



Our Saviour Lutheran Church
Christmas Eve, 2024
7:00 p.m.

Welcome to Our Saviour



*Music for the hymns marked with a (#) may be found in the red hardbound hymnal,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship.*

Gathering

MUSIC BEFORE WORSHIP

*Bettie Shiflett, Organist
Barbara Hoke, Organist
Renee Breeding, Flutist*

GREETING

STAND

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

PROCLAMATION OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

STAND

Many ages after God created the heavens and the earth, when man and woman were formed in God's own image;
long after the great flood, when God set the rainbow in the clouds as a sign of the covenant;
twenty-one centuries from the time of Abraham and Sarah; thirteen centuries after Moses led God's people to freedom;
eleven centuries from the time of Ruth and the judges;
a thousand years from the anointing of David as king;
in the sixty-fifth week as Daniel's prophecy takes note;
in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad;
the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the founding of the city of Rome;
the forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus;
in the sixth age of the world, all earth being at peace, Jesus Christ, eternal God, Son of the eternal Father, willing to hallow the world by his coming in mercy, was born of the virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judea.
Today is the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, God made flesh.

- 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 The 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 giv'n!
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing: *Refrain*

GREETING

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 OF PRAISE

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

#270

- 1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
- Refrain*
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"
- 2 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, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel! *Refrain*
- 3 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 we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth,
born to give us second birth.
Refrain

COLLECT

P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**
P Let us pray
C **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

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.

A The Word of the Lord
C **Thanks be to God.**

HANDBELL ANTHEM

Carol of the Bells

SECOND LESSON

Titus 2:11-14

¹¹For the 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.

A The Word of the Lord
C **Thanks be to God.**

We sing stanzas 1&2 BEFORE the Gospel is read

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
once you sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.</p> | <p>2 Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
yonder shines the infant light.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king</p> |
|---|--|

The Gospel is proclaimed from the midst of the Assembly

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 2:1-20

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the Second Chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In 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.

- P The Gospel of the Lord.
C Praise to you, O Christ.

We sing stanzas 3&4 AFTER the Gospel is read

- | | |
|--|--|
| 3 Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations,
you have seen his natal star.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king. | 4 All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising
to the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king |
|--|--|

SERMON

Pastor Michael Church

HYMN OF THE DAY

Angels We Have Heard on High

#289

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains. | 2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heav'nly song?
<i>Refrain</i> |
|---|---|

Refrain

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. *Refrain*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A Let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

After each petition:

- A Lord, in your glory,
C Hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

- P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray; trusting in
your mercy, through Jesus Christ our Saviour.
C Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C And also with you.

MEAL

OFFERING

P Let us offer to God what God has first given us: our selves, our time and our possessions, signs of his gracious love.

An offering is received. Those who prefer to donate online may do so using the QR code printed on the back cover.

OFFERTORY

Now the Heavens Start to Whisper

Sung by the Adult Choir

OFFERTORY SONG

What Child Is This (stanzas 1 & 3)

#296

We rise as the gifts are presented.

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!

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!

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray

C Amen.

DIALOGUE AND PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P 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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

On behalf of the whole assembly, the presiding minister offers a sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.

LORD'S PRAYER

- P** Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:
C 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

P Holy things for holy people.

C Only one is holy: Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father.

COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL

- *We believe that Christ is truly present in his supper.*
- *All baptized Christians are invited to share in his Body and Blood.*
- *When you come forward, consume the Host and drink from the chalice. You may intinct if you prefer.*
- *Those who do not wish to receive from the chalice may abstain, confident that God is fully present in both elements.*
- *If you require communion in their pew, just tell an usher.*
- *If you require a gluten-free wafer, please tell the pastor when you come forward.*

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

O Little Town of Bethlehem

#279

- | | |
|---|---|
| 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. | 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. |
| 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! | 4 O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Immanuel! |

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

#282

- 1 It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,
from heav'n's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.
- 2 Still through the cloven skies
they come
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heav'nly music floats
o'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hov'ring wing,
and ever o'er its babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.
- 3 And you, beneath life's crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow:
look now, for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing;
oh, rest beside the weary road
and hear the angels sing!
- 4 For lo! The days are hast'ning on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the song
which now the angels sing.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

Stand

- P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and
keep you in his grace.
- C **Amen.**
- A Let us pray
- C **Amen.**

CANDLE-LIGHTING HYMN *Silent Night, Holy Night!* #281

Please tip your UNLIT CANDLE to light it from the burning candle that will be brought down the aisle. Pass the flame down the length of your pew.

Please DON'T TIP a lit candle. Help us keep wax from spilling!

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| 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. | heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born! | |
| 2 | Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar, | 3 | Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from your holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth. |

SENDING

A Reading from the Gospel according to St. John (1:1-5)

P 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 came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

Benediction

P Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

Please extinguish your candles.

- 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 all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- 3 No more let sin and sorrow grow
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.
- 4 He rules the world with truth and grace
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

DISMISSAL

- A Go in peace. Christ is with us.
C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

In the Name of Jesus
WELCOME
To Our Saviour Lutheran Church
Fill out a Welcome Card if you are new – or if you want
someone to call you
Regular Service times:
Saturday 5:30pm Sunday 8am & 10:30pm
www.oslc-warrenton.org

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