

SOLOMON'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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"Solomon's Evangelical Lutheran Church, following the example of Jesus Christ, seeks to live in the confidence and fullness of God's grace; to preach the Good News boldly and truthfully; to support and serve others in faith; to work in harmony with all creation."

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD / CHRISTMAS EVE
DECEMBER 24, 2022

December 24, 2022
Nativity of Our Lord / Christmas Eve

In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

PIANO/ORGAN *Gesu Bambino*
SOLO *Cloverton Christmas*
SOLO *It Came Upon A Midnight Clear*
SOLO *O Holy Night*

Heidi Shenberger
Wayne Dale
Audrey Shenberger
Martin Wenger

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT WREATH PRAYER: *Aldrich Family*

Hope, peace, joy, and love. Four candles, four promises continually offered to us by God, and all of them manifest in this one we light tonight: the Christ candle. In Christ we find the hope of transformation, the peace that follows justice, the joy of self-fulfillment in community, and the love that encompasses us in all our diversity, empowering us to make our own unique contribution to this world. In Christ we find light and life, and the courage to be like him, answering his call and following in his footsteps.

We rejoice in God's steadfast presence in our lives, and in God's unique presence in the life of Jesus of Nazareth— born of Mary, growing through childhood into an adult ministry, in all his life manifesting the peace, love, and justice of God; his voice undimmed by the centuries his call and his promise as clear to us as it was to his disciples so long ago. Come to us, Lord Jesus, Be born in us this night, in our hearts, our minds, our lives. May the light of your life be kindled in us, And lead us to the shining truth, of God with us, God for us, God in us. Amen.

GATHERING SONG *O Come, All Ye Faithful* (all verses)

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!

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2
Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

GREETING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.
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.

CHOIR ANTHEM *Join the Celebration*

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

A reading from Isaiah.

This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this!

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.

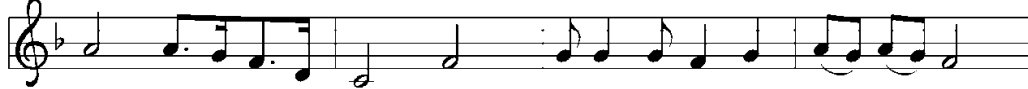
Thanks be to God.

SERMON PASTOR BARB

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-14

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.

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!"

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY *Angels We Have Heard on High* (all verses)

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;

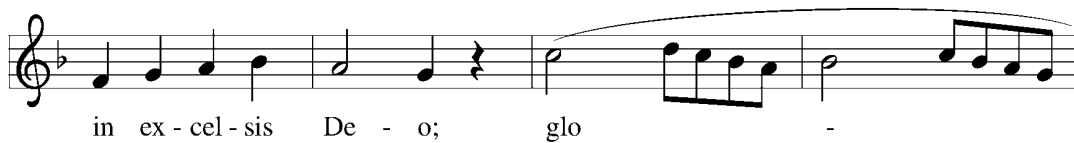


and the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



Glo

ri - a



in ex - cel - sis

De - o;

glo



ri - a

in ex - cel - sis

De

o.

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

Please join me as we confirm our faith together in the words of the Nicene Creed.

CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**
**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.
Blessed are you, Prince of Peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.
Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.
Blessed are you, Wonderful Counselor. You enlighten the heart with steadfast
love
**Enliven your church that it might bear good tidings of great joy to all
people.**
Blessed are you, Emmanuel. You promise to be with us even to the end of the age.
Open our eyes to see your presence in all who are hungry, lonely, or homeless.
Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.
Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.
Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.
**Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bear your light to
all the world.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERTORY (*intro*)

In the Bleak Midwinter



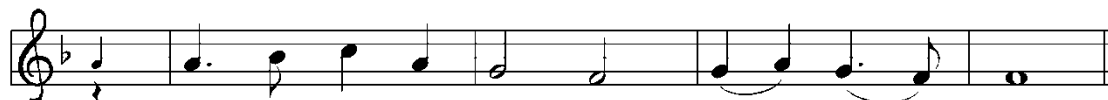
3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?



If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;



if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;



yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830–1894
Music: CRANHAM, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934

OFFERING PRAYER

God of abundance,
receive and bless these gifts we have offered.
Join our hearts with the song of the angels,
and gather us at your table of celebration.
Strengthen us to share with all the world
the abundance of your grace upon grace,
poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh
you have opened the eyes of faith
to a new and radiant vision of your glory,
that, beholding the God made visible,
we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY – *Sung to the Tune of Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of heav'n and earth adored.
O how blest is he who comes in the holy name of God.
Joyful, all you nations rise; join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER *(sung)*

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray in song as Jesus taught us.

**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 COMMUNION

Glory to God in the highest!
Come to the table of peace.

COMMUNION

Continuous - Please continue down center aisle at the direction of the usher. After you receive the bread, you may take a cup of red wine or white grape juice from the tray. Please place your empty communion cup in the tray. Gluten free wafers are available, ask the pastor when you come forward.

COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

COMMUNION CAROLS

We will sing 1st verse of familiar carols

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God our redeemer,
you have fed us at this table
with gifts of grace, truth, and life.
As you have gathered us in joy,
send us forth as messengers of your peace.
Make us shine with the good news of your glory,
born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

LIGHT OF CHRISTMAS

The minister lights a large candle from an altar candle, which symbolized Christ, the Light of the world of who John's gospel speaks. The acolytes light their candles from the minister's candle, then light the candle of each worshiper nearest the aisle. The lighted candle is never tilted but is always held upright when giving light to another. Extinguish candles following the Blessing.

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.

A PRAYER AT CHRISTMAS

All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✚ give you peace.

Amen.

Congregation extinguishes their candle

SENDING SONG *Joy to the World* (all verses)

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.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

DISMISSAL

Christ the Savior is born!
Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.
Thanks be to God.

EXTINGUISHING THE CANDLES CHOIR BENEDICTION

May the light of Christ

POSTLUDE

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SERVING TODAY

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Church Office Email Address office@solomonslutheran.org
Organist Doug Mummert
Head Usher Barbara Aldrich
Acolyte Rebekah & Sarah Aldrich
Lector..... Wayne Norman
Securing Offering Ilona Laney & Janice McEntire
Communion Set-Up..... Peggi Norman
Communion Clean-Up Peggi Norman
Communion Bread Janice McEntire
Communion Assist Ron Coldsmith & Janice McEntire

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The altar flowers this morning are placed to the Glory of God in loving memory of J. Austin and Nellie Hess given by their children and families.

Welcome Visitors! We welcome you to our worship service. We hope your visit with us will be a time of blessing. If you have any concerns, please talk to the Head Usher. We invite you to worship with us again!

Prayer requests for the following *Kathy Wishard, Peggi Norman, John Fickling, Doc Ensinger, Chole, Jan Horst, Sr. Barbara Barry, Greg Steinour, Betty Amt, Tana Vance, Jim and Carole Darr, Tracy Fredericks, Lanny Haugh, Heather Carman Shull, Jenny Barnes, Ray Rotz, Matthew, Lexi and Brooke Bowen, Sarge and Barb Weaver, Patricia Furry, Tina Smith, Nancy Marshall, Milissa Fogle, Marie Dovey, Beth Floyd, Jean Jackson, David Johnson, Joe and Karen Wolfinger, Jennie Matthews, Patricia Yetter, Carol Locke, Linda Wepking, Frances Kramer, Darrell Veilleux, Ukrainian Nation, Peace for the World.* If anyone has a prayer request, please call Janice McEntire. **Please Be Aware: At the beginning of the year, the Prayer Request List will start anew. If you would like to remain listed on the next month's list, or if you would like to have your name removed from the list before the end of the month, please call the office.**

Communion Cards – in order to maintain accurate records, we ask that each member fill out a communion card **only once per calendar year**, at a service when you partake of Holy Communion.

“Believing in the real presence of Christ, this church practices Eucharistic hospitality. All baptized persons are welcomed to Communion when they are visiting in the congregations of this church.” (from the ELCA’s sacramental practices statement) As Lutherans, we believe that the bread and wine of Holy Communion are signs given by God, signs that Christ is fully present among us. It is through the words and the elements that we experience the real presence of Christ. If you are unable to receive either of the elements, be assured that even in the words, Christ is present to you. If you believe in Jesus as the Christ, the Savior, you are welcome to come to the Table and be fed and nurtured with us.

We ask that you please **silence your cell phones** during the worship service.

*The Christmas Poinsettias in
Memory and Honor of Family and Friends
have been donated by:*

Linda Berberich

In honor of my children, Heather, Kevin, & Christopher Berberich

Bill & Lilly Chiado

In memory of our parents

In honor of our children & grandchildren

Ron, Bonney, Kevin & Bo Coldsmith

In memory of Bea & Jack White

In memory of Louise & Bill Coldsmith

Wayne & Marjorie Dale

In memory of Betty Sterner

In memory of our parents; Harold & Dorothy, John & Hazel

Beth Floyd

In honor of Edna Harris, my special friend

Mark & Sally Gayman

In memory of J. Austin & Nellie Hess and Harold & Betty Gayman

In honor of Abby, Mike, Annabelle, William, Joy, Brandon & Austin

Bernie & Edna Harris

In honor of our daughter and her family

In honor of our son and his family

Jerry & Ilona Laney

In honor of Clark Shenberger

In honor of Audrey Shenberger

Rich & Janice McEntire

In honor of our sons & families

Sam & Becky Mull

In honor of our children & grandchildren

Clifton & Carole Rau

In memory of departed family members

Mr. & Mrs. Darrell Veilleux

In honor of Devon Veilleux & Jen Kelly

In honor of Adrienne Veilleux & Bart Lorber

*In honor of Brittany & James, Annamarie, Alex, Aaron,
Abraham & Amelia Sourbier*

Rosemary Wishard & Family

In memory of Donald Wishard

**DECEMBER 24, 2022
CHRISTMAS EVE**

Jesus is born as the Prince of Peace.



CHRISTMAS EVE BIBLE READINGS

Take time to read and reflect on these Bible passages as part of your Christmas Eve celebration.

| | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Saturday | Isaiah 9:2-7 | A child is born |
| | Luke 2:1-20 | The birth of Jesus |

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

For 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. Isaiah 9:6 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for Christmas Eve:

Glory to you O God, glory to you Lord Christ; lead us to praise you and to trust your reign of hope, peace, joy, and love now and always. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Now the silence, now the peace, we pray that all hunger in the world may cease. In Jesus' name, amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the news of Jesus' birth give you peace and joy now and always.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What is something you look forward to doing on Christmas Eve?
- Jesus is called "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." What do each of these names mean to you?

HYMN FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Silent Night, Holy Night!



DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 2:1-20.

The story of Jesus' birth begins within an international and political context: Emperor Augustus is dictating orders from Rome, Quirinius is governor of Syria, and occupation forces control the land of Jesus' birth. The decree has to do with taxes and keeping control of the people. People are forced to be registered in their hometowns. As a result, Joseph and Mary, poor and vulnerable and expecting their first child, have to travel from Nazareth to Joseph's home town of Bethlehem. God's entry into the world is announced by angels sent to shepherds in the fields. Shepherds, the least influential group, become the first evangelists, messengers with good news—the best news ever. Mary ponders, shepherds rejoice, and the Roman government has no idea how the world is turning away from its grip. God is unleashing a power that shakes the foundations of the mighty through a defenseless baby soon to be celebrated as *“Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace”* (Isaiah 9:6).

Discuss: How do you see the good news of Jesus' birth shaping the world in which you live?

Pray: **Lord God, for the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ that changes everything for us and for the world, we give you thanks for your promise of life and peace and salvation. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this day, how might you help others to know of God's love through Jesus?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

During the four weeks of Advent, we prepared our hearts and minds for the day of Jesus' birth and his coming again. Light the four candles of hope, peace, joy, and love on the Advent wreath. Then light the white one, the Christ candle, in the center of the wreath. This night, we focus on God's unconditional love for us and our love for one another. Dim the lights in the room and have a moment of silence to gaze upon the candles.

Leader: ***The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.*** (Isaiah 9:2)

All: **Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord, the light of Christ that gives us hope, peace, joy, and love.**