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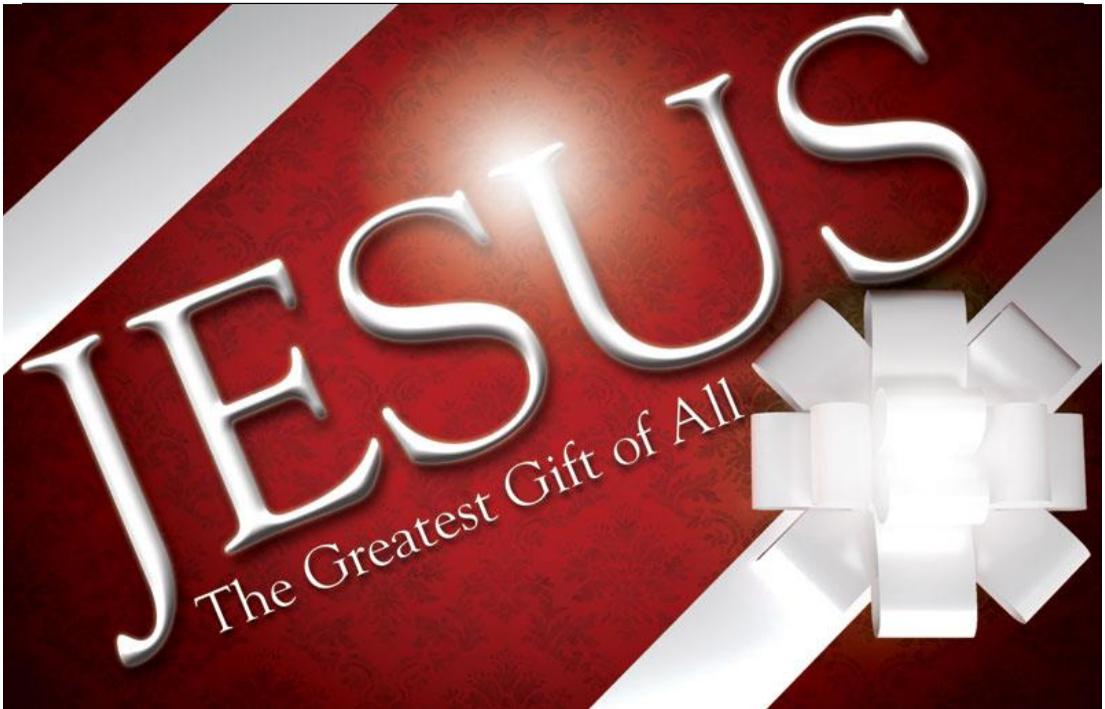
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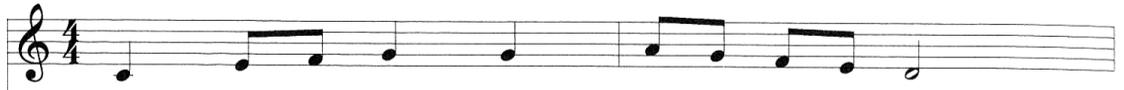
December 25, 2024

Christmas Day



Opening Hymn: "Peace Came to Earth"

CW21 330



1 Peace came to earth at last that cho - sen night
2 And who could be the same for hav - ing held
3 You show the Fa - ther none has ev - er seen,
4 How else could I have known you, O my God!



when an - gels clove the sky with song and light and
the in - fant in their arms and lat - er felt the
in flesh and blood you bore our griefs and pain, in
How else could I have loved you, O my God! How



God em - bod - ied love and sheathed his might—
wound - ed hands and side, all doubts dis - pelled—
bread and wine you vis - it us a - gain—
else could I em - brace you, O my God!

Who could but gasp: Im - man - u - el!
Who could but sigh: Im - man - u - el!
Who could but see: Im - man - u - el!
Who could but pray: Im - man - u - el!

Who could but sing: Im - man - u - el!
Who could but shout: Im - man - u - el!
Who could but thrill: Im - man - u - el!
Who could but praise: Im - man - u - el!

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008
Music: Richard Jeffrey, b. 1952; arr. Mark Kellner, 1959–2015, alt.
Text: © 1984 Concordia Publishing House
Music: © 2000 MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc.

CHRISTMAS INVOCATION

- P** Unto us a Child is born, Hallelujah!
- C** **Unto us a Son is given, Hallelujah!**
- P** The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.
- C** **And we beheld His glory, the glory as of the Only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.**
- P** Oh, come, let us worship Him, Christ, the Lord:
- C** **Let us kneel before our Savior in the manger. Hallelujah!**
- P** Let us now celebrate His birth.
- C** **And tell of His coming to the ends of the earth.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** Dear Heavenly Father, having come into Your presence, we are moved to confess our sins to You:
- C** **O most merciful God, we confess to You all of our sins.
We have sinned against You by what we have thought, said, and done.
Yet You have given Your only begotten Son to die for us.
Have mercy on us we pray, and for His sake grant us forgiveness of all our sins. By the power of Your Holy Spirit cause us to know Your holy will and to obey it willingly, and in the end, by Your grace, through faith, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**
- P** Our Father in Heaven has been good and merciful to us. In His love He has given us, His children, the greatest Gift: He sent His Son Jesus, whose birth in Bethlehem so long ago we celebrate today. Jesus came as a lowly servant to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. By His shed blood on the cross we are forgiven! In peace and joy let us sing of our salvation!

391 Rejoice, Rejoice This Happy Morn

Re - joice, re - joice this hap - py morn, A Sav - ior un -
to us is born, The Christ, the Lord of glo - ry!
His low - ly birth in Beth - le - hem The an - gels from
on high pro - claim And sing re - demp - tion's sto - ry!
My soul, ex - tol God's great fa - vor; Bless Him ev - er
For sal - va - tion; Give Him praise and ad - o - ra - tion!

Text: Birgitte Katerine Boye, 1742-1824; tr. Carl Döving, 1867-1937
Tune: Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608
Text and tune: Public domain

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray...

Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in human flesh may set us free from the sin that held us in bondage. We pray this through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord and Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Luke 2:1-20 (NKJV) - *The Christmas Account*

(with verses from various Christmas hymns)

Pastor: And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city.

Men: Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child.

(O Little Town of Bethlehem - 361 v. 1 LSB)

**♪ 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 darkness shineth The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in Thee tonight.**

Women: So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Pastor: Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said unto them,

Teens and Younger: “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.”

(What Child is This - 370 LSB)

**♪ 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!**

**Why lies He in such mean estate Where oxen now 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!**

**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!**

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-98
Text: Public domain

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

ALL: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

"Angels We Have Heard on High" LSB 368 v. 1

1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.

(song continues on next page ->)

Refrain

Glo - - - ri - a
in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - -
ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text and tune: Public domain

Pastor: So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another,

Men: “Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.”

Pastor: And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

Women: But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

ALL: And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

“Angels We Have Heard on High” LSB 368 v. 2-3

2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;
What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain

Glo - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - -

- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text and tune: Public domain

CONFESSION OF FAITH

“The Christmas Creed”

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
Who sent His Son as my Savior on Christmas Day.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
Born of the Virgin Mary,
Announced by the Angels,
Worshiped by the shepherds,
Adored by the Wise Men,
Who lived to suffer, die, and rise again,
To free me from sin, death, and the power of the devil.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
Who has brought me to faith in the Christ of Christmas,
And by whose continuous work in my heart,
I am ever led to show Christ my love and live under Him as my King,
Both now and forevermore. Amen.**

Hymn: 373 *See Amid the Winter Snow*

LSB 373

THE SERMON

Luke 2:15-20 (NKJV)

¹⁵ So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. ¹⁷ Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. ¹⁸ And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. ¹⁹ But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.

Sermon Theme: "Christmas Traditions" – Worship!

- † What are some reasons why worshiping Jesus the most important and best of all our "Christmas Traditions?"

Offertory

LSB 956

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new
a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way
from Thy pres - ence; and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion;
and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Public domain

Sermon Hymn: "Lord, You Were Rich Beyond All Splendor"

CW21 365

The first system of the piano accompaniment consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. Both staves are in the key of D major (two sharps) and 3/4 time. The music begins with a series of chords and moving lines in both hands, setting a contemplative mood.

The second system features a vocal line on a single staff in treble clef, with three verses of lyrics underneath. Below the vocal line is the piano accompaniment, consisting of two staves in treble and bass clefs. The lyrics are: 1 Lord, you were rich be - yond all splen - dor, yet, for love's sake, be - came so poor; 2 You are our God be - yond all prais - ing, yet, for love's sake, be - came a man; 3 Lord, you are love be - yond all tell - ing; Sav - ior and King, we wor - ship you. Em - man - u - el, with -

The third system continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line is on a single staff in treble clef, and the piano accompaniment is on two staves in treble and bass clefs. The lyrics are: sake, be - came so poor; leav - ing your throne in; sake, be - came a man; stoop - ing so low, but with -; King, we wor - ship you. Em - man - u - el, with -

Text: Frank Houghton, 1894-1972

Alternate setting: David Peacock, b. 1949

Text: OMF International (admin. by Song Solutions CopyCare, excluding US and Canada admin. by Music Services, Inc. www.music-services.org)

Alternate setting: David Peacock © The Jubilate Group, admin. Hope Publishing Company

glad sur - ren - der, sap - phire - paved courts for sta - ble
 sin - ners rais - ing heav'n - ward by your e - ter - nal
 in us dwell - ing, make us and keep us pure and

floor. Lord, you were rich be - yond all splen - dor,
 plan. You are our God be - yond all prais - ing,
 true. Lord, you are love be - yond all tell - ing;

1,2 3
 yet, for love's sake, be - came so poor.
 yet, for love's sake, be - came a man.
 Sav - ior and King, we wor - ship you.

THE OFFERING OF THANKFUL HEARTS

In tangible evidence of our gratitude, we offer the Lord the gift of our money, remembering that He has first given to us that we might have to give to Him.

Choir Song: "Come to My Heart"

Thou didst leave Thy throne and Thy kingly crown
When Thou camest to earth for me;
But in Behlehem's home there was found no room
For Thy holy nativity:
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus,
Make room in my heart for Thee.

Heaven's arches rang when the angels sang,
Proclaiming Thy royal degree;
But in lowly birth Thou didst come to earth,
And in great humility:
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus,
Make room in my heart for Thee!

When the heavens shall ring and the angels sing
At Thy coming in victory,
Let Thy voice call me home, saying, "Yet there is room,
There is room at My side for thee."
My heart shall rejoice, Lord Jesus,
When Thou comest and callest for me!
Come to my heart: make room for Thee.

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

- P** Lord Jesus, You left Your home in heaven to join us here on this broken earth. You left the warmth of Your Father's embrace to join us in the cold world. You fill us with awe.
- C** **Lord Jesus, accept our offering of praise.**

(LSB 369 v. 1)

**♪ Where shepherds lately knelt and kept the angel's word,
I come in half-belief, a pilgrim strangely stirred;
But there is room and welcome there for me,
But there is room and welcome there for me.**

P Lord Jesus, we are sinful from birth, but You were born pure and holy. Born of a virgin, You chose to rest in a bed of hay. We praise You for Your perfection, and we thank You for choosing to rescue us.

C Lord Jesus, accept our offering of praise.

(LSB 369 v. 2)

**♪ In that unlikely place I find Him as they said:
Sweet newborn babe, how frail! And in a manger bed:
A still, small voice to cry one day for me,
A still, small voice to cry one day for me.**

P You came to die for us, to take our guilt, so we can find a home in heaven. Infant King, we confess our sin and rejoice that You have taken it from us. O Jesus, it is good that You have made a home for us in heaven with You.

C Lord Jesus, accept our offering of praise.

(LSB 369 v. 3)

**♪ How should I not have known Isaiah would be there,
His prophecies fulfilled? With pounding heart I stare:
A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me,
A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me.**

P So many don't know what You have done for us. They think their homes are here. Open our mouths to share the wonder of what You did on Christmas. Open our eyes to opportunities, and give us wisdom and courage to speak of Your grace.

C Lord Jesus, accept our offering of praise.

(LSB 369 v. 4)

**♪ Can I, will I forget how Love was born, and burned
Its way into my heart—unasked, unforced, unearned,
To die, to live, and not alone for me,
To die, to live, and not alone for me?**

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008

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P O Jesus, take these offerings of praise and use them to Your glory. Help us look forward to our heavenly home, as we pray the words You taught us:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(All)

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.

THE BENEDICTION

The blessing given by God for the blessing of His people (Numbers 6:24-26).

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

Closing Hymn: 387 Joy to the World (please stand for last verse)

LSB 387

v. 1 – All; v. 2 – Men; v. 3 – Women; v. 4 – All (please stand)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Blessed & Merry Christmas to You All! – Thank you for all the cards, gifts, treats, and expressions of love and support that you have given to Jewels and me during this Christmas season. It has been a joy and a privilege to serve you and to share the Good News of our Savior with all of you in this ministry! May the Joy of the birth of our Savior Jesus fill your hearts, minds, and lives this Christmas Day and always. Praise be to God for His wonderful gift!

Merry
Christmas

“Oh Come, Let Us Adore Him, Christ the Lord!”

- Pastor Luke Bernthal

Church Cleaning: Team #7 (12/21-27); Team #8 (12/28-1/3/25)

This Sunday: **Choir – 8am**
12/29/24 **Worship (Sunday After Christmas) – 9am**
No Sunday School or Bible Class (Christmas Break)

ILC Professor Christmas Gifts – One way by which we praise God and express our thanks for the gift of His Son is through our gifts of love to others. With that in mind, we would like to gather a gift for the 12 professors who serve our church body at Immanuel Lutheran High School, College, and Seminary in Eau Claire. Monetary gifts may be placed in the box on the hall counter. Make checks out to “Messiah.” The deadline is today (Dec. 25th).

The Advent Wreath



The Advent wreath is rich in symbolism, and as such it aids our worship as it reinforces our hope in the ultimate coming of our Lord. The wreath is covered with evergreen. Just as this species of tree is always green, so our hope for eternity is always alive because it rests upon the living Christ. The wreath is also in the form of a circle, which has no beginning and no end. What better way to picture that our life with God is everlasting.

The lighted candles are symbolic of the light of Christ and His Gospel, which alone can lift us out of our sin & spiritual darkness. The 4 Advent candles remind us of the 4000 years of waiting for Christ by the Old Testament world. The 3 purple candles are the color for repentance (or blue, which is meant to suggest anticipation and hope). The rose (pink) candle is the color for **joy**. Each of the 4 candles has been assigned a special name with special significance: **Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love**.

The Christ Candle is the white candle in the center, and is lit on Christmas Eve. It signals that He Who is the Light of the world has been born.

The light these candles put forth seems small; so does the gospel at times. But to those in lonely darkness, it is the powerful light which shows the way to Heaven.