

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT LESSONS AND CAROLS

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

STANDING STRONG + GROWING TOGETHER + REACHING OUT

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2020

AS WE GATHER "MERRY CHRISTMAS!"

Even the way we say it often masks Him who is the center of it all. Merry Christmas, we say! The world has attempted to take over the holy day and make it a generic holiday. But hidden in the name is the One whose promise, annunciation, incarnation, and birth make this night unique. Tonight, we work to remember what is so easily forgotten and to rehearse the who, what, and why of this special day. We come to hear the Word of God, to have our Lord's birth placed in context with all the glorious details, and to meet Christ, our everlasting gift. Tonight, we put the Christ and the Mass together again and respond with joyful acclamation: Christ is born!



PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

Organ, Piano, Trumpet, Handbells

Christmas Suite I

Mary Did You Know

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Silent Night

How Beautiful are Thy Feet

How Bright Appears the Morning Star

The First Nowell

Noel Nouvelet

Carol of the Bells

WELCOME AND PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Pastor Stephen Heimer

OPENING HYMN

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" v.1-3 Lutheran Service Book 379



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,



come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le - hem;
Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!



Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God — In — the — high - est:

Refrain



O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,



O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

INVOCATION AND BAPTISMAL REMEMBRANCE

- P** In the Name of God,
- C** **The Everlasting Father.**
- P** In the Name of God,
- C** **The Prince Of Peace.**
- P** In the Name of God,
- C** **The Wonderful Counselor.**
- P** In the strong Name of the Holy Trinity,
- C** **The Father, The Son, + And The Holy Spirit. Amen.**

The sign of the Holy Cross may be made by all in remembrance and celebration of their baptism.

ADORATION

Psalm 96

- P** Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth!
- C** **Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.**
- P** Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!
- C** **For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods.**
- P** For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the LORD made the heavens.
- C** **Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.**
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now and shall be forever. Amen.
- P** Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth!
- C** **Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

- P** O God our Father, you have set forth the way of life for us in Your beloved Son, we confess with shame our slowness to learn of Him, our failure to follow Him, our reluctance to bear the cross.
- C** **Lord, have mercy upon us and forgive us.**
- P** Forgive us our shallow, self-centered worship, our neglect of your Body, the Church, our careless attention to your Word and Sacraments, our hesitating witness to your love in Christ, our evasion of responsibility in your service, our imperfect stewardship of your gifts.
- C** **Lord, have mercy upon us and forgive us.**
- P** Forgive us that so little of your love has reached others through us, that we have been thoughtless in our judgments, quick in condemnation, grudging in forgiveness, slow to seek reconciliation, and unwilling to care for the hungry and homeless.
- C** **Lord, have mercy upon us and grant us Your peace.**

PROCLAMATION OF CHRISTMAS FORGIVENESS AND PEACE

- P** The angels proclaim the promise and purpose of God again this Christmas night, "Peace on earth to His children upon whom His grace and favor rest." In Christ Jesus our sins are forgiven, we have peace with God our Father. Glory to God in the highest!
- C** **Glory to God in the highest!**

HYMN

"On Christmas Night All Christians Sing" LSB 377



1 On Christ-mas night all Chris - tians sing To hear the news the
2 Then why should men on earth be so sad, Since our Re - deem - er
3 When sin de - parts be - fore His grace, Then life and health come
4 All out of dark-ness we have light, Which made the an - gels



an - gels bring, On Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing To
made us glad, Then why should men on earth be so sad, Since
in its place, When sin de - parts be - fore His grace, Then
sing this night, All out of dark - ness we have light, Which



hear the news the an - gels bring, News of great joy, news of great
 our Re - deem - er made us glad, When from our sin He set us
 life and health come in its place; An - gels and men with joy may
 made the an - gels sing this night: "Glo - ry to God and peace to



mirth, News of our mer - ci - ful King's birth.
 free, All for to gain our lib - er - ty?
 sing, All for to see the new - born King.
 men Now and for - ev - er - more. A - men."

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+ READINGS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE +

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. ³You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. ⁴For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING

Titus 2:11-14

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹²training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PREPARATION FOR READING OF THE GOSPEL

P He came as a baby in a manger.

C Come, Lord Jesus

P He came to be our Savior

C Come, Lord Jesus.

P With joy and gladness,

C We celebrate His coming.

+ THE CHRISTMAS EVE GOSPEL LESSON AND CAROLS +

LESSON: THE JOURNEY

Luke 2:1-5

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

CAROL

"O Little Town of Bethlehem" v.1-2,4 LSB 361



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove
 4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;
 While mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won-d'ring love.
 Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.
 O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 We hear the Christ-mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.
 And prais - es sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!
 O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

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LESSON: THE BIRTH

Luke 2:6-7

⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And 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.

CAROL

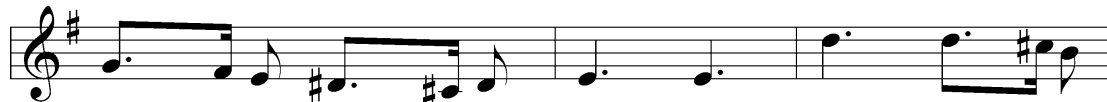
"What Child is This" LSB 370



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is
 2 Why lies He in such mean es-tate Where ox and ass are
 3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to



sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While
 feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The
 own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is
 si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall
 lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the



Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
 pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
 song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar-y!
 Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar-y!
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar-y!

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LESSON: THE SURPRISE

Luke 2:8-10

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people.

CAROL

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" LSB 380



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;
 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
 Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
 Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see, Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty!
 Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!
 Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.

Refrain



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King!"

Tune and text: Public domain

LESSON: THE PROCLAMATION

Luke 2:11-14

¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest,
 and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

CAROL

"Angels We Have Heard On High" LSB 368



1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 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;



And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 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

LESSON: THE DISCOVERY

Luke 2:15-16

¹⁵When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

CAROL

"Away in a Manger" LSB 364



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask Thee to stay



The lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet head.
 But lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing He makes.
 Close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.



The stars in the sky _____ looked down where He lay,
 I love Thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,
 Bless all the dear chil - dren in Thy ten - der care,



The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
 And stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
 And take us to heav - en to live with Thee there.

LESSON: THE PRAISE

Luke 2:17-20

¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

CAROL

"Joy to the World" LSB 387



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him
poy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
ground; He comes to make His bless - ings
prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

Text and tune: Public domain

HANDBELL ANTHEM

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly / Away in a Manger"

Zion Handbell Choir

THE CONFESSION OF FAITH

Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.


I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life † everlasting. Amen.

HOMILY


"Christmas Treasures"

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM


Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, O-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;




Go tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er si - lent flocks by night,
 2 The shep-herds feared and trem - bled When lo, a - bove the earth
 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger The hum-ble Christ was born;

Refrain



Be - hold, through - out the heav - ens There shone a ho - ly light.
 Rang out the an - gel cho - rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
 And God sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

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CHRISTMAS EVE PRAYERS

"Lord, in Your mercy... Hear our Prayer"

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

"What Child is This"

David Garcia, *Organ*

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

(The ushers will light the candle of the person at the beginning of each row. The lighted candle will be held upright; the next worshiper will tip their candle to receive the flame.)

LORD'S PRAYER

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 SCRIPTURE FOR CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT

Revelation 21 & 22

P "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. And I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem... And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Now the dwelling place of God is with His people and He will live with them forever.'

C **We lift our candles in thanksgiving to God the Father, the Lamb, and the Spirit...**

P "And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb and the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives

it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there.”

P The Spirit and the Church say, “Come Lord Jesus”. The Lamb and the Word says, “Yes I am coming soon”.

C Amen. Come Lord Jesus.

P “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you, God’s people.”

C Amen

BENEDICTION

CLOSING CAROL

“Silent Night, Holy Night” LSB 363



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



all is bright Round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
 at the sight; Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
 love's pure light Ra - diant beams from Thy ho - ly face



Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, Sleep in heav - en - ly
 Heav'n - ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
 With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy



peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

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POSTLUDE

David Garcia, *Organ*

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Offerings

You can contribute offerings using three main methods:

Online donations: You can make a secure contribution from your credit card or bank account at www.zionelpaso.org. We use Vanco, a reputable agency which specializes in donations to churches and nonprofits. Your contribution can be set up to be recurring, such as each week or month, or as a one-time donation.

Mail donations: Mail your check to the Zion church office at 2808 Pershing Drive, El Paso, TX 79903. The mail is checked every day.

Donations via an app: If you prefer using your phone or tablet, you can download the Vanco Give Plus app. You can easily set up an account and donation through the app.

Your offerings and support are crucial to our congregation and we are very grateful for your support!

Thank you to the musicians who blessed our Christmas Eve service with joyful music and to the children who participated in our Christmas Program!

Join Us on Christmas Day and New Year's Eve!

10:30am: **Friday, December 25** – "We Have Seen His Glory"

7:00pm: **Thursday, December 31** – New Year's Eve Prayer and Praise

We are updating information for the 2021 Directory to keep our Zion community connected to each other, even when we are far apart! Be sure to send us a picture of the people in your household! Also, if you have changed your address or contact information in the past 12 months, please call the church office or email us at info@zionelpaso.org.

2021 Offering Envelopes have arrived and are available to be picked up at the Zion office! The office is open from 10:00am to 3:00pm, Tuesday through Friday. If you have any questions or if you would like to have your envelopes delivered to you, please call the church at (915) 566-4667.

Eastside Bible Study group will be taking a break during the Season of Advent and will resume meeting on Tuesday, January 12, 2021, at 7:00 p.m., on Zoom. We will be studying the CPH series: "Faith on the Edge: Science and the Savior". New members are always welcome and encouraged to join us! For more information, contact the church office or Lydia Williams at 915-630-2131.

Please Save the Date! Zion's LWML is hosting a Virtual Baby Shower for 2 of Zion's expectant Moms: Martha Sellers, due in May, and Erin Shimkus, due in February! The shower will be held on Zoom in the afternoon of Sunday January 24, 2021, at 3:00 p.m. and you are invited! We will be presenting a special Baby Shower Devotion focusing on various baby items, with the help of a Thrivent Action Grant, and will also be **collecting Diapers (from sizes Newborn to Size 2) and Baby Wipes** for the 2 Moms and their babies. You are also invited to join this "Diaper and Wipes Collection," which will be divided and shared with the 2 families. **Please RSVP to Lydia Williams at (915) 630-2131 or the Church Office** if you will be attending the shower, so we may send you the Zoom link closer to the shower date. Diapers and wipes will be collected in the Auditorium, in the designated spot, or may be dropped off at the Church Office. Members of LWML will also be happy to pick up these items from your home and/or shop for you. Please let Lydia or the Church Office know. Further information will be

forthcoming. Thanks, in advance, for contributing to the collection for the babies! We hope to see you at the Virtual Baby Shower!

The Opportunity Center for the Homeless is in need of wheelchairs, transport chairs and walkers. If you are able to donate any of the above equipment, or know of any possible resources, please contact Jason Cagann at 512.785.5563 or jcagann@ocelpaso.org OR call the church office at: 915.566.4667. Thank you!



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ZION STEWARDSHIP OF + TIME + TALENT + TREASURE

Preacher & Liturgist:	Pastor Stephen Heimer
Organist:	David Garcia
Trumpeters:	Raul Candelaria, Pablo Palacios
Acolyte:	Victoria Ochoa
Elder:	Jim Smith
Camera Operator:	Jaden Heimer
Sound Director:	Brenna Rodriguez
Offering Counter:	Ed Hamlyn

THIS WEEK AT ZION

12/25	Friday	10:30 AM	Christmas Day Communion Service
12/27	Sunday	9:15 AM	"Exodus" Bible Study
		10:30 AM	Worship Service
12/31	Thursday	7:00 PM	New Year's Eve Prayer Service



**The Poinsettias as a floral offering in our Sanctuary
have been given TO THE GLORY OF GOD by:**

Pat Wende, in memory of Charles Wende and Billie Sue Lillge

Jim Smith, in memory of Karma Smith

Fred Hulce, in memory of Nancy Hulce

Sharon Amastae, in memory of Jim and Betty Somppi

Mary Sanchez, in memory of Denise Herrmann and in honor of Delia Delgado

Barbara Laux, in memory of Raymond and Marcella Laux

Joe and Barbara Upsal

John and Lucille Williamson

Arlin and Heather Guess

Terry and Linda Chaumont

Lydia and David Williams, in memory of our loved ones in their Heavenly home and in
celebration of all God's Blessings

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