



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

**Redeemer Lutheran Church
302 Grove St
Tillamook, OR 97141**

Tuesday, December 24th, 2024; 6:00 p.m.

Pastor Kevin Oster

<p>1 Once in royal David's city Stood a lowly cattle shed, Where a mother laid her baby In a manger for His bed; Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.</p>	<p>4 And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His own redeeming love; For that child so dear and gentle Is our Lord in heav'n above; And He leads His children on To the place where He is gone.</p>
<p>2 He came down to earth from heaven, who is God and Lord of all, And His shelter was a stable, and His cradle was a stall; With the poor and mean and lowly Lived on earth our Savior holy.</p>	<p>5 Not in that poor, lowly stable with the oxen standing by Shall we see Him, but in heaven, Set at God’s right hand on high. Then like stars His children, crowned, All in white, His praise will sound!</p>
<p>3 For He is our childhood’s pattern, day by day like us He grew; He was little, weak, and helpless, Tears and smiles like us He knew; And He feels for all our sadness, And He shares in all our gladness.</p>	<p>Text: Public domain</p>

Opening Sentences: [stand]

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

C. **Amen**

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

C. **Your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the royal throne.**

P. Sing to the Lord a new song:
C. Sing to the Lord, all the earth.

P. Sing to the Lord, praise His name:
C. Proclaim His salvation day after day.

P. Declare His glory among the nations:
C. His marvelous deeds among all peoples.

P. For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise:
C. He is to be feared above all gods.

P. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
C. As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P. When all was still, and it was midnight:
C. Your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the royal throne.

Collect for Christmas

P. Let us pray: God the Father, as you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of Your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ, grant that we, who joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, may with confidence behold Him in true faith when he comes on the Last Day to judge the living and the dead; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end.

C. Amen

†LESSONS
CAROLS

AND
FOR



CHRISTMAS†

First Lesson: Genesis 3:8-15

And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.” The LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

Carol “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

384

1 Solo

2 Oh, that birth forever blessèd, When the virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, Bore the Savior of our race,
And the babe, the world's Redeemer, First revealed His sacred face
Evermore and evermore.

3 Solo

4 O ye heights of heav'n, adore Him; hosts, His praises sing.
Pow'rs, dominions, bow before Him extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent, ev'ry voice in concert ring
Evermore and evermore.

5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Father, And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving And unending praises be,
Honor, glory, and dominion, And eternal victory
Evermore and evermore. Amen.

Text: Public domain

Second Lesson: Genesis 22:15-18

And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

Carol "What Child is this"

#370

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,

Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mary!

2. Why lies He in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mary!

3. So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;
Come, peasant, king, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mary!

Text: Public domain

Third Lesson: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

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. For 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. Of 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.

Carol “The People That in Darkness Sat” #412

- 1 The people that in darkness sat A glorious light have seen;

The light has shined on them who long In shades of death have been,
In shades of death have been.

- 2 To hail Thee, Sun of Righteousness, The gath'ring nations come;
They joy as when the reapers bear Their harvest treasures home,
Their harvest treasures home.
- 3 To us a Child of hope is born, us a Son is giv'n,
And on His shoulder ever rests pow'r in earth and heav'n,
pow'r in earth and heav'n.
- 4 His name shall be the Prince of Peace, The Everlasting Lord,
The Wonderful, the Counselor, The God by all adored,
The God by all adored.
- 5 His righteous government and pow'r Shall over all extend;
On judgment and on justice based, His reign shall have no end,
His reign shall have no end.
- 6 Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray, make us Thine alone,
Who with the Father ever art Holy Spirit, one,
And Holy Spirit, one.

Fourth Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-9

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the

leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

Hymn

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”

#359

- 1 Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
 From tender stem hath sprung!
 Of Jesse's lineage coming
 As prophets long have sung,
 It came, a flow'ret bright,
 Amid the cold of winter,
 When half-spent was the night.

- 2 Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
 The rose I have in mind;
 With Mary we behold it,
 The virgin mother kind.
 To show God's love aright,
 She bore to us a Savior,
 When half-spent was the night.

- 3 This flow'r, whose fragrance tender
 With sweetness fills the air,
 Dispels with glorious splendor
 The darkness ev'rywhere.
 True man, yet very God,
 From sin and death he saves us

And lightens ev'ry load.

- 4 O Savior, child of Mary,
Who felt our human woe;
O Savior, King of glory,
Who dost our weakness know:
Bring us at length we pray
To the bright courts of heaven,
And to the endless day.

Fifth Lesson: Micah 5:2-5a

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And he shall be their peace.

Carol “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

#361

- 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;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel!



Text: Public domain

Sixth Lesson: Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named

Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Carol **"A Great and Mighty Wonder"** **# 383**

1 A great and mighty wonder,
 a full and holy cure:
 The virgin bears the infant
 with virgin honor pure! Refrain

ref Proclaim the Savior's birth:
"To God on high be glory
And peace to all the earth!"

2 The Word becomes incarnate
 and yet remains on high,
 And cherubim sing anthems
 to shepherds from the sky. Refrain

3 While thus they sing your Monarch,
 Those bright angelic bands,
 Rejoice, O vales and mountains,

and oceans, clap your hands. Refrain
4 Since all He comes to ransom,
by all be He adored,
The infant born in Bethl'em,
The Savior and the Lord. Refrain

5 All idols then shall perish
and Satan's lying cease,
And Christ shall raise His scepter,
Decreeing endless peace. Refrain

Text: Germanus, c. 634–c. 734; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.
Text: Public domain

Seventh Lesson: Luke 2:1-7

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

Carol "Away in a Manger" #364

1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
 The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
 The stars in the sky--looked down where He lay,
 The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

2 The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
 But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
 I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
 And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there. Text: Public domain

Eighth Lesson: Luke 2:8-20

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, 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. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

Carol **“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”**

393

1 Infant holy, Infant lowly, For His bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, Little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging, Angels singing, Bells are ringing,
Tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child is Lord of all!

- 2 Flocks were sleeping, Shepherds keeping
Vigil till the morning new
Saw the glory, Heard the story, Tidings of a Gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, Free from sorrow, Praises voicing,
Greet the morrow:
Christ the child was born for you!
Christ the child was born for you! Text: Public domain

Ninth Lesson: John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Carol “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” #380

- 1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King;
peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

ref Hark! The herald angels sing,

“Glory to the newborn King!”

Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel!

ref Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”

4. Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.

ref Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”

Text: Public domain

Sermon

The Lord's Prayer:

The Collect for Christmas Eve :

Heavenly Father, because Thou once caused this holy night to shine with the
brightness of the true Light, grant that we who have known the Mystery of that

Light here on earth may come to the full measure of its joys in heaven; through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord.

C. Amen

†CANDLELIGHT

CEREMONY†



P. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great Light:

C. Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has the Light shined.

P. For unto us a Child is born:

C. Unto us a Son is given.

P. In Him was life:

C. And that life was the Light of men.

P. The Light shines in the darkness:

C. And the darkness has not overcome it.

P. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us:

C. Full of grace and truth.

P. We have beheld His glory:

C. Glory as of the only Son of the Father.

[The light for the candles signifies Christ, the Light of the world, Who is present among us, in Word and sacrament. Please tip only the unlit candle during the candle lighting.]

Closing Hymn “Silent Night” # 363

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.

The Benediction

[The Candles are extinguished]

Soli Deo Gloria!

An excerpt from Luther's Christmas 1544 sermon

It's a marvel that we can "listen in" to Martin Luther's own sermon on Luke 2, from Christmas 1544. Luther emphasizes two marvelous points: Christ took on our flesh and was born of the Virgin Mary. And He did this "for you." That's all we need for a truly Merry Christmas. —Pastor Matthew C. Harrison

This highest work [Christ taking on our flesh and being born in Bethlehem] is done "for us and for our salvation"; as the angel sings: "Unto you is born a Savior" [Luke 2:11]. That the son of God becomes like us would be quite enough. But that is not all. Not only does He become flesh and blood, etc., but your Savior. You are subject to death, sin, and the devil. He wants to redeem you from them. Who will believe this? Ah, heavenly Father, You put Your Son at a maiden's breast to nurse Him and then let Him be hung upon the cross to die — and all this takes place for our sakes. Who will not rejoice at this? Surely we would die of joy, if we [considered this] aright. But our flesh and the devil prevent it. That is our misery and sadness: that I read this and hear it preached that it is so; the prophets proclaim it; the angels preach; the shepherds spread the report that Christ has come and the angels sing; the apostles do miracles to attest it; and the holy Church still sings [about it]. But how is it that it does not penetrate us, so that we say: "The One who is like you is God the Creator; He nurses at the breast, and yet He is my God; and all this so that He might deliver me"? What a clod and stump am I, that I do not receive Him and acknowledge Him as my Savior? [God says,] "This Child was not given only to the mother so that she might supply Him with milk, but for you, so that He might die and deliver you from My wrath." All this I hear preached and I read; I have it painted and sung for me, but I do not take it to heart. I go away as if I had been listening to a fable ... Should I not think: "If this Child whom the mother embraces is mine, if He is my brother, how, then, should I respond?" It would be no wonder if we became righteous from the heart, even without any other teaching. But we should be warmed and even melt with joy. But the devil has poisoned our flesh and blood so that they will not allow us to attain that fruit and joy, where I hear: "This little Boy does not belong to the mother, but to you, not only as He clings to her ... but also as He hangs upon the cross. It is most certain that He has been given and born for you." Then the heart is warmed and says: "If this is true, then there is no ill so great that I would not endure it, even if I had to suffer still more. But on the contrary, [He suffers], and for the sake of the son, I should give eternal thanks from the heart, and my mouth and heart should overflow with joy." That is what should happen, and it does happen among Christians, so that their eyes cry tears of joy. But the crude masses go their way and remain [unaffected]. That is a sign that you do not believe this work. Otherwise, you would reform yourself and rejoice. [If you want to know] how we have reformed ourselves, look at the greed and fornication. We continue in sin and shame, scraping and scratching. Oh, woe to those for whom this work seems to have been done in vain, men of iron who despise this work and

let it be preached but do not take the work to heart, though it is [proclaimed] throughout the whole of Scripture. Let there be weeping and lamentation over those who receive no benefit from this, and no fruit of joy ensues. [But] the dear holy angels sing: “Glory to God in the highest, [and on earth, peace,] goodwill!” [Luke 2:14]. “Goodwill” means [God’s] good pleasure and joy. God has not sent this work into the world with a grim countenance, with stormy brow. Rather, as [He says] at the Jordan: “This is My beloved Son” [Matt. 3:17]. All things laugh — the angels, the creatures — only the devil and the flesh do not. The angels are filled with joy, and the work has nothing to do with them. They had reason for being envious and sour. But these best of spirits sing: “Glory!” — [glory] for all the works of God, but especially for this one, as if to say, “Truly, the one who does such a thing, who sends His Son to cling to a maiden’s neck, and not only for the honor but also for the eternal salvation of mankind, such a one is God indeed!” That is grace, love, mercy indeed; for this He is worthy of praise. And this not only in heaven but also on earth; whatever lives and moves shall have peace, good days, and rest, and “goodwill to men.”

From Martin Luther, “Sermon for Christmas Vespers, (Luke 2[:8–14]),” in Luther’s Works: Sermons V, ed. Christopher Boyd Brown, trans. Christopher Boyd Brown, vol. 58 (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 2010), 194–19