

**Our Redeemer Lutheran Church**  
**Jackson, Minnesota**

**The Nativity of Our Lord**  
**Christmas Eve**

**December 24, 2025 6:30 PM**



**Prelude and Ringing of the Bell**

**Offering of Song** “Mary, Did You Know?” **Patti Einertson**

**Hymn** “O Come, All Ye faithful” **379**

**Confession and Absolution** **184-5**

**Introit** **Ps. 24:1, 3-5; antiphon: Ps. 2:7**

**[P]** I will tell of the decree:

**[C]** The LORD said to me, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you.”

**[P]** The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof,

**[C]** the world and those who dwell therein,

**[P]** Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?

**[C]** And who shall stand in his holy place?

**[P]** He who has clean hands and a pure heart,

**[C]** who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.

**[P]** He will receive blessing from the LORD

**[C]** 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.**

**[P]** I will tell of the decree:

**[C]** The LORD said to me, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you.”

**Kyrie, Gloria in Excelsis** **186-189**

**Salutation and Collect of the Day**

**[P]** The Lord be with you.

**[C]** (*sung*) **And with thy spirit.**

**[P]** Let us pray. 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** *(sung)* Amen.

**Hymn** "Away in a Manger" **364 v. 1**

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

Text: Little Children's Book, 1885, Philadelphia  
Text: Public domain

**Old Testament Reading** **Isaiah 7:10-14 ESV**

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.**

**Hymn** "Away in a Manger" **364 v. 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.**

Text: Little Children's Book, 1885, Philadelphia  
Text: Public domain

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

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.**

**Hymn**

“Away in a Manger”

**364 v. 3**

**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.**

Text: Little Children's Book, 1885, Philadelphia  
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**Alleluia**

**190**

**Holy Gospel**

**St. Matthew 1:18-25 ESV**

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.

**C** *(sung)* **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

Now 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. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But 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. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

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

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

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** *(sung)* **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

**Nicene Creed**

**191**

**Hymn**                    "O Little Town of Bethlehem"                    **361**

**Sermon**                    "Wrapped Gifts"                    **St. Matthew 1:18-25**

## **Offering**

**Hymn**                    "Angels We Have Heard on High"                    **368**

## **Prayer of the Church**

*Each petition concludes:*

**P** . . . Lord, in Your mercy,                    **C** **hear our prayer.**

*Final petition:*

**P** All these things we pray, O Lord, in the name of Jesus Christ, Your own Son, whom You have made known to us in the mystery of the Word made flesh, who has fulfilled all the Law and the prophets and delivered us to You as Your own people through the blood of the everlasting covenant, that we may do what is good and right and pleasing in Your sight. To You be all glory and honor, worship and praise, now and forevermore.

**C** **Amen.**

**Hymn**                    "Once in Royal David's City"                    **376**

## **Lighting of Candles**

## Lord's Prayer

### Salutation, Benedicamus, and Benediction

201-202

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** *(sung)* **And with thy spirit.**

**P** Bless we the Lord.

**C** *(sung)* **Thanks be to God.**

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

**C** *(sung)* **Amen, Amen, Amen.**

## Hymn

### "Silent Night, Holy Night"

Adult Choir: *Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht,  
Alles schläft; einsam wacht  
Nur das heilige Elternpaar,  
Das im Stalle zu Bethlehem war,  
Bei dem himmlischen Kind,  
Bei dem himmlischen Kind.*

**Congregation: 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.**

## Postlude



**Organist:** Shelly Tusa

**Acolyte:** Logan Henning

**Pastor:** John Schuetz    cell: 507-840-0193    **Office:** 507-847-3693

## Chrismons

Perhaps you have noticed the large ornaments that adorn our large Christmas tree. These ornaments are called Chrismons, which comes from *Christian Monograms*. These ornaments especially point us to God's grace in Jesus Christ. Each of the Chrismons has a meaning:



“And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.”  
(Luke 2:7)



Like an anchor keeps a ship safely in position, hope in Christ keeps believers safe and secure. “We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain.”  
(Hebrews 6:19)



The Tau cross (shaped for the cross Moses raised in the wilderness) connects Old Testament prophecy with the fulfillment of the promise of salvation in Jesus Christ. (John 3:14-15)



The Christmas rose is a symbol of the fulfillment of the messianic prophecy. “I am a rose of Sharon, a lily of the valleys.” (Song of Solomon 2:1)



The cross and orb remind us that the world is united through Christ. It portrays Christ's triumph over all the world. "Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing." (Colossians 1:5-6)



Jesus has won for us victory over death and an eternal home in heaven. "Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life." (Revelation 2:10c)



The Chi-Rho symbol is made of the first two letters of the Greek word *Christ*. The depiction of the sun reminds us that Jesus is the sun of righteousness. (Malachi 4:2)



This symbol is the first three letters of the Greek word for Jesus (Iota, Eta, Sigma), which means "the Lord saves." (Matthew 1:21)



"And the angel said to them, 'Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.'" (Luke 2:10-11)

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