



OUT OF
DARKNESS
WE HAVE
LIGHT

CHRISTMAS
AT LUTHER MEMORIAL

CHRISTMAS EVE

SUNDAY, DEC. 24 | 4 PM

Christ is born. He is born *to us*. And, He is born *today*. For Christmas is not merely a day like every other day. It is a day made holy and special by a sacred mystery. It is not merely another day in the weary round of time. Today, eternity enters into time, and time, sanctified, is caught up into eternity. Today, Christ, the eternal Word of the Father, who was in the beginning with the Father, in whom all things were made, by whom all things consist, enters into the world which he created in order to reclaim souls who had forgotten their identity. Therefore, the church exults, as the angels come down to announce not merely an old thing which happened long ago, but a new thing which happens today. For today, God the Father makes all things new, in his divine Son, our redeemer, according to his words: *ecce nova facio omnia*.

Thomas Merton (1915–1968)

HOLY COMMUNION

CHRISTMAS EVE
SUNDAY, DEC. 24 | 4 PM

PRELUDE Silent Night | Cora Heggeseeth, piano

Mary, Did You Know? | Caroline Schinke, piano

We Three Kings of Orient Are | Emma Schinke, piano

Go Tell It on the Mountain | Annika Schinke, piano

Angels We Have Heard on High | Roman Worzala Dumke, piano

Joy to the World | Emma Heggeseeth, piano

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen | Esther Szczykutowicz, piano

Joy to the World | Levi Szczykutowicz, piano

Overture and Pastoral Symphony *from Messiah* (G.F. Handel) | Elliot Knapp, violin; Bonnie Gruber, violin; Sebastian Knapp, viola; Tamara Gruber, cello

Still, Still, Still | Kole Consigny, piano

GATHERING

Please stand and turn to face the baptismal font at the rear of the nave.

#283 ENTRANCE HYMN O Come, All Ye Faithful

1. Oh, come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him born the king of angels:
Refrain: Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, 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*)

APOSTOLIC 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.

#275 HYMN OF PRAISE Angels from the Realms of Glory (Stanzas 1, 4)

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that we may walk in the light of Christ and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

Please sit.

FIRST READING Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined. You 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. For 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. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. 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. His 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.

#272 HYMN Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming (Stanzas 1 & 2)

1. Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming
as seers of old have sung,
it came, a flow'r so bright,
amid the cold of winter,
when half-spent was the night.
2. Isaiah had 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.

READING Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And 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.

#277 HYMN Away in a Manger (Stanza 1)

1. Away in a manger, no crib for his 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.

READING Luke 2:8-12

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory

of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.”

#279 HYMN O Little Town of Bethlehem (Stanza 1)

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.

READING Luke 2:13-14

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

#289 HYMN Angels We Have Heard on High (Stanza 1)

1. Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o’er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.
Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo.

READING Luke 2:15–20

When 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.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The 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.

SERMON

Please stand.

#296 HYMN OF THE DAY What Child Is This

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!

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

...Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please greet your neighbor: Peace be with you.

MEAL

Please sit.

OFFERING Quempas Carol Children's & Youth Choirs

The congregation is invited to sing the refrain:

God's own Son is born a child, is born a child;
God the Father is reconciled, is reconciled!

Please stand.

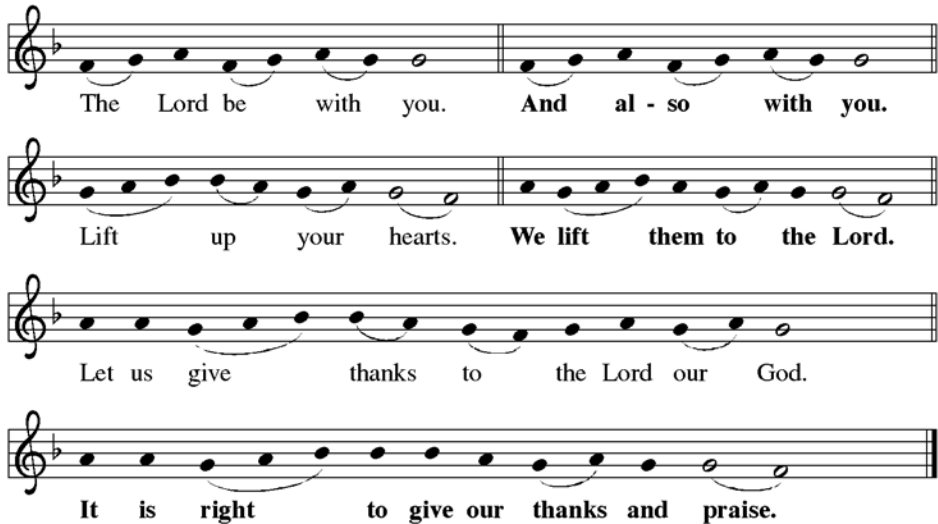
OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

**Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth
and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who
hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to
feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. 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.

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff contains the first line of the hymn, the second and third staves contain the second line, and the fourth staff contains the third line. The music ends with a double bar line on the fourth staff.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

You are indeed holy... until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

The musical score is written on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The music ends with a double bar line.

Remembering, therefore... now and forever.

A - men, a - men, a - men.

The musical score is written on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The music ends with a double bar line.

THE LORD'S PRAYER *Sung by all; see inside back cover*

Please sit.

THE COMMUNION

All baptized Christians are welcomed to receive Holy Communion.

We receive the Body of Christ (bread) in our open hands. Christ is fully present in both bread and cup. The Blood of Christ (wine) may be received in any of three ways: by drinking from the first chalice, by dipping the bread (intinction) into the chalice, or by drinking from an individual glass poured from a second chalice.*

**Gluten-free bread is available on request.*

MUSIC AT THE COMMUNION Sans Day Carol | Z. Randall Stroope

Now the holly bears a berry as white as the milk,
And Mary bore Jesus, all wrapped up in silk,
And Mary bore Jesus Christ our Saviour for to be,
And the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly.

Now the holly bears a berry as black as the coal,
And Mary bore Jesus, who died for us all,
And Mary bore Jesus Christ...

Now the holly bears a berry as blood is it red,
And Mary bore Jesus who rose from the dead,
And Mary bore Jesus Christ...

HYMNS AT THE COMMUNION

- #270 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
- #288 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice
- #282 It Came Upon a Midnight Clear
- #274 On Christmas Night

Please stand.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*The congregation receives candlelight from the torchbearers and ushers. **When passing the light, tip the unlighted candle.** Extinguish your candle after the blessing.*

#281 CHRISTMAS CANTICLE Silent Night, Holy 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 your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

SENDING

BLESSING

Please extinguish your candle.

#267 RECESSIONAL HYMN Joy to the World

Please turn to face the cross as the procession passes to the rear of the nave.

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

Go in peace. Serve the Lord
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Toccata on “God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen” | Mark Miller

THE LORD'S PRAYER



Our Fa-ther, who art in heav- en, hal- low- ed be



thy name, thy king-dom come, thy will be done,



on earth as it is in heav- en. Give us this day our



dai- ly bread; and for- give us our tres- pass- es,



as we for- give those who tres- pass a- gainst us; and lead us



not in- to temp- ta- tion, but de- liv- er us from e- vil.



For thine is the king-dom, and the pow- er, and the



glo- ry, for- ev- er and ev- er. A- men.

Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #26456.

Hymns reprinted by permission under OneLicense.net #A-703710.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

OUT OF DARKNESS
WE HAVE LIGHT

CHRISTMAS

AT LUTHER MEMORIAL



Luther Memorial Church | 1021 University Ave | Madison, Wis.
www.luthermem.org