

Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 2022



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

December 24, 2022

9:00 PM Service

To the Manger in the Night	Bell Choir
Away in a Manger	Adult Choir
Mary's Lullaby	Bell Choir
Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming	Pastor & Kimberly
Angels We Have Heard on High	Bell Choir
271 I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve	Adult Choir
T'was in the Moon of Wintertime	Bell Choir

Featuring Cello—Nathaniel Black

Christmas Day Service at 11 AM, Dec. 25th

Listening for the Promise

Weekly Devotional

Nativity of Our Lord (Christmas Eve) - December 24, 2022

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined." -Isaiah 9:2-

About 700 years before the birth of Jesus, the prophet Isaiah spoke these words from our verse above. While good news and hope dwell in his words, Isaiah also acknowledges the reality of the darkness. The one behind the darkness is Satan.

Once when our family was on vacation, we stayed in a hotel room that had room-darkening curtains. They worked very well because at night, there were no street lights or car headlights shining in. Our youngest daughter was about three years old at the time. Darkness frightened her, so in her bedroom at home, she had a nightlight. She was afraid of the dark hotel room. When my husband and I tried to convince her that it was just a little dark, she responded that it was not "just a little dark." It was "BLACK DARK!" Of course, she was afraid of physical darkness.

However, the darkness that Isaiah refers to in verse 2 goes much deeper than physical darkness. It's much worse: an emotional, mental, or spiritual darkness. Satan's greatest weapon to keep us in the dark is sin. Sin is all around us. My daughter thought that hotel room was the blackest darkness she'd ever witnessed. The reality, though, is that the blackest darkness is the darkness of sin.

We have all walked in the darkness because we are all guilty of sin. But the good news is that when our Savior Jesus Christ was born on this day, he brought light into the world because he is the Light of the world. St. John says, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (Jn. 1:5). Our Savior Jesus Christ has come to give us hope.

The light of Christ shines in a world of darkness, dispelling sin, death, and the devil. The light of Jesus Christ is for you. Our Savior has conquered the darkness for you. May God bring you peace and hope on this most holy night.

Prayer: Gracious God, thank you for sending us your son Jesus Christ to be the Light of the world. May Jesus be our beacon of hope in world that continues to be filled with sin and darkness. In Jesus' name. Amen.

First Lutheran Church

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The Rev. Robert B. Grewe

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Dennis Schmidt, Lutheran Lay Worship Leader

J. Judson Lacko, Lutheran Lay Worship Leader

Guest Pianist, Teresa Maust Perez

Acolytes: Heidi and Denico Walsh

THE GRACE OF GOD HAS APPEARED

*The Processional Hymn *The First Noel* (ELW) No. 300

*The Confession and Forgiveness (ELW) page 94

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

C: Amen.

P: God of all mercy.....of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Most merciful God,

C: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God,.....in the name of the Father, and of the †Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

*The Apostolic Greeting (ELW) page 138

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

*The Kyrie (*sung response*)

(ELW) page 138

P:, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

*Hymn of Praise

O Little Town of Bethlehem

(ELW) No. 279

*The Prayer of the Evening

C: O God, you have made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Grant that as we have known on earth the mysteries of that Light, we may also come to the fullness of his joys in heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Psalmody for the Evening

Psalm 96

¹The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand,
until I make your enemies your footstool."

²**The LORD will send the scepter of your power out of Zion,
saying, "Rule over your enemies round about you.**

³Princely state has been yours from the day of your birth;
in the beauty of holiness have I begotten you, like dew
from the womb of the morning."

⁴**The LORD has sworn and he will not recant:**

"You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek."

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come; Let earth re-ceive her King;
 2. Joy to the world! the Sav-iour reigns; Let men their songs em-ploy,

Let ev-ery heart pre-pare him room, And heaven and na-ture
 While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains Re-peat the sound-ing

And

sing, And heaven and nature sing, And heaven, and heaven and na-ture sing.
 joy, Re-peat the sound-ing joy, Re-peat, re-peat the sound-ing joy.

heaven and na-ture sing, and heaven and na-ture sing,

3 No more let sins and sorrows grow,
 Nor thorns infest the ground;
 He comes to make his blessings flow
 Far as the curse is found.

4 He rules the world with truth and grace,
 And makes the nations prove
 The glories of his righteousness,
 And wonders of his love.

The Second Reading

Titus 2:11-14

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

*Hymn

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

(ELW) No. 270

*The Gospel Acclamation (sung)

(ELW) page 142

C: Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.
 Alleluia. Alleluia.

* The Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

C: Glory to You, O Lord. (sung after announcement of the Gospel)

C: Praise to You, O Christ. (sung after conclusion of the Gospel)

Sermon

Rev. Robert B. Grewe

The Hymn of the Evening

I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve

(ELW) No. 271

*The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

I 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; by the power of the Holy Spirit He became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. 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.

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

I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

*Sharing of the Peace

The Musical Offering

He is Born, the Divine Christ Child

Bell Choir

The Offertory

Create in Me a Clean Heart

(SBH) No. 27

*The Great Thanksgiving

(ELW) page 144

1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, All is calm, all is bright

Round yon Vir - gin Moth - er and Child. Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild,

Sleep in heav - en - ly peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.

2 Silent night, holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing, Alleluia,
Christ, the Saviour, is born!

3 Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming



1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath
 2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man



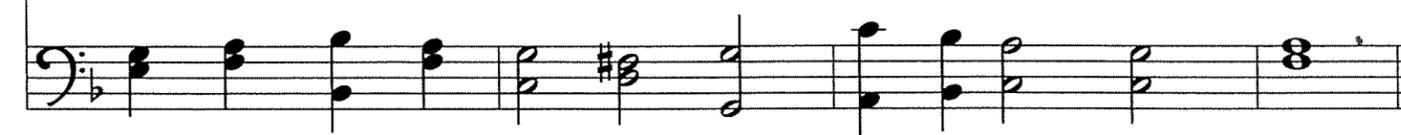
sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as
 mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the
 air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the
 woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who



seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -
 vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she
 dark-ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from
 dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to



mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
 bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.
 sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.
 the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.



*The 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.**

Lamb of God

(ELW) page 146

*Communion Hymn

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

(ELW) No. 272

The Distribution

Prayer/Blessing

The Ushers will distribute candles to the worshippers as the Adult Choir sings an arrangement of "All is Well" by Lloyd Larson.

Following the distribution of the candles, the ushers will process to the chancel.

(Please stand) We will read responsively:

P: I am the Light of the World, saith Christ, they that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness but shall have the Light of Life.

C: Glory to God in the Highest.

The Communion

P: Let your light so shine before all people, that they shall see your good works and glorify your Father Who is in heaven.

C: And on earth, peace, good will to all.

The Pastor lights his candles from the Gospel candle, symbolizing The Good News of Jesus Christ. The ushers light their candles from the Pastor's. The ushers take the light of Christ to the worshippers.

(Tilt the unlit candle, not the lighted one.)

"Silent Night" by Theresa Maust Perez on piano

When all the candles are lit, the ushers will come to the altar and all will sing "Silent Night" (SBH) No. 16

*The Benediction (sung response)

C: Amen, Amen, Amen.

(Please extinguish the candles after The Benediction)

*The Recessional Hymn *Joy to the World* (SBH) No. 15

*FLC Sending Hymn *Be The Love of Christ* arr. Michael Showalter
Roger Thornhil

**MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL
AND TO ALL A GOODNIGHT!**

As you leave the church, please deposit the extinguished candles in one of the boxes covered with foil. Thank you!

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God: and re -

new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -

way from thy pres - ence: and take not thy Ho - ly

Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of

thy sal - va - tion: and up - hold me with thy free Spir - it.

I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve

271



1 I am so glad each Christ-mas Eve, the night of Je - sus' birth!
2 The lit - tle child in Beth - le - hem, he was a king in - deed!
3 He dwells a - gain in heav - en's realm, the Son of God to - day;
4 I am so glad each Christ-mas Eve! His prais - es then I sing;
5 And so I love each Christ-mas Eve, and I love Je - sus too;



Then like the sun the star shone forth, and an - gels sang on earth.
For he came down from heav'n a - bove to help a world in need.
and still he loves his lit - tle ones and hears them when they pray.
he o - pens now for ev - 'ry child the pal - ace of the king.
and that he loves me ev - 'ry day I know so well is true.



300

The First Noel

1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
2 They look - ed up and saw a star shin - ing
3 And by the light of that same star three ...
4 This star drew near to the north - west, o'er ...
5 Then en - tered in those wise men three, full ...

cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
in ... the east ... be - yond ... them far; and to the
wise ... men came ... from coun - try far; to seek for a
Beth - le - hem ... it took ... its rest; and there it
rev - 'rent - ly ... up - on ... their knee, and of - fered

they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
earth it gave ... great light, and so it con -
king was their in - tent, and to fol - low the
did both stop ... and stay right ... o - ver the
there in his ... pres - ence their ... gold, ... and

night that was so deep.
tin - ued both day and night.
star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
place where Je - sus lay.
myrrh, and frank - in - cense.

el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
 4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
 while mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won-d'ring love.
 So God im-parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
 O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ-mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king;
 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness!

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
 born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Refrain
 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"