

**Prayer:** O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



*December 24, 2024*

Good Shepherd  
Lutheran Church  
Cass City, Michigan

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## *The Word of the Lord Is Fulfilled in the Flesh of Jesus*

Though Ahaz would not ask, the Lord gives a sign to the house of David, that *"the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel"* (Is. 7:14). With this promise, He signifies that salvation is by His grace alone; it is no work or achievement of man, but the Lord's own work and His free gift. The promise is fulfilled as the Son of God is conceived and born of the blessed Virgin Mary, and the sign is received in faith by the house of David in the person of Joseph (Matt. 1:20–24). "Incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary" (Nicene Creed), God is with us (Immanuel) in the flesh of Jesus, Mary's Son. Joseph believes that Word of God and so demonstrates a marvelous example in his immediate and quiet obedience, taking Mary to be his wife and caring for her in faith and love. He loves her because the love of God is manifest in this, that *"the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world," "to be the propitiation for our sins"* (1 John 4:10, 14).

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## CONCERNING HOLY COMMUNION

Based on our Lord's own words, we believe that His body and blood are truly present in the bread and wine and are truly eaten and drunk by those who commune. Based on God's Word in 1 Corinthians 11:23-32 we also believe that anyone who eats and drinks without believing the Body and Blood are present eats and drinks judgment on himself, and further, that receiving the Sacrament at an altar is a public statement of agreement with everything confessed by that congregation. For these reasons we ask **guests** who desire to commune to speak with the pastor before the service.

Diluted wine is provided in the center ring of individual cups for those who need or prefer less alcohol.

If you need Pastor to commune you at your seat talk with an Elder before the service.

PLEASE sign the Record of Fellowship books found in the pew during the offering.

Closing Hymn & Lighting of Candles: *"Silent Night, Holy Night"*  
(Tip only the unlit candle when lighting your candle.)

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!  
Alles schläft, einsam wacht  
Nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.  
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,  
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,  
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh.

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.

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!

Silent night, holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Public domain

Everyone is invited to return tomorrow morning for the celebration of Christmas morning at 9:30 a.m.

**JESUS IS BORN!**

Nicene Creed: p. 191

Hymn of the Day: #380 - "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Sermon

Offertory: p. 192

Offering: **O Holy Night** - Jerry Guinther

Prayer of the Church

Service of the Sacrament: p. 194

Distribution Hymns

#364 - "Away in a Manger"

#393- "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

#386 - "Now Sing We, Now Rejoice"

#361- "O Little Town of Bethlehem" accompanied by the band

Post Communion Cantic: #387 - "Joy to the World"

*Trumpet accompaniment  
by Allison Schulz*

Post Communion Liturgy: p. 200

## **Order of Worship**

Divine Service Three, p. 184

*Pre Service Music by Taylor Kubacki on keyboard*

Processional Hymn: #376 "Once in Royal David's City"

Confession & Absolution: p. 184

### **Introit:**

I will tell of the decree:

The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you."

The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein.

### **Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?**

**And who shall stand in his holy place?**

He who has clean hands and a pure heart,  
who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.

**He will receive blessing from the LORD  
and righteousness from the God of his salvation.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son**

**and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning,**

**is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

I will tell of the decree:

The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you."

Kyrie: p. 186

Gloria in Excelsis: p. 187

Salutation & Collect of the Day: p. 189

### **Old Testament: Isaiah 7:10-14**

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." And he

said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Epistle: 1 John 4: 7-16**

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In 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. In 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. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

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

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Hymn #379 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"**

**Gospel:** *Luke 2:1-20* King James Version

Response (sung): p. 190

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria. And

all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

Response (sung): p. 190