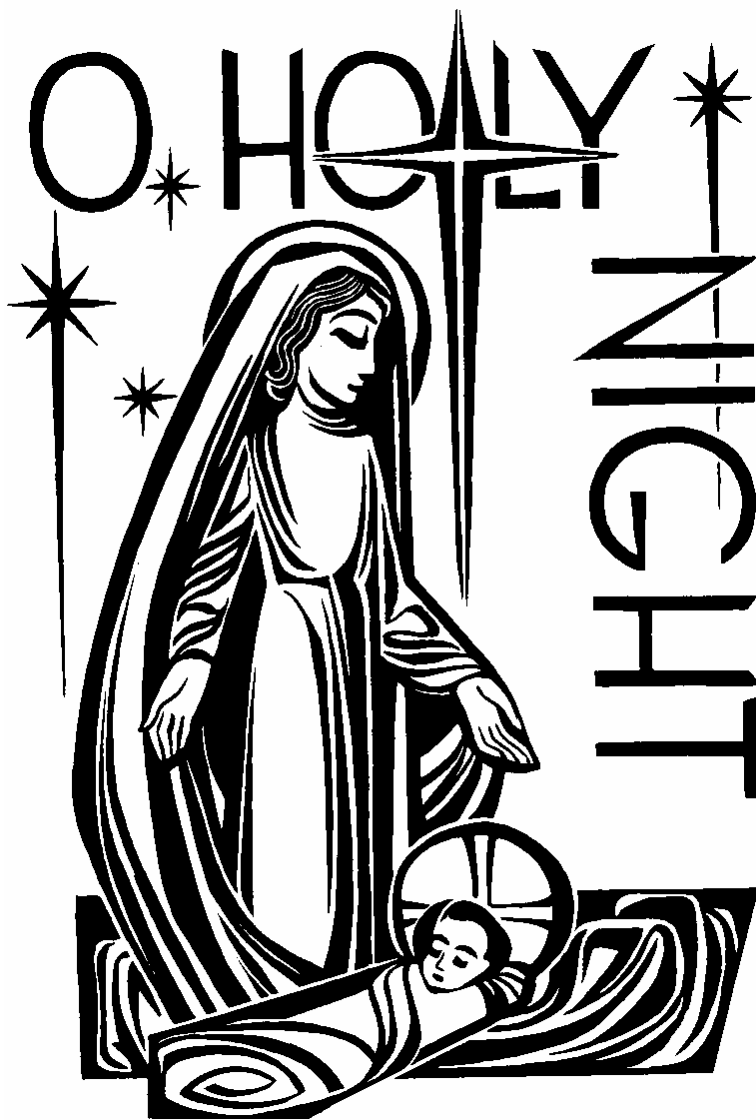


THE FEAST OF  
THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

CHRISTMAS EVE VESPERS



Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Morton Grove, Illinois  
December 24, 2011 7:00 P.M.

## ✘ WELCOME

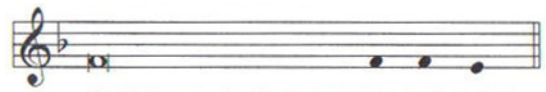
A warm welcome to everyone who has joined us for worship this evening, especially to **our guests**. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask an usher or another member. We are here to serve you. **Restrooms** are located in the hallway outside the worship space.

## ✘ PRELUDE

*Now Praise We Christ, the Holy One*

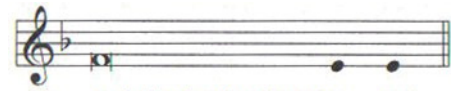
## ✘ SERVICE OF THE LIGHT

M: Jesus Christ is the light of the world.



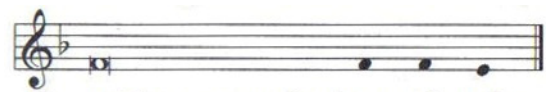
C: the light no darkness can o - ver - come.

M: Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening.



C: and the day is almost o - ver.

M: Be our light and scatter the darkness



C: and hear our evening hymn of praise.

## ✘ ENTRANCE HYMN

*Joy to the World (CW 62)*

1. 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.
2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reign! Let all their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
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,  
Far as the curse is found, far as, 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,  
And wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

## THE PSALMODY ✕

**A**lmighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true light. Grant that as we have known on earth the wonder of that light, we may also behold him in all his glory in the life to come; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

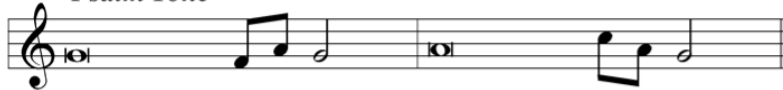
### PSALM 96

#### Refrain



A Sav - ior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

#### Psalm Tone



Sing to the LORD, praise his name;  
proclaim his salvation day after day.

Declare his glory among the nations,  
his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

Worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness;  
tremble before him, all the earth.

#### Refrain

Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;  
let the sea resound, and all that is in it;

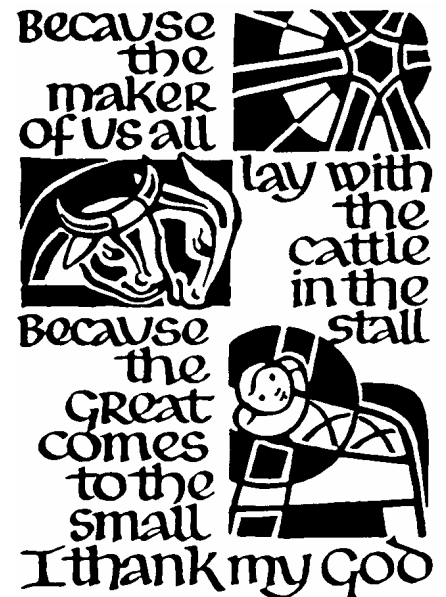
let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them.  
Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy,

for he comes to judge the world in righteousness  
and the peoples in his truth.

**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.**

#### Refrain



silence for meditation after the psalm

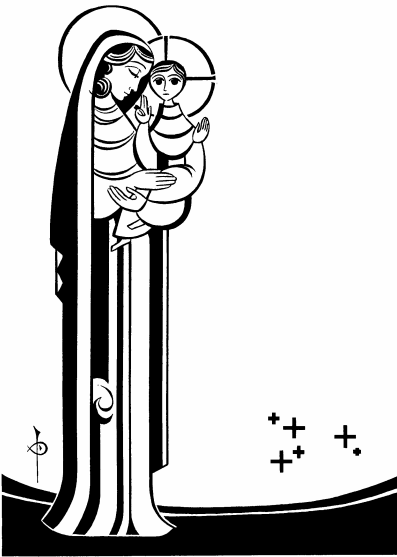
**PSALM PRAYER**

**L**ord Jesus Christ, eternal Word of the Father, when you became flesh and made your home among us, the heavens were glad and the earth rejoiced. In hope and love we await your return. Help us proclaim your glory to those who do not know you, until the whole earth sings a new song to you and the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**✠ OFFICE HYMN**

*O Little Town of Bethlehem (CW 66)*



1. O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.
2. For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.  
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the King and peace to all the earth.
3. How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n.  
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin  
Where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.
4. O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
Oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

**✠ LESSON**

*Titus 2:11-14*

**T**he grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**



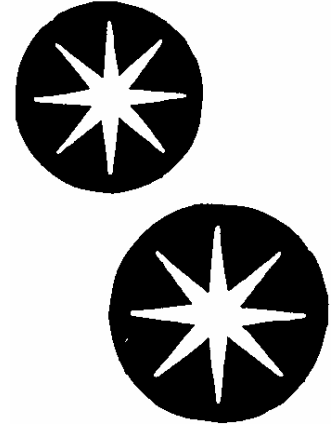
## ANTHEM ✠

*Born Where the Shadows Lie (Jerusalem Choir)*

*Born where the shadows lie, to answer ev'ry cry of man,  
This Child who formed all life now breathes our breath.  
Born where the Father loved, born helpless to a mother's arms;  
She smoothed the tears upon the face of God.*

*Born now with man to dwell, our Lord Immanuel;  
Come see the King, the Christ Child, born to us.  
Born now with man to dwell, our Lord Immanuel.  
My soul can fin'ly know the God of heav'n.*

*Born with a road ahead, alone these blameless feet would tread  
The path God chose to walk before all time.  
Born holding life and death, born bearing heaven's wealth of peace  
That fills where none can fill, our Living Stream.*

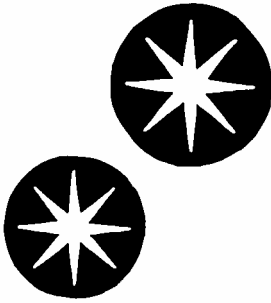


## HOLY GOSPEL ✠

**Luke 2:1-20**

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. This was the first taxing, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be taxed, each to his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be taxed with Mary his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first born son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men!" When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child; and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of the Lord.     **C: Thanks be to God.**



## ✠ HYMN OF THE DAY

*To Shepherds as They Watched by Night (CW 53)*

1. To shepherds as they watched by night appeared a host of angels bright;  
“Behold the tender babe,” they said, “in yonder lowly manger laid,
2. “At Bethlehem, in David’s town, as Micah did of old make known.  
It is the Christ, your Lord and King, who will to all salvation bring.”
3. Oh, then rejoice that through his Son, God is with sinners now at one;  
Made like yourselves of flesh and blood, your brother is th’eternal God.
4. What harm can sin and death then do? The true God now abides with you.  
Let hell and Satan storm and rave, Christ is your brother – you are safe.
5. Not one he will or can forsake; his cov’nant he will never break.  
Let ev’ry scheme the tempter try; you may his utmost pow’rs defy.
6. You shall and must at last prevail. God’s own you are; you cannot fail.  
To God forever sing your praise with joy and patience all your days.

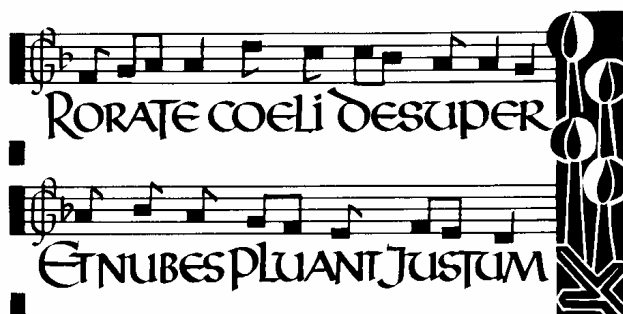


## ✠ COMMENTARY ON A LESSON

*Isaiah 9:2-7*

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as men rejoice when dividing the plunder. For as in the day of Midian’s defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. Every warrior’s boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

The Word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.



## THE MAGNIFICAT ✠

*My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord (The Song of Mary)*

1. My soul now magnifies the Lord; my spirit shall in God rejoice.  
My humble state he did regard, exalting me by gracious choice.
2. Henceforth shall people call me blest, for great things he has done for me.  
The mighty God is now my guest; the Holy One has set me free.
3. His mercy is on all who fear, who trust in him from age to age.  
His arm of strength to all is near; the proud he scatters, though they rage.
4. He brings down rulers from their seat and raises those of low degree.  
He fills the hungry souls with meat; the rich depart in poverty.
5. He helped his servant Israel, rememb'ring his eternal grace,  
As from of old he did foretell to Abraham and all his race.
6. So praise with me the Holy One who comes in all humility.  
To our Redeemer, God's own Son, be glory in eternity!

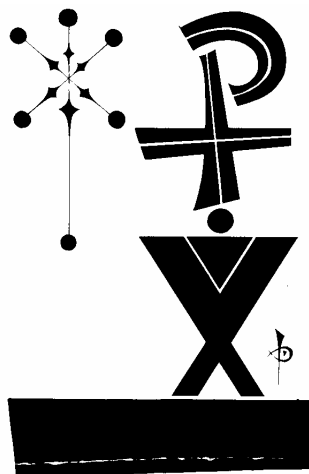


## THE SECOND ARTICLE OF THE APOSTLES' CREED ✠

**I** believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death. All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally. This is most certainly true.



## ✠ OFFERING

During the offering, ushers will be passing out light to those with candles. **No children ages 13 or younger should hold a lit candle at any time.** When the time comes for the candles to be lit, the person with the **unlit** candle should tip his or her candle into the flame of the **lit** candle. **Please do not tip lit candles.**

## ✠ KYRIE

**K**yrrie, God Father in heaven above, you abound in gracious love, of all things the maker and preserver. Eleison, eleison!

Kyrrie, O Christ our King, salvation for all you came to bring. O Lord Jesus, God's own Son, our mediator at the heav'nly throne, hear our cry and grant our supplication. Eleison, eleison!

Kyrrie, O God the Holy Ghost, guard our faith, the gift we need the most, and bless our life's last hour that we leave this sinful world with gladness. Eleison, eleison!

## ✠ THE LORD'S PRAYER

**O**ur 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.

## ✠ PRAYER FOR PEACE

**L**ord God, all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works come from you. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments. Defend us also from the fear of our enemies that we may live in peace and quietness, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

## ✠ BLESSING

**T**he grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Amen.

**HYMN ☩**

***Silent Night! Holy Night!* (CW 60)**

1. **Stille Nacht! heilige Nacht! Alles schläft; einsam wacht  
Nur das traute, hochheilige Paar. Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar;  
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh! Schalf in himmlischer Ruh!**
1. **Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright,  
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**
2. **Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight.  
Glories stream from heaven afar; heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia;  
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, 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; Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**



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**Organist:** Lola Kirstein

**Presiding Minister:** Pastor Peter Prange



**PLEASE JOIN US FOR WORSHIP**

- ☩ **A Service of Nine Lessons and Carols – Tonight at 10:30 P.M.**
- ☩ **Christmas Day Worship with Holy Communion – Tomorrow at 10 A.M.**
- ☩ **New Year's Eve with Holy Communion – Saturday, December 31 at 7 P.M.**
- ☩ **New Year's Day with Holy Communion – Sunday, January 1, 2012 at 10 A.M.**
- ☩ **Sunday Worship in 2012 at 8 & 10:30 A.M.**

Find Jerusalem on the web at: [www.jerusalem.lutheran.org](http://www.jerusalem.lutheran.org)