



Christmas Eve Service



***Welcome to
St. Paul Lutheran Church
Child Development Center and Pre-School***
Rev. Dr. George R. Qualley, D.R.S., Ph.D., Pastor

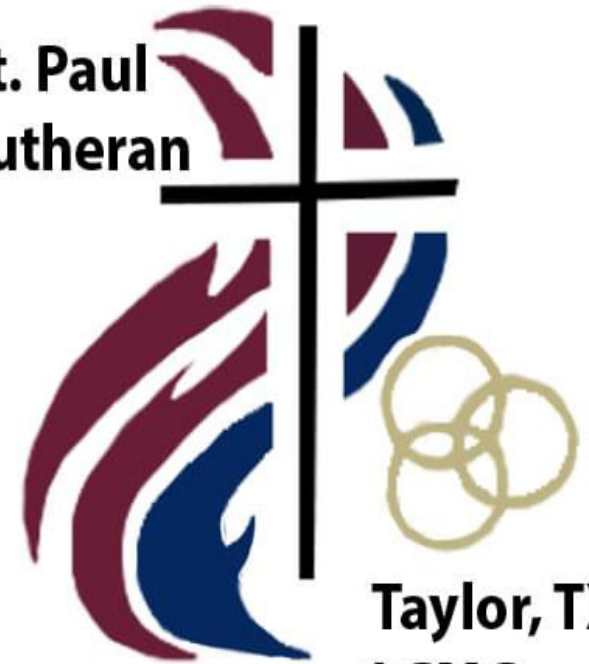
December 24, 2024

Luke 2:1-20

How will you respond?



St. Paul
Lutheran



Taylor, TX
LCMC

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lcmc

Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ

WELCOME

WE'RE GLAD YOU JOINED US

INTRODUCTION

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.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
the Word made flesh,
our life and our salvation.

Amen.

Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our
Savior, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of life,
**you promise good news of great joy for all
people,
and call us to be messengers of your peace.
We confess that too often we hoard our joy,
our resources, and our security.
We nurture conflict and build barriers.
We neglect the needs of our neighbors
and ignore the groaning of creation.
Have mercy on us.**

Where we are self-centered, open our hearts.

Where we are reluctant, give us courage.

Where we are cynical, restore our trust.

Renew us with your grace

and give us again the hope of eternal life in you.

Amen.

Hear the good news:
We are children of God and heirs of God's promises
through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.
In + Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed.
Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth
shall know the salvation of God.
Amen.

Gathering Song

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Hymn # 283

**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:**

Hymn # 283

[Refrain]

[Refrain]

**O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!**

Hymn # 283

**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]

Hymn # 283

[Refrain]

**O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!**

Hymn # 283

**³ Sing, choirs of angels, sing in
exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven
above!**

Glory to God in the highest:

[Refrain]

Hymn # 283

[Refrain]

**O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!**

Hymn # 283

**Final 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]

Hymn # 283

[Refrain]

**O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!**

Hymn # 283

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.

Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation,

let us pray to the Lord

Lord, have mercy.

*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*

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their
worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord
A-men.

Congregation Song

“Angels, from the Realm of Glory”

Hymn # 275

**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:**

[Refrain]

Hymn # 275

[Refrain]

**Come and worship,
come and worship,
worship Christ, the new-born
king.**

Hymn # 275

**² Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
yonder shines the infant light.**

[Refrain]

Hymn # 275

[Refrain]

**Come and worship,
come and worship,
worship Christ, the new-born
king.**

Hymn # 275

**³ Sages, leave your
contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations,
you have seen his natal star.**

[Refrain]

Hymn # 275

[Refrain]

**Come and worship,
come and worship,
worship Christ, the new-born
king.**

Hymn # 275

**Final All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising
to the eternal Three in One.**

[Refrain]

Hymn # 275

[Refrain]

**Come and worship,
come and worship,
worship Christ, the new-born
king.**

Hymn # 275

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.

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE PRAYER

Almighty God, you gave us your only Son to take on our human nature and to illumine the world with your light. By your grace adopt us as your children and enlighten us with your Spirit.

Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

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.

PSALM: Psalm 96

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad. (Ps. 96:11)

¹ Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.

² **Sing to the LORD, bless the name of
the LORD;
proclaim God's salvation from day to
day.**

³ Declare God's glory among the nations
and God's wonders among all peoples.

⁴ **For great is the LORD and greatly to
be praised,
more to be feared than all gods.**

⁵ As for all the gods of the nations, they are but
idols;
but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.

⁶ **Majesty and magnificence are in
your presence;
power and splendor are in your
sanctuary.**

⁷ Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

⁸ **Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.**

⁹ Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

¹⁰ **Tell it out among the nations: "The
LORD is king!**

**The one who made the world so firm
that it cannot be moved
will judge the peoples with equity."**

¹¹ Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;

let the sea thunder and all that is in it;

let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

¹² **Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O LORD, for you come to judge the earth.**

¹³ You will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with your truth.

We Three Kings

The Stoll Family



SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14

The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity. Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior's final appearance.

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

Alleluia.

Lord, to who shall we go?

***You have the words
of eternal Life.***

Alleluia.

GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to Luke 2:1 - 20

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 2:1 - 20

*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!"

[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.

CHILDREN'S SERMON



Sermon

Rev. Dr. George R. Qualley

[Begin Service](#)



Bethlehem Today



Church of the Nativity



Birthplace of Jesus today



Birthplace of Jesus today



Bethlehem at night today



Map of Mary and Joseph's journey



Mary and Joseph traveling to Bethlehem



Mary and Joseph arrive in Bethlehem



Market in old Bethlehem



Old Bethlehem



630. Vue générale de Bethléem.

Old Bethlehem



Shepherd's field 1890



Old Bethlehem 1890



Old Bethlehem 1890



33065 - Vue générale de Bethléhem - Judée

Bethléhem
1890
Musée de la Ville de Paris

Old Bethlehem 1896



Shepherd's field today



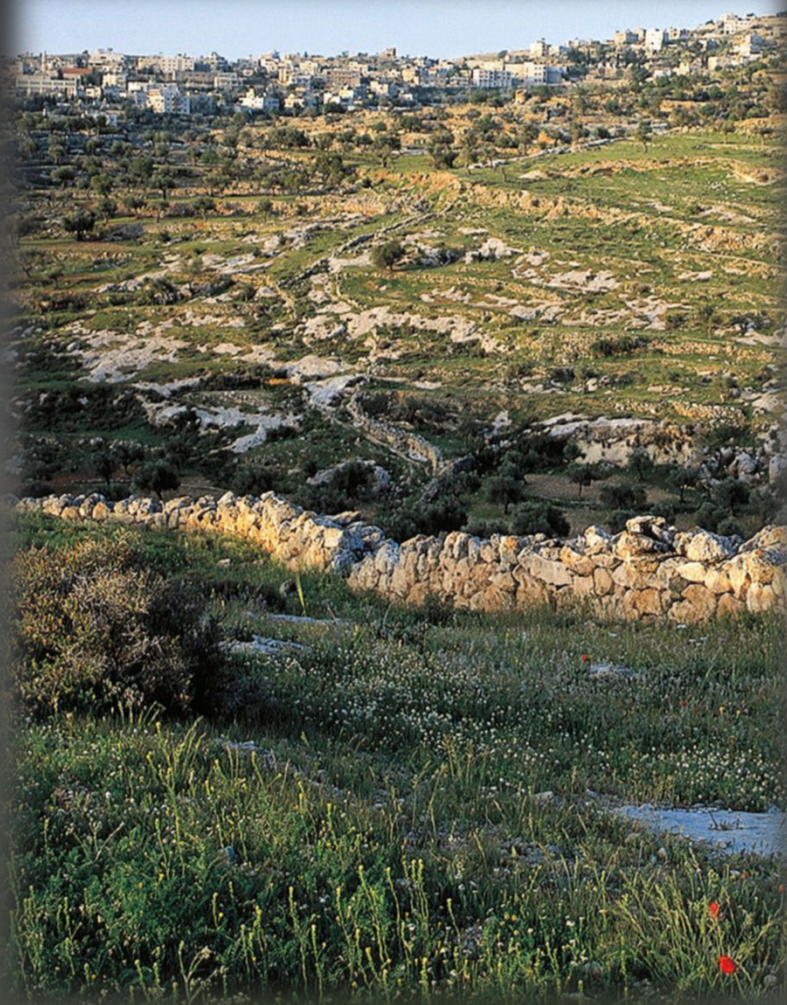
Shepherd's field today



Shepherd's field today



Shepherd's field today



Shepherd's field at the Nativity



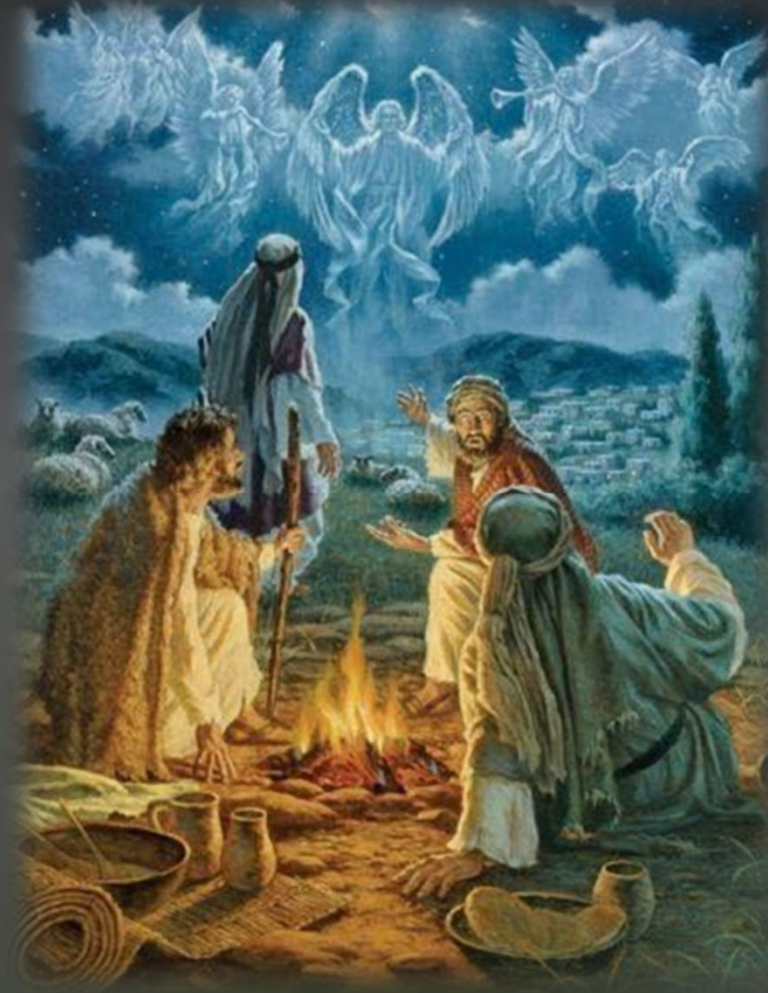
Shepherd's in the fields



Angelic announcement to the shepherds



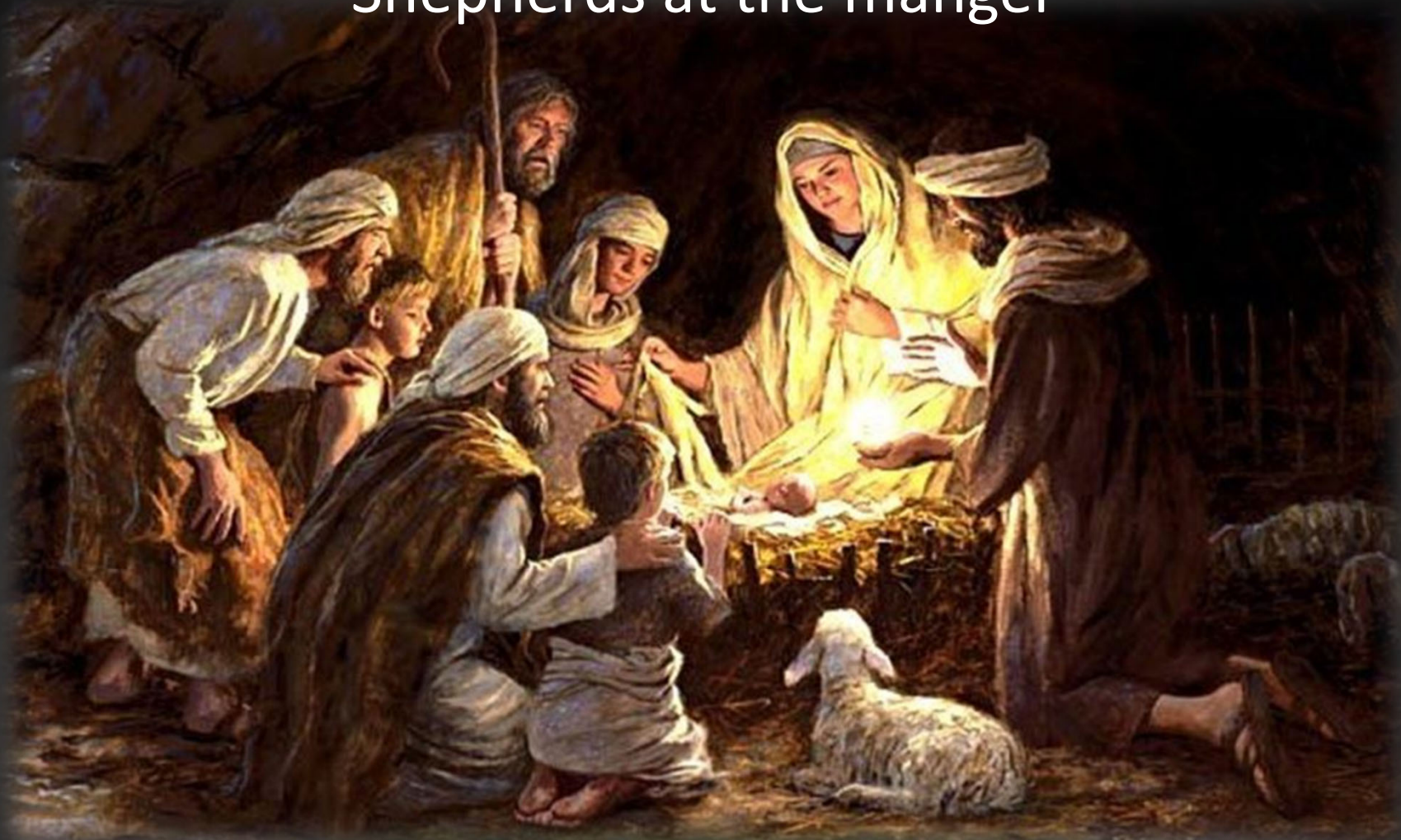
Angels and shepherds



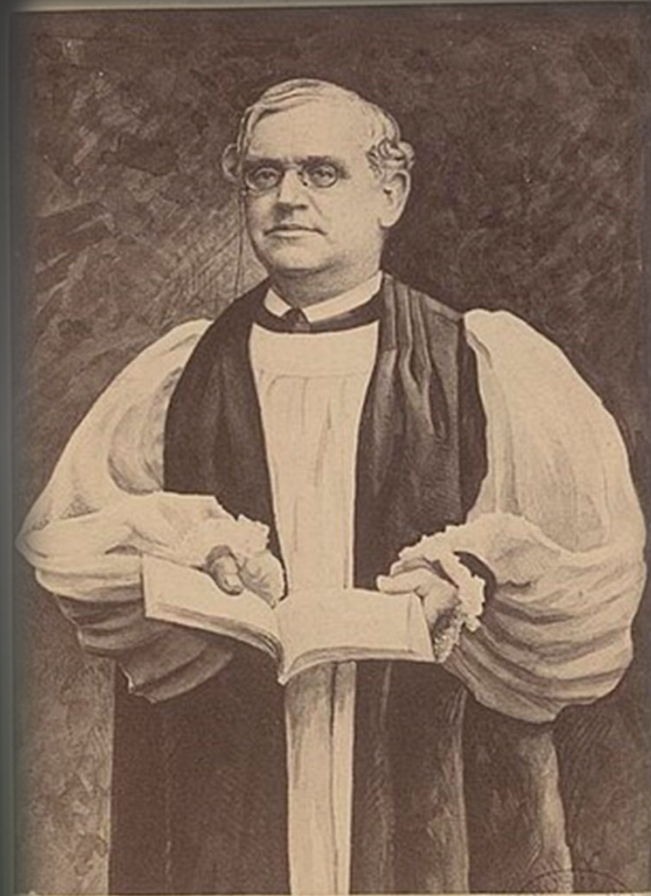
Shepherds hurrying to Bethlehem



Shepherds at the manger



Bishop Philip Brooks

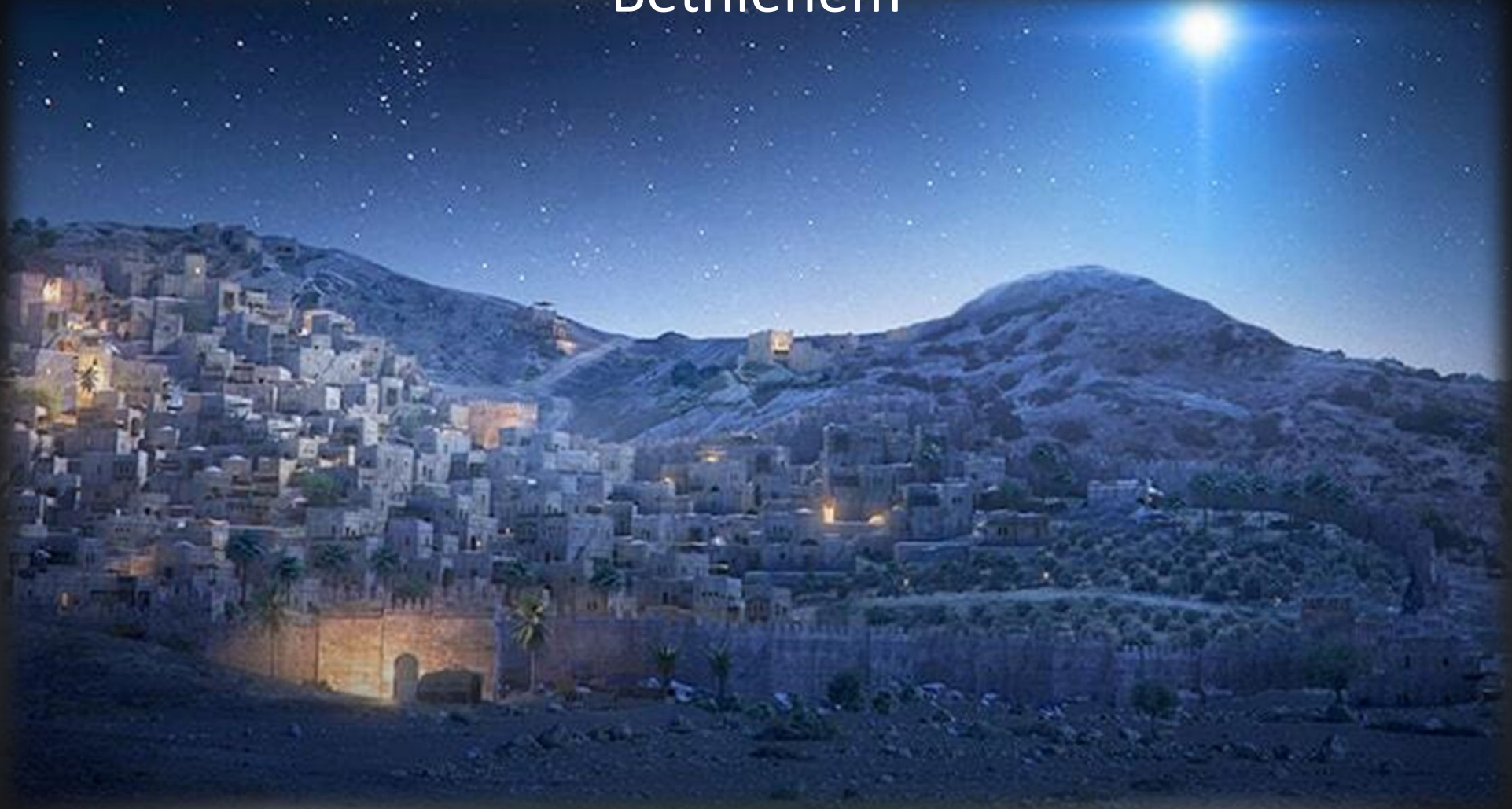


PUBLIC
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Star of Bethlehem



Bethlehem



Hymn of the Day

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Hymn # 279

**1 O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless
sleep
the silent stars go by;**

Hymn # 279

**yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light,
The hopes and fears of all the
years
are met in thee tonight.**

Hymn # 279

**2 For Christ is born of Mary,
and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels
keep
their watch of wond'ring love.**

Hymn # 279

**O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king,
and peace to all on earth!**

Hymn # 279

**3 How silently, how silently
the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heav'n.**

Hymn # 279

**No ear may hear his coming;
but, in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive
him, still
the dear Christ enters in.**

Hymn # 279

**Final O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in,
be born in us today.**

Hymn # 279

**We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Immanuel!**

Hymn # 279

With the whole church let us confess our faith.

CREED

The Nicene 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

A brief silence.

Angels sing with praise, and shepherds run with haste. As we glorify and praise you in this place, send us into the world, proclaiming the salvation you have revealed this night. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

The seas roar, and the trees of the forest sing for joy. As creation resounds with praise, inspire us with awe, reverence, and a renewed care for all that fills the fields, skies, and seas. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

The nations declare your glory. Uphold the leaders of the earth with your justice and righteousness. Break the rod of the oppressor in every land, and bring peace where there is conflict. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

The holy family finds shelter around the animals' manger. Draw near to persons experiencing homelessness, those who are alone this holiday season, and all for whom this world makes no room. Wrap all your children in bands of love and mercy and comfort those who are ill (especially).

God of grace,

receive our prayer.

A child is born for us and light shines on the weary. Watch over those who give birth this night and attend to those who are dying. Be present in our joys and in our sorrows. God of

grace,

receive our prayer.

We pray for all our military, especially those deployed. We keep in our prayers all the Wounded Warriors that have returned home to heal. We pray for our missionaries; for Cheryl Kruckemeyer our missionary in Tanzania, for Chris and Emily Home Office, serving with the World Mission Prayer League, and for our sister congregations at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Walburg, Texas and Every Tribe and Tongue in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Bless and protect all our local nurses, doctors, healthcare workers, first responders, teachers, staff and administrators. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

The heavenly host praises you. With thanksgiving for Mary, Joseph, and all your saints, sustain us in the blessed hope revealed this night. Fashion us by their example into a people zealous for good deeds, sharing your love and mercy with all. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

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***

It is indeed right, our duty and our
joy...

...we praise your name and join their
unending hymn:

***Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are
full of your glory.***

***Hosanna, Hosana. Hosana in the
highest.***

***Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.***

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

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

THE 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.**

COMMUNION

Holy Communion is offered both in the center aisle line and at the altar rail.

Lamb of God

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.***

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.***

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.***

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

LIGHTING of the CANDLES

Pastor takes the light from the Christ candle, which symbolizes Christ, the Light of the world of whom the Gospel speaks. Ushers will light their candles from the pastor's candle and go down the aisle lighting the end candle on each row to start that row. Children should bend and shake their glow sticks for a light.

Congregation Song

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

Hymn # 281

**¹ Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and
child.**

Hymn # 281

**Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.**

Hymn # 281

**2 Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,**

Hymn # 281

**heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!**

Hymn # 281

**Final Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from your holy
face,**

Hymn # 281

**with the dawn of redeeming
grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.**

Hymn # 281

SENDING

BLESSING

God bless you and keep you,
+ Jesus grant you grace and truth,
and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts,
now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Song

“Joy to the World”

Hymn # 267

**¹ Joy to the world, the Lord is
come!**

**Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room**

Hymn # 267

**and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and
nature sing.**

Hymn # 267

**2 Joy to the earth, the Savior
reigns!**

**Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks,
hills, and plains**

Hymn # 267

**repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding
joy.**

Hymn # 267

**3 No more let sin and sorrow
grow
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his
blessings flow**

Hymn # 267

**far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is
found.**

Hymn # 267

**Final He rules the world with
truth and grace
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his
righteousness**

Hymn # 267

**and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his
love.**

Hymn # 267

DISMISSAL

Christ the Savior is born!

Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.

Thanks be to God.

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