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EVENING PRAYER

(Use Hymnal with Outline below OR service is also printed in the following pages of the bulletin)

Prelude & Tolling of Bells

SERVICE OF LIGHT **p. 243**

Phos Hilaron (*sung by choir*)

Thanksgiving for Light

PSALMODY **p. 245**

Psalm 141

(*congregation sings C and choir sings I & II*)

Hymn (*choir sings st. 2*) **#359**

READINGS

Old Testament Reading

Hymn **#361**

Epistle Reading

Hymn **#365**

Gospel Reading

Choir Anthem

Homily

Offering & Choir Anthem

PRAYER

Litany

p. 249

Collects

Lord's Prayer

Benedicamus

Benediction

Lighting of Candles

Hymn (*choir sings first in German*) **#363**

Recessional Hymn **#380**

Postlude



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CHURCH AND SCHOOL

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THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

Christmas Eve

Service of Light

Stand



[L] Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,
[C] the light no darkness can o - ver - come.
[L] Stay with us, Lord, for it is eve - ning,
[C] and the day is almost o - ver.
[L] Let Your light scatter the dark - ness
[C] and il - lu - mine Your Church.

Phos Hilaron by Choir

Joyous Light of Glory

David von Kampen, CPH, 2019

Joyous light of glory: of the immortal Father; heavenly, holy, blessed Jesus Christ.

We have come to the setting of the sun, and we look to the evening light.

We sing to God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit:

You are worthy of being praised with pure voices forever.

O Son of God, O Giver of life: The universe proclaims Your glory.

Thanksgiving for Light

LSB 245

[L] *Blessèd are You, O Lord our God, king of the universe, who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ; may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for You are merciful, and You love Your whole creation and we, Your creatures, glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*



[C] A - men.

Sit

Psalmody

Psalm 141

LSB 245



[C] Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,
the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

[I] (choir) *O Lord, I call to You; come to me quickly; hear my voice when I cry to You.*



C Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,



the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

II (choir) *Set a watch before my mouth, O Lord, and guard the door of my lips.*

I (choir) *Let not my heart incline to any evil thing; let me not be occupied in wickedness with evildoers.*

II (choir) *But my eyes are turned to You, O God; in You I take refuge. Strip me not of my life.*



C Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and



to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it; as it was in



the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.



Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,



the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

L Let the incense of our repentant prayer ascend before You, O Lord, and let Your loving-kindness descend on us that, with purified minds, we may sing Your praises with the Church on earth and the whole heavenly host and may glorify you forever.

C **Amen.**

Hymn

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

LSB 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.

Choir 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.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 7:10–14

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹“Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹²But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” ¹³And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Hymn

O Little Town of Bethlehem

LSB 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: Phillips Brooks, 1835–93 Text: Public domain

Epistle Reading

1 John 4:7–16

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Hymn

Away in a Manger

LSB 365

1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet
head.
The stars in the bright 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 (sts. 1–2): Little Children’s Book, 1885, Philadelphia; (st. 3): Vineyard Songs, 1892, Louisville, alt. Text: Public domain

Stand

Gospel Reading

Matthew 1:18–25

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel”

(which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

P In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

C But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.

Sit

Choir Anthem

For Us A Child Is Born (from Canata #142)

J.S. Bach, Galaxy Music, 1939

For us a Child is born, a Son to us is given.

Homily

Offering

Choir Anthem

O Holy Night

A. Adam, arr. P. M. Liebergen, Alfred Publishing, 1995

Solo: Izzy Casciani (5pm), Deb Trewartha (7pm)

*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 pinning, 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, O hear the angel voices! O night divine, O night when Christ was born.*

*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 in the Lord, sing praise to Him forever, His power and glory evermore proclaim!*

Stand

Prayer ~ Litany

LSB 249

The congregation's response begins just as the leader's petition ends so that the word "Lord" is sung simultaneously by both leader and congregation.



L In peace let us pray to the Lord:



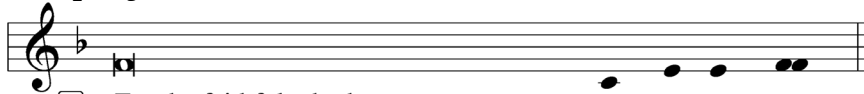
C Lord, have mer - cy.

L For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

- L** 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.**
- L** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For [*names of synodical and district presidents*], for all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For [*name of president or monarch*], for all public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For . . . [*additional bids for prayer may be inserted here*] . . . let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**

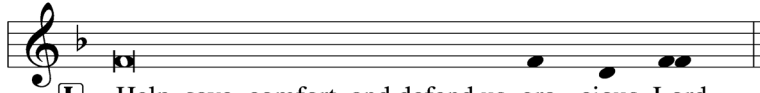
The prayers then continue:



- L** For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:

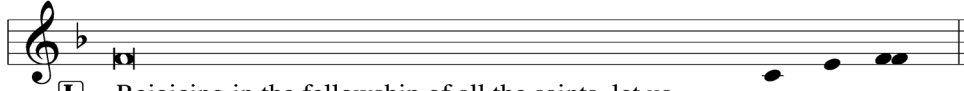


- C** Al - le - lu - ia.



- L** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.

Silence for individual prayer may follow.



- L** Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord:



- C** To You, O Lord.

Collect for Peace

- L** O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.**

Collect of the Day

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

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 251

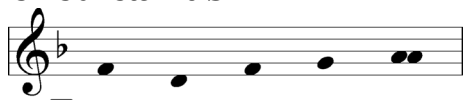
L Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

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.

Benedicamus

LSB 252



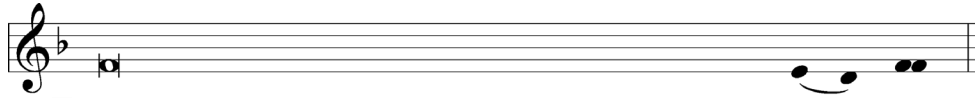
L Let us bless the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

LSB 252



P The almighty and merciful Lord,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and pre - serve you.



C A - men.

Sit

Lighting of Candles

The Candles will be brought down the center aisle assisted by Ushers in the side aisles. Please tip your unlit candle, drawing the flame from your neighbor's lit candle. Parents, please assist the children and be careful with the hot wax!

Hymn

Silent Night, Holy Night

LSB 363

Choir sings a stanza in the original German, followed by the Congregation singing all three stanzas.

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

Text: Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792–1848; tr. John F. Young, 1820–85 Text: Public domain

With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

*After singing, the lights come back up.
Carefully extinguish the candles, being cautious with hot wax!*

Stand

Recessional Hymn

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

LSB 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!”

*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 the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel!

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 man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.

Refrain

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt. Text: Public domain

Postlude

In His Service Tonight

P Rev. Aaron Schultz, Assoc. Pastor & Headmaster

L Rev. Marcus Mackay, Sr. Pastor

Organist/Kantor: Phil Lehman

Choir Director: Deb Trewartha

Audio/Visual: Matthias Mackay

Special Music:

String Quartet: Carina, Laurel & William Hodges and Lauren Hubert

Brass & Timpani: Jim Buel, David Colson, Jon Silverberg, Kevin Trewartha, Graham & Payne Vogtman

Violin: Jennifer Dorantes

Flute: Kay Longworth

Soloist: Izzy Casciani (5PM), Deb Trewartha (7PM)

5:00 pm

Ushers: Dave Kopeschka, Jannson Engleman
Jim Baumgardt

Elder: Jannson Engleman

Greeter: OPEN

7:00 pm

Ushers: Larry Irving, Kevin Brolsma, Dave Siukola

Elder: Matt Comer

Greeter: OPEN

Upcoming Services

Christmas Eve	12/24/23	11:00pm	Divine Service (Midnight Mass)
Christmas Day	12/25/23	10:00am	Divine Service
New Year’s Eve	12/31/23	8:15am & 10:45am	Divine Service (First Sunday after Christmas)
Epiphany	1/6/24	5:00pm	Divine Service
1st Sun. a. Epiph	1/7/24	8:15am & 10:45am	Divine Service

Acknowledgments

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