

Christmas Eve

December 24th, 2021, 5:00 PM



MEMORIAL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

Christmas Eve

December 24th, 2021, 5:00 PM

Memorial Lutheran Church | Nevada, Iowa

**An asterisk denotes that the congregation is invited to stand*

Prelude: Selections from “*The Gift*” arr. Eric Tingstad and Nancy Rumbel

Acolytes: Zach Wierson and Lars Borwick

Welcome

***Gathering Hymn:** “O Come, All Ye Faithful” ELW #283

O, Come, All Ye Faithful



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



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



Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

***Confession & Forgiveness**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
who sends the word with angels,
who is made flesh among all peoples,
and who breathes peace on all the earth.

Amen.

In Christ, we are bold to name our sin and cry out for peace.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,
we confess our sin before you.
We replace compassion with competition.
We seek what is mighty while ignoring the meek.
We are quick to anger but slow to forgive.
We have not put on love in harmony with you.
Wrap us in the grace of your powerful Word.
Swaddle our hearts with your peace,
that all we do, in word or deed,
may reflect your love born among us.
Amen.

I bring you good news of great joy for all people:
God has come among us
in the child born of Mary, Christ the Lord.
+ In Christ your sins are forgiven
and you are clothed in peace.
Amen.

***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 Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lighting of Christ Candle

Adapted from Vicar Jennifer Phillips A Song of Praise for Christ's Birth

In a little town, known for nothing much,
God's holy child was born.

Welcome the Light!

By the faint light of the moon,
Mary and Joseph found their way.

Welcome the Light!

Warm breath of resting beasts,
kindly sparkle in their eyes.

Welcome the Light!

In a humble place Mary gave birth to Jesus,
called God-With-Us.

Welcome the Light!

Angels opened the doors of heaven,
sang, "Glory to God in the heights!"

Welcome the Light!

Shepherds saw the sky ablaze,
left their sheep and came to see.

Welcome the Light!

In the dark of the night,
God set a brilliant star.

Welcome the Light!

Magi from the East
divined God's shining sign.

Welcome the Light!

And on this Christmas night
with joy, we greet the Child.

Welcome the Light!

People, Look East

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The lyrics are: 'All ga - ther round, re - joice and sing; Christ the child has come to save! Look, signs of hope and peace and joy, and re - deem-ing love and grace un - bound - ing Peo - ple look east and sing to - day; the prom - ised King is born to - day!'.

All ga - ther round, re - joice and sing; Christ the child has
come to save! Look, signs of hope and peace and joy, and
re - deem-ing love and grace un - bound - ing Peo - ple look
east and sing to - day; the prom - ised King is born to - day!

First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

Lector: Kenzie Alderson

- ²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.
- ³You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
- ⁴For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
- ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
- ⁶For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
- ⁷His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem: “Christmas Angel” arr. Corlynn Hanney
Memorial Choir; soloists: Lily and Sarah Miller

Second Reading: Titus 2:11-14

Lector: Kenzie Alderson

¹¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new - born king;



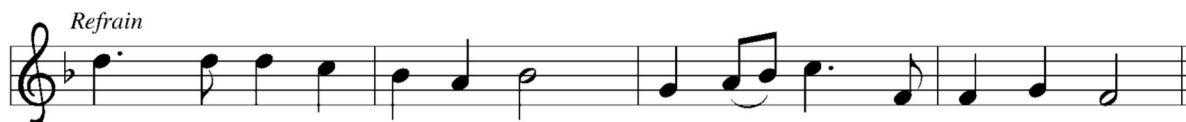
peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled.”



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, “Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!”



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

Please be seated.

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

The Gospel according to Luke

Glory to You, O Lord

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth 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 heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon

Offering

Music Voluntary: *"Before the Marvel of this Night"* arr. Carl Schalk

Memorial Choir

Offering Prayer

Gracious God,
your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth.
As we offer ourselves and these your gifts,
prepare us to receive the grace and truth
you offer at this table
and renew in us the song of your salvation,
in Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

***The Meal**

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***Eucharistic Prayer**

***Words of Institution**

***Lord's Prayer**

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.

Invitation to the Table

Communion Hymns: *"I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve"* ELW #271

"Away in a Manger" ELW #278

"Angels We Have Heard On High" ELW #289



I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve

Jeg er så glad hver julekvel



Jeg er så glad hver ju - le - kveld, ti da blev Je - sus født;

- 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;



da lys - te stjer - nen som en sol, og eng - ler sang så sødt.

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.

Text: Marie Wexelsen, 1832–1911; tr. Peter A. Sveeggen, 1881–1959

Music: JEG ER SÅ GLAD, Peder Knudsen, 1819–1863

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Away in a Manger



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed,
2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes,
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head;
but lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes.
close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.



the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
I love you, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky
Bless all the dear chil - dren in your ten - der care



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

Text: North American, 19th cent.

Music: CRADLE SONG, William J. Kirkpatrick, 1838–1921

Angels We Have Heard on High



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad-some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864
Music: GLORIA, French carol

Prayer after Communion

We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus,
God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine.
As we have shared this feast of love,
strengthen us to share your love with all the world.
In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.

Meditation: "O Holy Night"

Audra Poterucha

Candle Lighting

As the lights are dimmed, ushers will move to begin lighting candles

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. - **John 1:1-14**

Silent Night, Holy Night!

Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht!



Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,
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,



ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.
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,



Hold - er Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher
Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your



Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.
peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

Christmas Blessing

May this eternal truth be always on our hearts
That the God who breathed this world into being
Placed stars into the heavens
And designed a butterfly's wing
Is the God who entrusted his son
to the care of ordinary people
became vulnerable that we might know
how strong is the wonder of Love
A mystery so deep it is impossible to grasp
A mystery so beautiful it is impossible to ignore
- John Birch, *A Mystery So Deep*

The God of hope
fill us with all joy and peace in believing,
so that we may abound in hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
through Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh.
Amen.

Please extinguish your candles.

*Sending Hymn: "Joy to the World" ELW #267

Joy to the World



1	Joy	to	the	world,	the	Lord	is	come!	Let	earth	re -
2	Joy	to	the	earth,	the	Sav -	ior	reigns!	Let	all	their
3	No	more	let	sin	and	sor -	row	grow	nor	thorns	in -
4	He	rules	the	world	with	truth	and	grace	and	makes	the



ceive	her	king;	let	ev -	'ry	heart	pre -	pare	him
songs	em -	ploy,	while	fields	and	floods,	rocks,	hills,	and
fest	the	ground;	he	comes	to	make	his	bless -	ings
na -	tions	prove	the	glo -	ries	of	his	righ -	teous -



room	and	heav'n	and	na -	ture	sing,	and	heav'n	and	na -	ture
plains	re -	peat	the	sound -	ing	joy,	re -	peat	the	sound -	ing
flow	far	as	the	curse	is	found,	far	as	the	curse	is
ness	and	won -	ders	of	his	love,	and	won -	ders	of	his



sing,	and	heav'n,	and	heav'n	and	na -	ture	sing.
joy,	re -	peat,	re -	peat	the	sound -	ing	joy.
found,	far	as,	far	as	the	curse	is	found.
love,	and	won -	ders,	won -	ders	of	his	love.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude: *"Joy to the World"* arr. Charles Ore

Announcements

Online Service Only This Sunday, December 26th

Join us on our YouTube channel this Sunday, December 26th at 9:00 AM for a special worship service from Bishop Amy Current and the Southeastern Iowa Synod. **Please note that we will not be holding in-person worship this Sunday.**

Office Closed Monday, December 27th

The church office will be closed on Monday, December 27th and will resume normal business hours Tuesday, December 28th.

Join in a "Snowtastic Day" December 28th!

ISU Extension and Outreach will be hosting a "Snowtastic Day" December 28th from 8:00 AM—3:00 PM here at Memorial. This indoor event will explore programming robots to move snow, using Legos to create snowblades, learning about snow, and much more! Fees are \$25 per participant; \$15 per 4-H/Clover Kid Member; \$15 per additional sibling. To register, please contact Mary Wilkins at 515-337-1601 or mwilkins@iastate.edu.

Lutheran Disaster Response: Tornado Relief

On Dec. 10th and 11th, 30 tornadoes ripped through six states causing catastrophic damage and loss of life, most notably in Kentucky. By providing a gift to Lutheran Disaster Response, you can help the survivors rebuild their homes and lives. Gifts can be made using Memorial's Tithe.ly site (choose "Lutheran Disaster Response: Tornado Relief"), or by making an indication on your in-person offering. Thank you for your support!

Online Giving with Tithe.ly

Thank you for joining us for worship today! If you would like to support our ministries, online gifts can be made using <http://tithe.ly/give> or by scanning the QR code. Thank you!



Prayers for Healing

If you have a prayer request, please email pastorkathleen@mlcnevada.org or emily@mlcnevada.org, or call the church office at 515-382-6509.

Kathy Larsen and family following the death of her father +Irven Boozell

Justin Brandner
*step-grandson of Wayne
and Helen Johnson*

Katie Brockmeier
*granddaughter-in-law of
Ruth Brockmeier*

Norma Dannan
friend of Betty Runge

Jane Heintz

Dick Couser

JD Parr
cousin of Kim Stieler

Teresa & Kim Krebs
and family

Michael Neal

Ethyleen Sampson

Gary Kluever

Patricia Barrance
*mother of Vanessa
Borwick*

John Snyder

Family of John and
Tanya Sorem

Jami Tharp

Fred Samuelson

Larry Christian

Jaylee Bartleson

Jeff Sebring
*son-in-law of Ernie and
Marlene Ruhde*

Norma Gandrup

Sheila Collingwood
*mother of Lyndsey
De Vos*

Judy Coverdale

James Stephens

George Forsyth

Janeen Driscoll

Lynn Harris

Julie Sutherland

Cassie Harrell

Jan Cook

John Snitko
*son-in-law of Bob and
Liz Meimann*

Carsrud family following
death of De's brother,
Dave Olinger



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 Memorial Lutheran

 Memorial Lutheran ELCA

Kathleen Lotz, Pastor | Lois Theesfield, Director of Music Ministry

Emily Dalthorp, Parish Administrator for Outreach & Engagement

Mike Coverdale, Custodian