

**Christmas Eve Family Service  
December 24, 2020—11AM and 4:30PM**

**The Gathering of Our Hearts**

**Opening Song:**       **“O Come all Ye Faithful” (ELW # 283 v. 1)**

O come, O come, O come, O come

*O Come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him, born the king of angels;  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

**Welcome** to Memorial Lutheran Church’s Christmas Eve family service

**Song:**                               **“Joy to the World”**

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her king;  
let ev’ry heart prepare him room  
and heav’n and nature sing,  
and heav’n and nature sing,  
and heav’n and heav’n and nature sing.*

**Solo:**       **“I am so glad each Christmas Eve” - Amy Horst**

*I am so glad each Christmas Eve,  
The night of Jesus' birth!  
Then like the sun the Star shone forth,  
And angels sang on earth.*

*The little Child in Bethlehem,  
He was a King indeed!  
For He came down from heaven above  
To help a world in need.*

*He dwells again in heaven's realm,  
The Son of God today;  
And still He loves His little ones  
And hears them when they pray.*

## **The Christmas Litany – Don Curtus**

**A:** The Light of Christ is born anew this night as your heart.

**C: And also yours.**

**A:** In the beginning, Light shines in the darkness – Loving, Beautiful, Good – giving birth to all creation, the center, the heart, of unfolding life. The Light graces all creation as God's presence.

**C: The Light is Christ.**

**A:** The Light is the child of Mary and Joseph.

**C: The Light is Love.**

**A:** The Light is a mystic, sage, and prophet.

**C: The Light is Beautiful.**

**A:** The Light is life in the midst of death.

**C: The Light is Good.**

**A:** May Christ, the Light, reveal to all who would see the wisdom and wonder of God's boundless love.

**C: Amen**

**Song:                                    “Go Tell it on the Mountain” (ELW # 290 v.1-3)**

*Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!*

*While shepherds kept their watching  
over silent flocks by night,  
behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.*

*Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!*

*The shepherds feared and trembled  
when, lo, above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.*

*Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!*

*Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born  
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.*

*Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!*

## **Opening Prayer**

A. Let us pray, Father, we are your family and we gather together in our hearts and online to worship you and give you thanks for sending your Son as a light to our lives. You give hope, you give promise, you give opportunity, you give help. We humbly accept your invitation to stand in the light of your abundance. Amen.

**Special Reading: “God Gave Us Christmas”**

**Kelly Zaborski**

**Solo:**

***“What Child is This?”***

**Abby Pommeranz**

## **Resting in the Word of Peace**

### **Scripture Readings – Abby Pommeranz**

#### **1<sup>st</sup> reading: Isaiah 9:2-7 MSG**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. For those who lived in a land of deep shadows—light! sunbursts of light! You repopulated the nation, you expanded its joy. Oh, they’re so glad in your presence! Festival joy! The joy of a great celebration, sharing rich gifts and warm greetings. The abuse of oppressors and cruelty of tyrants—all their whips and cudgels and curses—Is gone, done away with, a deliverance as surprising and sudden as Gideon’s old victory over Midian. The boots of all those invading troops, along with their shirts soaked with innocent blood, will be piled in a heap and burned, a fire that will burn for days! For a child has been born—for us! the gift of a son—for us! He’ll take over the running of the world. His names will be: Amazing Counselor, Strong God, Eternal Father, Prince of Wholeness. His ruling authority will grow, and there’ll be no limits to the wholeness he brings. He’ll rule from the historic David throne over that promised kingdom. He’ll put that kingdom on a firm footing and keep it going with fair dealing and right living, beginning now and lasting always. The zeal of GOD-of-the-Angel-Armies will do all this.

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> reading: 2 Titus 2:11-14 MSG**

God’s readiness to give and forgive is now public. Salvation’s available for everyone! We’re being shown how to turn our backs on a godless, indulgent life, and how to take on a God-filled, God-honoring life. This new life is starting right now, and is whetting our appetites for the glorious day when our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, appears. He offered himself as a sacrifice to free us from a dark, rebellious life into this good, pure life, making us a people he can be proud of, energetic in goodness.

**Song:**

***“Polish Lullaby”***

**Carol Topolski & Angela Malburg**

#### **Gospel: Luke 2:1-20**

##### **The Birth of Jesus**

About that time Caesar Augustus ordered a census to be taken throughout the Empire. This was the first census when Quirinius was governor of Syria. Everyone had to travel to his own ancestral hometown to be accounted for. So, Joseph went from the Galilean town of Nazareth up to Bethlehem in Judah, David’s town, for the census.



Song: Solo:

“O Holy Night”

Mandy Fisher

**The Meal of Life is Shared**

**The Great Thanksgiving**

P. The Lord be with you. **C. And also with you.**

P. Lift up your hearts. **C. We lift them to the Lord.**

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C. It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

**A.** Holy God, source of life and without end, we give thanks to you! You continually call all life into being, cradling your creation in compassion. You spread out the heavens like a tent and enclose the seas. You fill the world with wondrous creatures and know all things as truly good. You send your heavenly messengers of hope day and night, and with them we sing and give glory to you:

**P:** In the days of Simeon and Anna, you lean toward the earth. Your eternal Spirit becomes known to us through your Beloved. Born into the family of Mary and Joseph, Jesus is cradled beside the beasts and warmed by their breath –Here is your child, like all your children, woven into life by the Spirit and in need of compassion. Worldly rulers are troubled by your dawning reign –embodied in this child, in whom the fullness of your Spirit is pleased to dwell.

**C: Born of your Spirit. Full of your Grace. Radiant with your Beauty.**

**A:** As your Beloved servant, Jesus becomes empty of might upon the cross. As the Risen Anointed One, Jesus is forever embraced by You as Christ, embodying your eternal mercy and restoring justice to all the earth, now and forever.

**C: And so, together we stand, rejoicing in all that you, All-loving God, have done and continue to do for us.**

**A.** Holy God, as You visit us in the birth of Jesus, heal our blindness so that we may see your presence now always within and among us. In these delightful creatures of bread and wine – holy food and holy drink – help us to taste the banquet of heaven here on earth.

**P:** We remember how Jesus takes bread, blesses, breaks it and gives it to his friends saying, take, eat, this is my body being given for you, do this for the remembrance of me. Likewise, the Beloved holds the cup of wine, blesses it and gives it to them saying, “drink this, all of you. This cup is the covenant in my blood, being poured out for you and for many, that you may know God always holds you in tender forgiveness. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

**C. Holy God, You shed your grace brighter than starlight on us, that our hearts may radiate your good tidings to all and renew the weary world in your name: Emmanuel, God-With-Us. Holy God, to You we give honor and glory in joy, now and forever. Amen!!**

P. Again, after the same matter, He took the cup, and after giving thanks, He gave it to them saying, "This is my blood shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me."

### **The Lord's Prayer**

A. God, remember us in your love, and teach us to pray...

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by your name. Your Kingdom come; your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

**Communion Music**

***"Mary, Did You Know?"***

**Mandy Fisher**

### **The Post communion Prayer:**

A. Holy God, God of Abraham and Sarah and Hagar, God of Mary and Joseph, God of Angels and Shepherds, God of our Beloved, Jesus of Nazareth: You are God of all the earth. Tonight, You reveal to us again that all people are your beloved children and that all creatures are your handiwork. Let us never cease to tell the story of your boundless love in all we say and do. **C. Amen!**

### **The Response to hearing of God's love**

#### **Prayers of the People**

A: This night the eternal Word of God is born in us. We pray for Christ's light of life to take flesh in the church, the creation, and all people of God. (*A brief silence.*)

A: We bring to the manger our longing for the visible unity of the church of Jesus Christ, that undivided it proclaim the one whose birth brings good news of glad tidings to all people. Lord, in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

A: We bring to the manger hope for the well-being of creation, that every valley be exalted and every rough place be made plain so that every living thing may flourish. Lord, in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

A: We bring to the manger a vision of the reign of the Prince of Peace, that the nations, tribes, and peoples of this world will see and cherish in each other the very image of Christ, whose scepter is mercy and whose judgment is love. Lord, in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

A: We bring to the manger concern for those who have no place to lay their heads this night and for those who dwell in the shadow of loneliness, despair. We come begging that the child for whom there was no room will open the doors of our hearts to the needs of our neighbors and ourselves. Lord, in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**



