

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

December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022

7:00 & 10:00 p.m. 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

6:45

*A la Venue de Noël [The Arrival of Christmas]*

by Pierre Dandrieu [1664-1733]

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* arr. John Carter

– Andy Sadjak - Cello

*Mary Had a Baby* arr. Anna Laura Page

– Righteous Ringers

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

9:45

*A la Venue de Noël [The Arrival of Christmas]*

by Pierre Dandrieu [1664-1733]

*The First Noël* - 17<sup>th</sup> Cent. English Carol

*Comfort, Comfort Ye My People* arr. William Kyle

– Bells Angels

**#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

Anthem 7:00

*Creator of the Stars of Night [Conditor alme siderum.]*

arr. Kenneth Lowenberg

– New Creation and New Generation Choirs

Soloists: George Ubell and Aidan Weileder

*Conditor alme siderum [Kind creator of the stars,]*

*aeterna lux credentium [eternal light of those who believe,]*

*Christe redemptor omnium [O Christ, Redeemer of all,]*

*exaudi preces supplicum [hear the petitions of your suppliants.]*

*At your great name, majestic now,*

*all knees must bend, all hearts must bow;*

*all things on earth with one accord*

*join those in heav'n to call you Lord.*

*To God the Father, God the Son,*

*and God the Spirit, Three in One,*

*praise, honor, might, and glory be*

*from age to age eternally.*

*Please remain seated.*

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

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.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able as the Processional Cross passes.*

Processional Carol

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

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.**

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

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

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

**And also with you.**

### Prayer of the Day

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.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

Christmas Greeting

7:00 Pastor Karen Natterstad

10:00 Pastor Ann Williams

Anthem 7:00

*A Christmas Celebration* by Bob Burroughs

– Righteous Ringers

Anthem 10:00

*Fum, Fum, Fum* arr. Nicholas Hanson – Bells Angels

## ✧ CHRIST IS BORN IN BETHLEHEM ✧

### The Second Lesson

Readers: 7:00 Hannah Malloy 10:00 Carl Johnson

#### **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.

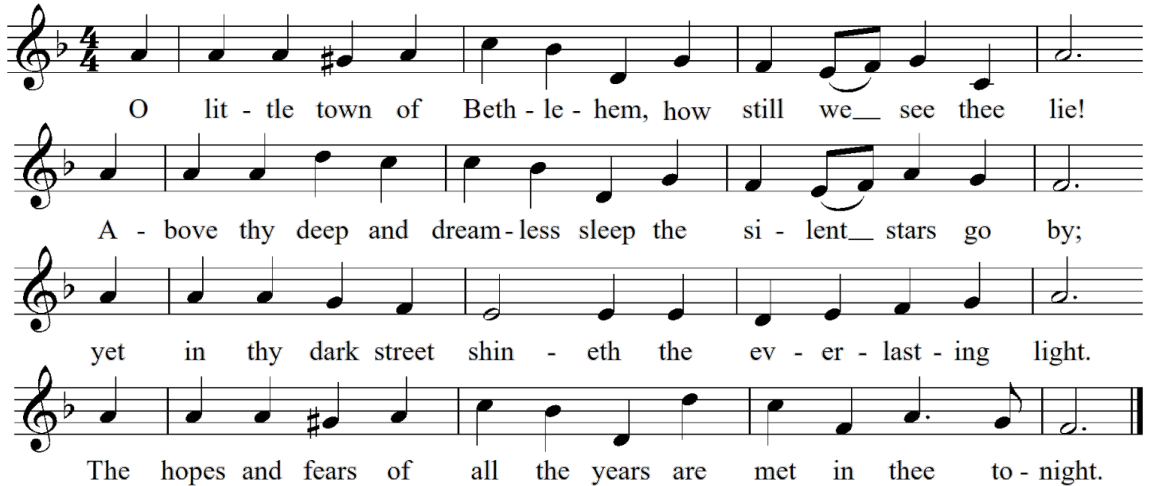
Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

Carol

7:00

## #279 O Little Town of Bethlehem [Stanza 1]



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.

Anthem

10:00

*O Bethlehem* by Carl Schalk – Senior ChoirThe Third Lesson

Readers:

7:00

Aidan Weileder

10:00

Joseph Ceci

**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."

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Carol

### The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came

1. The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came, with  
4. Of her, Em-man - u - el, the Christ, was born in  
wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame: "All  
Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn, and  
hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y, most  
Chris - tian folk through-out the world will ev - er say: "Most  
high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!  
high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!

Text: Basque Carol, para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924. Music: Basque Carol. Tune: Gabriel's Message 10 10 12 10.

## The Fourth Lesson

Readers: 7:00 Daniel Zello 10:00 Lois Marks

### **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.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Carol

### #296 What Child is This?

Sermon

7:00 Pastor Karen Natterstad

10:00 Pastor Ann Williams

*Please stand as you are able.*

Carol of the Day

### **#267 Joy to the World**

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

## ✧ O COME LET US ADORE HIM ✧

*Please be seated.*

### The Fifth Lesson

Readers: 7:00 George Ubell

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

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.”

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

Carol

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

## The Sixth Lesson

Readers: 7:00 Eli Schaar

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

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.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

Carol

### **We Three Kings**

1. We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra-verse a - far,  
 5. Glo - rious now be - hold Him a - rise; King and God and sac - ri - fice:  
 field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, sounds through the earth and skies.  
 O star of won - der, star of light, star with roy - al beau - ty bright,  
 west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light.

Text: John Henry Hopkins, Jr., 1857. Based on Matthew 2:1-11. Tune: Kings of Orient 88 86 with Refrain. John Henry Hopkins, Jr. 1857.

*Please stand as you are able.*

**Prayers of Intercession**

Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

...Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

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**

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** ✦

Musical Offering

7:00

*For Unto Us* by Natalie Sleeth

– New Creation & New Generation Choirs

10:00

*Angels' Carol* by John Rutter – Senior Choir



*Please stand as you are able.*

# Offertory

## Away in a Manger

1. A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed,  
 3. Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head;  
 close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.

the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay;  
 Bless all the dear chil - dren in your ten - der care

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
 and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

Text: North American, 19th Cent. Music: William J. Kirkpatrick, 1838-1921. Tune: Cradle Song 11 11 11 11.

# 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

## 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.*

## Communion Music

7:00

*Joy to the World* arr. Bill Ingram – Righteous Ringers  
*The Wexford Carol* arr. John Carter – Andy Sadjak - Cello  
*Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* by J.S. Bach  
 – Jeff Reeves & John Paradowski - Piano Duet  
**#300 The First Noel**

10:00

*In the Bleak Mid-Winter* arr. Karen Buckwalter – Bells Angels  
**#300 The First Noel**  
*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* arr. by Mark Hayes, Piano

*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 ✧

## The Seventh Lesson

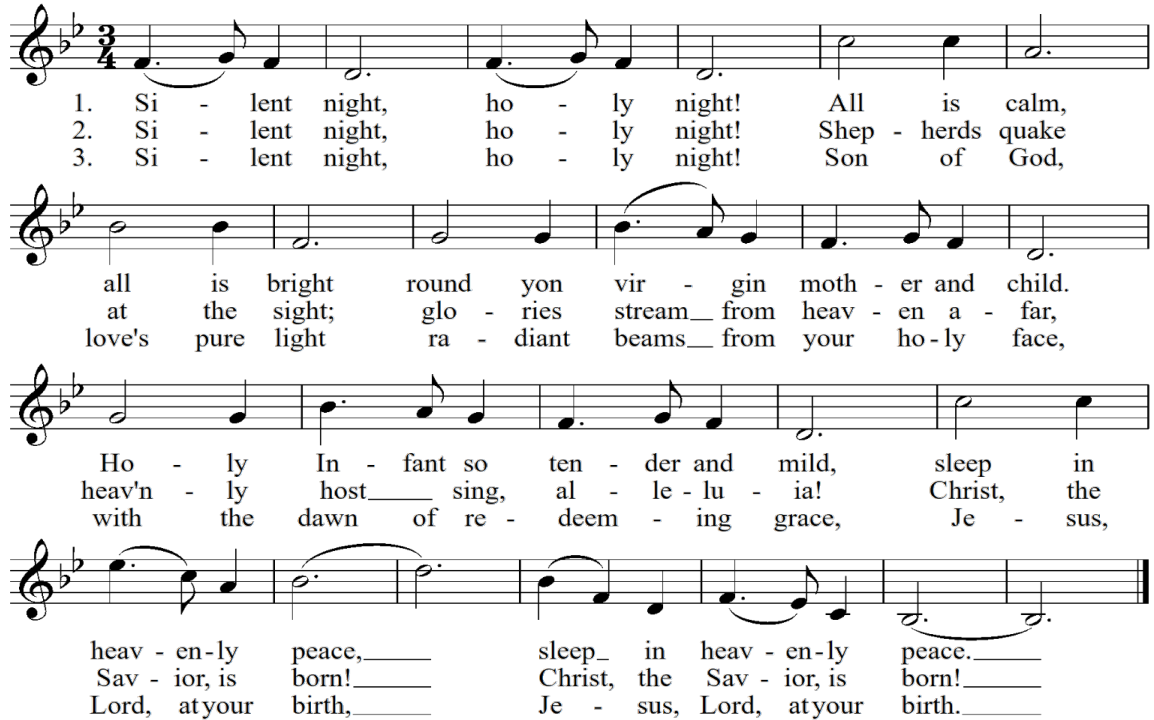
*A worship leader will come down to share the light of Christ. Please share the light carefully with your neighbors. Place the unlit candle into the wick of the lit candle. To prevent dripping, keep lit candles vertical. After Silent Night please gently blow out the candle and hold until wax hardens. 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



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.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please be seated.*

Anthem

10:00

*A Christmas Blessing* by Philip Stopford – Senior Choir

*Please stand as you are able.*

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

*Carol Rhapsody* by Rick Seaton

✦ **AND OF HIS REIGN THERE WILL BE NO END** ✦