



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Thursday December 24th 2020

8:00 PM

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church - Tempe, AZ

Christmas Eve Service

December 24th, 2020

Dear Heavenly Father, as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior tonight, we ask that You would bless our hearts and minds tonight with Your word. Amen

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC:

“Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne -Arr. Fred Bock

PLEASE RISE

OPENING HYMN: “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

- 1. 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;**

Refrain

O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

- 2. Highest, most holy, Light of Light eternal, Born of a virgin, A mortal He comes; Son of the Father Now in flesh appearing! Refrain**
- 3. Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation, Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above: Glory to God In the highest; Refrain**
- 4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy morning; Jesus to Thee be glory given! Word of the Father now in flesh appearing! Refrain**

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION

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.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination

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, who was born on this night, 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. Therefore, as a Called and Ordained Servant of the Word, I forgive you of all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

HYMN: “The First Noel”

- 1. The First Noel, the Angels did say Was to certain poor
shepherds in fields as they lay In fields where they lay
keeping their sheep On a cold winter's night that was so
deep. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel Born is the King of Israel!**
- 2. They looked up and saw a star Shining in the East beyond
them far And to the earth it gave great light And so it
continued both day and night.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel Born is the King of Israel!**
- 3. This star drew nigh to the northwest O'er Bethlehem it took
its rest And there it did both Pause and stay Right o'er the
place where Jesus lay.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel Born is the King of Israel!**
- 4. Then let us all with one accord Sing praises to our
heavenly Lord That hath made Heaven and earth of nought
And with his blood mankind has bought.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel Born is the King of Israel**

RESPONSIVE PSALM: Psalm 96

P: Oh sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth!

C: **Sing to the Lord, bless His name; tell of His salvation from
day to day.**

P: Declare his glory among the nations, His marvelous works among
all the peoples!

C: **For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; He is to be**

feared above all gods.

P: For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the Lord made the heavens.

C: Splendor and majesty are before Him; strength and beauty are in His sanctuary.

P: Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength!

C: Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into His courts!

P: Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth!

C: Say among the nations, “The Lord reigns! Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved; He will judge the peoples with equity.”

P: Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

C: let the field exult, and everything in it! Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy

P: Before the Lord, for He comes, for He comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness, and the peoples in his faithfulness.

C: 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.

KYRIE

P: In Peace let us pray to the Lord

C: Lord, have mercy

P: 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

P: For this holy house and for all who offer their worship and praise, especially this night, as we remember the birth of the Christ Child.

C: Lord, have mercy

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen

Service of the Word

HYMN: “O Little Town Of Bethlehem”

- 1. O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!
Above the 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
wondering 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 given!
So, God imparts to human hearts The blessings of His
Heaven. No ear may hear His coming; But in this world of
sin, Where meek souls will receive Him, still The dear Christ
enters in. 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!**
- 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!**

PLEASE RISE

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray together the prayer of the day.

C: **O Lord Jesus, Eternal Word and firstborn of all Creation, we praise you for taking on flesh and blood for the world's redemption. As you were born in a wheat and barley town called "House of Bread" and laid in a feeding trough where animals came for grain, give us ever a hunger and thirst for your righteousness, and feed us with yourself, O Bread of Life, so that all may know your feast of salvation and partake of your mercy and grace; to your glory and praise, with the Father and Holy Spirit, now and forever, Amen.**

YOU MAY BE SEATED

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

²The 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.

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN: “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

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!” Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”**
2. **Christ, by highest heaven 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 men to dwell, Jesus our Immanuel! Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”**
3. **Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness! Light and life to all He brings, Risen 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. Hark! The herald angels sing,**

“Glory to the newborn King!

EPISTLE: 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.

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

HYMN: “What Child Is This, Who, Laid To Rest”

- 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

PLEASE RISE FOR THE READING OF THE HOLY GOSPEL

HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 2:1–12

The Birth of Jesus Christ

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 2nd 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.

The Shepherds and the Angels

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.”

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

YOU MAY BE SEATED

HYMN: “Angels We Have Heard On High”

- 1. Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o’er the plains, And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains. Gloria in excelsis Deo Gloria in excelsis Deo**
- 2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heavenly song? Gloria in excelsis Deo Gloria in excelsis Deo**
- 3. Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing; Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King. Gloria in excelsis Deo Gloria in excelsis Deo**

MESSAGE **Stable Stability In An Unstable World - *Luke 2:1-12***

PLEASE RISE

NICENE CREED

C: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again

according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life + of the world to come. Amen.

YOU MAY BE SEATED

OFFERTORY: As gifts are being brought forward

If you are a guest, please know that you are under no obligation to give anything, but receive this worship service as our gift to you. For the members and friends of Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, the mission and ministry of this congregation is dependent upon your generous giving, which is a significant act of our worship life together.

- 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.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P: Brothers and sisters in Christ, this day we celebrate the gift of life, born in Bethlehem to be our Savior. Since, as His redeemed children, we have the command and invitation to do so, let us now bring our prayers and our petitions before the throne of grace, praising God and saying:

C: Glory to God in the highest!

P: From the very beginning of time, God has given the command to be fruitful and multiply. He has blessed and sanctified families throughout history, most significantly through the birth of the Christ Child. May God continue to bless all the families represented here; may each relationship be strengthened or restored; may the Almighty Father protect and keep each family, providing for all of their needs through His riches in Christ Jesus, so that together they can all rejoice in His goodness, praising God and saying:

C: Glory to God in the highest!

P: God Himself also provides for the needs of people by means beyond the family by providing us with Good civic leaders and servants — mayors and councils, emergency workers and health-care providers. Let us thank God for them and ask Him to keep them in His care especially our President and our President-elect as well as those who serve in the armed forces, as well as those who serve in our local Police, Fire and EMT and other emergency services, praising God and saying:

C: Glory to God in the highest!

P: Even on this blessed day, as we are surrounded by so many of our fellow believers, we are reminded of so many others who are not here. We pray for those who have wandered from the faith. God grant that they hear the Savior's call, wherever they are. Bring them back into fellowship with us here, that together we can worship the newborn King, praising God and saying:

C: Glory to God in the highest!

P: Father, You also care for the lonely and the destitute. Guide us, as Your children and Your servants, to reach out to those who are alone in this otherwise festive time of year. Help us find them and include them, reflecting the love You have shown to us, so that they truly have a reason to join us in praising God and saying:

C: Glory to God in the highest!

P: Bless the sick and the shut-ins of our congregation (Especially remembering this day _____). Lord, let them feel Your loving, healing presence; be their rock and their refuge in every trouble. Feeble voiced or strong, You love them, and with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, they can join in praising God and saying:

C: Glory to God in the highest!

P: Receive our prayers and our praise, Lord God Almighty, for You live and reign forever: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C: Our Father who art in Heaven, Hallowed by 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.

HYMN: “O Holy Night”

- 1. O holy night, the stars are brightly shining, It is the night of the dear Savior’s birth; Long lay the world in sin and error pining, 'Till he appeared and the soul felt its worth. A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn; Fall on your knees, Oh hear the angel voices! O night divine! O night when Christ was born. O night, O holy night, O night divine.**
- 2. Truly He taught us to love one another; His law is Love and His gospel is Peace; Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother, And in his name all oppression shall cease, Sweet hymns of joy in grateful Chorus raise we; Let all within us praise his Holy name! Christ is the Lord, then ever! ever praise we! His pow'r and glory, evermore proclaim! His pow'r and glory, evermore proclaim!**

The Service of Light

THE PASSING OF THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

At the Beginning of the Service of Light the Sanctuary will be darkened as we focus in on the light of Christ.

*The Ushers will walk the Aisle & Instruct when your row turns on
Candles*

P: Darkness in 1st century Israel was something they believed had to be overcome; and for them it wasn't easy: the few torches and candles they had didn't go far to illuminate their nights. Now, for us it's as simple as "let there be light." Nobody is going to drive home this evening without their path being illuminated, and as you head out after church most of the homes you pass will be bright with Christmas lights. But there is a lot of darkness in our world: spiritual darkness, moral darkness, ethical darkness. The scope of the darkness around us is almost impossible to comprehend. We are living in a world of darkness, on a "cold winter's night that was so deep." Friends in Christ, the world needs LIGHT. I need light. You need light. And we know people, lots of people who need light as well. For this reason, LIGHT has come into the world, and that is why we are here this evening: because Christ IS the Light who has come into the world, a light that shines into every nook and cranny of creation and onto every human created in the image of God! Tonight, it all begins with one light, the Christ Candle, that candle that symbolizes the end of the waiting and the celebration of Christ's coming. That one light will become two, then four, then eight, then sixteen and on and on until the entire church is glowing with the light of Christ.

Pastor will turn on his candle, as he and the ushers gather around the Christ Candle. The Ushers will then turn on their candles and go pew by pew inviting the congregation to do the same. As the ushers

begin to send light out into the congregation, we will sing “Silent Night”

HYMN: “Silent Night”

- 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.**

P: O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we would joyfully receive Him as our redeemer, so that we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to Judge the living and the dead; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

P: May the Lord bless you and keep you, may the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. May the Lord

look upon you with favor and grant you ✕ His peace.

C: Amen.

As “Joy To The World” begins, the lights in the sanctuary come shining back as we remember that the light of Christ scatters all Darkness and brings HOPE, LOVE, PEACE, and JOY.

HYMN: “Joy To The World”

- 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 reigns; Let men 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, and wonders of His love.**

SENDING

P: Fear not, for behold, I bring good news of great joy. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, Christ the Lord.

C: “Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has

happened”

P: Go in peace, share the good news!

C: **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE: “The Bells of Christmas

SERVING US THIS EVENING

Worship Leader & Preacher: Rev. Timothy Anderson

Organist: Ellen Brown

Other Musicians: Glenn Brown

Lector: Don Schumm

Greeter: Marsha Beetham

CHRISTMAS CONTINUES

Our Christmas celebration continues, tomorrow, on Christmas Day at 10:00am. We hope to see you here! Merry Christmas to all... and to all a good night.