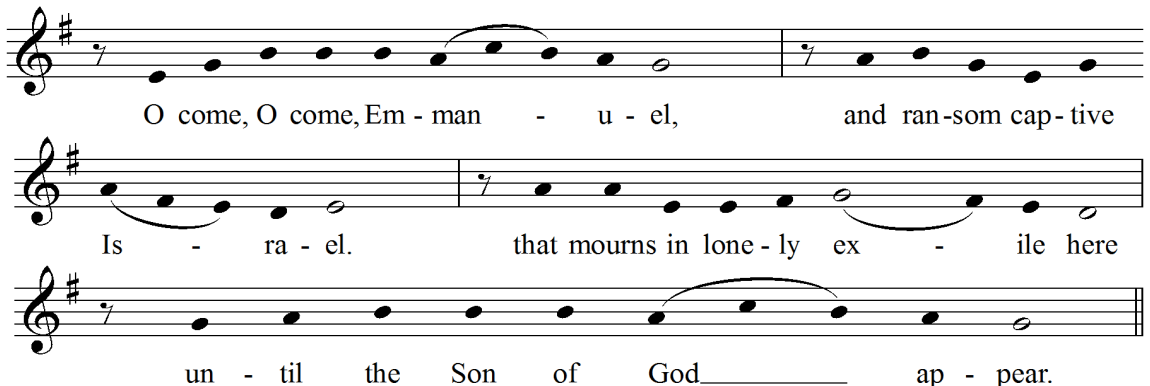
Concerto in B Minor: Allegro by Johann G. Walther

– John Paradowski, Organ

O Little Town of Bethlehem – John Paradowski, Piano

O Come, Emmanuel arr. Jason Krug – Bells Angels

Proclamation of the Birth of Christ

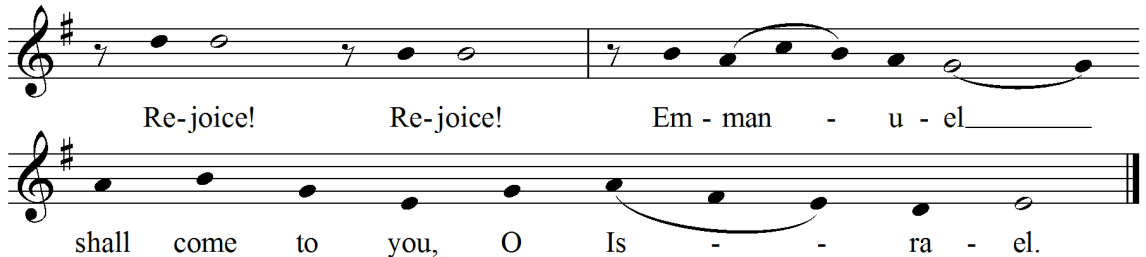


O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran-som cap - tive

Is - ra - el. that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here

un - til the Son of God _____ ap - pear.

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



Text: *Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710. Tune: Veni Emmanuel 88 88 88. Music: French processional, 15th cent.

Greeting

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

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

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

in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

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

And also with you.

Processional Carol

#283 Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful

Greeting

A child has been born for us, a son given to us.

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

Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto us 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 the baby wrapped in swaddling clothes, 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 peace to God's people on earth!

Carol of Praise

#289 Angels We Have Heard on High

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

Amen.

Please be seated.

Christmas Greeting

Anthem

4:30

Rejoice Greatly by Susan Geschke
– Righteous Ringers

Carol

4:30

Joy to the World

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him room And
heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
sing, And heav'n and heav'n and na - ture sing.

Anthem

7:30

For Unto Us A Child Is Born by John
Carter – Senior Choir

✧ In the Beginning was the Word ✧

First Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem

4:30

Angels from the Realms of Glory arr.

Anna Laura Page – Righteous Ringers

7:30

Carol of the Bells/God Rest Ye Merry,

Gentlemen arr. Lloyd Larson

– Bells Angels

Second Reading

Titus 2:11-14

The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity.

Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior's final appearance.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able and face the center Word symbol.

Gospel Processional

#274 On Christmas Night (Stanzas 1 & 2)

Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

In the beginning was the Word,

And the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

A reading from the book of Luke.

God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Response

#274 On Christmas Night (Stanzas 3 & 4)

Please be seated.

Sermon

Pastor Karen Natterstad

Please stand as you are able.

Carol of the Day

#282 It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

Profession of Faith

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God,
Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the
Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

Trusting in God's good news of great joy for all people, we offer our prayers for
ourselves, our neighbors, and the world God loves.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you,
confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

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.

Please be seated.

✧ And the Word was Made Flesh ✧

Musical Offering 4:30

Christmas Joy! by Patti Drennan – New
Creation & New Generation Choirs

7:30

Good Christians All, Rejoice! arr. Gilbert
Martin – Senior Choir

Please stand as you are able.

Offertory Carol

#276 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Offertory Prayer

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

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

In Christ's manger, at Christ's table, come, see what God makes known for you.

Make yourself known to us, O Christ, in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup.

Please be seated.

Communion Music

4:30

Once in Royal David's City – New Generation

Singers

O Little Town of Bethlehem – John Paradowski, Piano

#296 What Child Is This

7:30

I Wonder As I Wander arr. Arnold Sherman

– Bells Angels

Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head arr. Kevin Robison –

Senior Choir

Please stand as you are able.

Communion Response

May the body of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his light and grace.

Amen.

Prayer after Communion

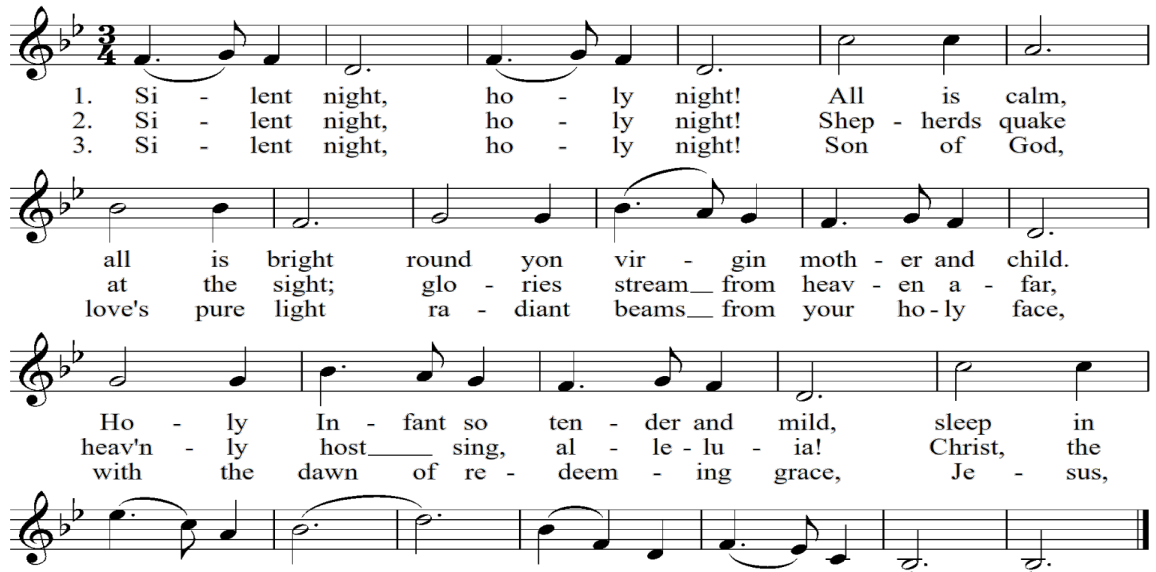
Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious light that spilled out on Bethlehem's hillsides shines at this table, in our midst, in our hearts. Here you repeat the mystery of your incarnation, here we see you face to face. We thank you and bless you for you are the Lord forevermore.

Amen.

✧ Glory to the Newborn King ✧

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 candles in the bins at the church entrance when you exit.

Carol

Silent Night, Holy Night


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.

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**

To us a Child is born!

To us a Son is given!

And his name shall be called...

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

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.

Thanks be to God! Amen!

Postlude

✧ And of His Reign There Will Be No End ✧