

Christmas Eve Candle Light Service



St. Paul's Ev.

Lutheran

Church

Opening Hymn – [380 Hark! The Herald Angels](#) **Sing**



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



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - c
Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin's w
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His w



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the sl
Veiled in flesh the God - head see, Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may d



With the an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth-le-he
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im-man-u -
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec-ond bi



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

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#338 "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"



1 Come, Thou long - ex - pect-ed Je-sus, Born to set Thy peo-ple
2 Born Thy peo-ple to de - liv-er; Born a child and yet a l



From our fears and sins re-lease us; Let us find our rest in
Born to reign in us for-ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king - dom



Is - rael's strength and con-so - la-tion, Hope of all the earth Thou
By Thine own e - ter-nal Spir-it Rule in all our hearts a -



Dear de - sire of ev-'ry na-tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing h
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo - rious th

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Responsive Litany – The Light of Christ – (Please Stand)

| **Soloist:** *“Love’s Pure Light”*

- P** For those walking in darkness, a new light has dawned.
- C** **Christ is our light and the source of everlasting hope.**
- P** For those living in fear and dread, a new light has dawned.
- C** **Christ is our light and the source of everlasting peace.**
- P** For those living in hopelessness and despair, a new light has dawned.
- C** **Christ is our light and the source of everlasting joy.**
- | **P** For those living in loneliness, a new light has dawned.
- C** **Christ is our light and the source of everlasting love.**

| — **Advent Candle Lighting:** **Soloist:** *“Love’s Pure Light”*

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

Opening Versicles

- L** Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,
C **the light no darkness can overcome.**
- L** Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,
C **and the day is almost over.**
- L** Let Your light scatter the darkness
C **and illumine Your Church.**
- L** The Spirit and the Church cry out:
C **Come, Lord Jesus.**
- L** All those who await His appearance pray:
C **Come, Lord Jesus.**
- L** The whole creation pleads:
C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Confession & Absolution

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.
- C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**
- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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 Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Introit *Ps. 2:1–2, 4–6; antiphon: Liturgical Text*

P: When all was still, and it was midnight,

C: your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the royal throne.

P: Why do the nations rage

C: and the peoples plot in vain?

P: The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together,

C: against the LORD and against his anointed.

P: He who sits in the heavens laughs;

C: the Lord holds them in derision.

P: Then he will speak to them in his wrath,

C: and terrify them in his fury, saying,

P: "As for me, I have set my King

C: on Zion, my holy hill."

ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

[P: When all was still, and it was midnight,](#)

[P: When all was still, and it was midnight,](#)

C: your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the royal throne.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

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

C **Amen.**

Readings – (Please Be Seated)

First Reading *Isaiah 9:2-7*

Isaiah 9:2-7

² 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.

³You have multiplied the nation;_
you have increased its joy;_
they rejoice before you_
as with joy at the harvest,_
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

⁴For the yoke of his burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult,
and every garment rolled in blood,
will be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual _____ *Is. 9:6; Ps. 98:1a*

P: To us a child is born, to us a son is given;

C: and the government shall be upon his shoulder.

P: And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God,

C: Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

P: Sing to the Lord a new song,

C: for he has done marvelous things!

Special Music

Second Reading – Titus 2:11–14

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹²training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel - Luke 2:1–14

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor

of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people.

¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried:

He descended into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven—

and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen. — **C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty,

maker of heaven and earth.

— And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

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Almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living and the

dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life † everlasting. Amen.

Sermon Hymn

357 — O Come, O Come, Emmanuel — v. 1 & 6



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap -



Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile



Un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re - joice! Re - joice!



Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

- | **Lighting of the Candles—(Please Stand)**

Litany

L In peace let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For all pastors and Church workers in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For our government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:

C Alleluia.

L Rejoicing in the fellowship of the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord:

C Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Lord's Prayer

L Taught by our Lord and trusting in His promises, we are bold to pray:

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.

Lighting of the Candles – (Please Stand)



370 What Child Is This



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap
 2 Why lies He in such mean es-tate Where ox and ass
 3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king,



sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet
 feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here
 own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings;



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this
 si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear
 lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise



Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels si
 pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me for y
 song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - b



Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar-
 Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar-
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar-

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Benedicamus

- L** Let us bless the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Benediction

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine on you
 and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you
 peace.
- C** Amen.

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;
 Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
 Je - sus, to Thee be glo - ry giv'n!

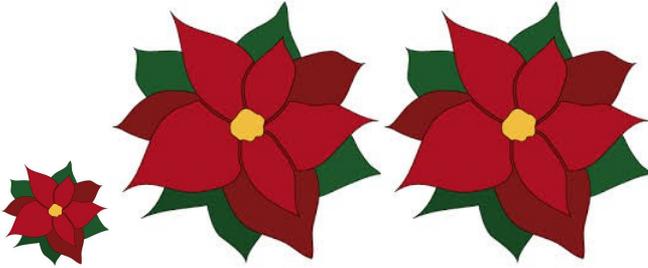
Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels
 Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Glo - ry to God In the high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

Refrain

O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him

O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

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Poinsettia plants ~~have been given~~ in loving memory of:

Loved ones by Paul and Gail Swanston

Dan Wold by Cheryl, Julia, and Jordan Wold

Natalie and sis Dorothy by Betty and Jerry Streckfuss

Our parents by Betty and Jerry Streckfuss

Peter and Ronata Ochsner & Filip and Frances Lacher
from

Jerry and Betty Ochsner

Guido Hohenecker by Kay Hohenecker and family

Cornie & Angie Droog and Harvey & Matalene Bardell by

Ron and Deb Droog

Mike Felix by Gladys Felix and family

Del and Betty Adolphsen by Roberta Adolphsen & Sheryl
and David Artl

Bert and Gerda Rieger by Sharon Hanna

Connie Johnsen by Lyle Johnsen

[Our parents by Tom and Diane Agniitsch](#)

Lighted arrangement in memory of Tracey Montgomery by
Phyllis Hite

In honor of Patricia Fors' 90th birthday by Elton Fors