

St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church

1615 N. Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa, WI 53213

December 24th, 2023

2:00 pm Service

Christmas Eve Family Service

✧ O Come All Ye Faithful ✧

Christmas Greeting

Pastor Ann Williams

Gathering

Please stand as you are able.

Opening Litany

In the hustle of Bethlehem, you quietly come to a stable where animals
reside, O God.

We welcome you into the world, Baby Jesus.

The gift we celebrate today is the Light of the World, born in humble
Bethlehem.

**Let us spread the light of God's love in Bethlehem to the people
gathered here.**

And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Opening Carol

#283 Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful

Greeting

Good news of great love, joy, and hope be with you all.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

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 our newborn King.

Amen.

Please be seated.

Praise Kids! Anthems *Come and See the Baby* by Terry D. Taylor

Come and see the Baby lying in the hay. Come and see the Baby born on Christmas Day.

Come and see the Baby lying in the hay. Heaven's special gift to us this Christmas Day.

Glory! Praises fill the sky! Glory! Sing to God on high!

Glory, Glory In the Highest by Cindy Berry

Glory, glory in the highest! Peace on earth, goodwill to all.

Glory, glory in the highest! Jesus Christ is born!

✦ In the Beginning Was the Word ✦

Word

The Children come forward for a children's Message

Carol

O Little Town of Bethlehem


O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;

yet in thy dark street shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893. Music: Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908. Tune: St. Louis 86 86 76 86.

Gospel

Luke 2:1-14 [15-50]

Children's Message

Pastor Ann Williams

Carol

Joy to the World

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions
 King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 prove The glo - ries of his righ - teous -
 room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
 - ness And won - ders of his love, And won - ders of his
 sing, And heav'n and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 love, And won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748. Music: English Melody, 18th Century.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872. Tune: Antioch, CM and repeat.

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 ✧

Thanksgiving

Please be seated.

Musical Offering with Processional of Creche Items

O Little Town of Bethlehem – John
Paradowski, Piano

Please stand as you are able.

Offertory Carol

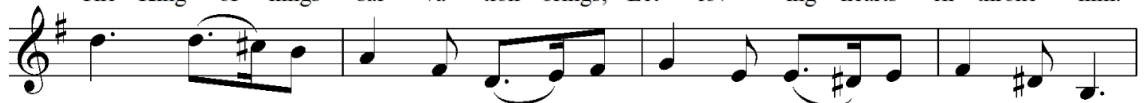
What Child is This



1. What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?
3. So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
Raise, raise the song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



Haste, haste to bring him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898. Music: English Ballad, 16th Century. Tune: Greensleeves, 87 87 68 67.

Christmas Offertory Prayer

Almighty God, we are thankful of the gift that you gave us in a manger in Bethlehem. Humbly we offer our gifts of service in joyful thanksgiving for the love you have given us.

**We bring for ourselves and for others, the concerns of our hearts.
Hear our prayers and accept these gifts for the sake of your
Son who was born this day, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

...Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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.

✧ And Dwelt Among Us ✧

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

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. 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

✦ And of His Reign There Will Be No End

