

Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Eve

December 24, 2025 - 4:00 pm

Pastor Peter Johnson

Lakeside Community Lutheran Church

Webster, WI

Introduction

In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

GATHERING

**Denotes stand as you are able*

PRELUDE

WELCOME

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace.
Amen.

Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Reconciling God,
**we yearn for your presence to transform
our grief, pain, and despair.**
**We confess that we have not always prepared
room in our hearts for your love;
we have not always recognized
your presence among us;
we have not always embraced your message of peace.**
**We cry out, weary with the burden of violence,
oppression, and fear.**
**We confess our failure to make room
for those seeking refuge;
our participation in violent systems
that harm your innocent ones;
our reluctance to embody your good news.**
**Be born in us today
and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation.**
Amen.

God's grace upon grace flows over you.

✠ Christ's presence redeems the whole creation.

Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad! **Amen.**

***GATHERING HYMN**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ELW 283

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

Solo

Were You There on That Christmas Night?

Vern Umholtz

WORD

We hear God's word

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

² 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.

³ You have multiplied exultation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴ 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.

⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶ 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.

⁷ Great will be his authority,
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.

PSALM: Psalm 96

¹ Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.

² **Sing to the Lord, bless the name of the Lord;
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**

³ Declare God's glory among the nations
and God's wonders among all peoples.

⁴ **For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised,
more to be feared than all gods.**

⁵ As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but you, O Lord, have made the heavens.

⁶ **Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**

⁷ Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord honor and power.

⁸ **Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts of the Lord.**

⁹ Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the Lord, all the earth.

¹⁰ **Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is king!
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will
judge the peoples with equity."**

¹¹ Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that
is therein.

¹² **Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O
Lord,
for you come to judge the earth.**

¹³ You will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with your truth.

SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14

¹¹ The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹² training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴ He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia! 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. Alleluia!

HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

The Holy Gospel according to Luke

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ 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. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ 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 in the guest room.

⁸ Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ 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: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

[¹⁵ 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.” ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, ¹⁹ and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.]

Glory to you, O Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.



SERMON ON THE STEPS

SERMON

Pastor Peter Johnson

HYMN OF THE DAY

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ELW 279

***APOSTLES CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

***THE PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE**

Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church,
creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Response:

Hear us, O God

Your mercy is great.

With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you,
O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus
Christ our Savior.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you all.

And also with you.

MEAL

THANKSGIVING FOR OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

***OFFERING PRAYER**

God of glory,

great are your wonders among us

and many are the blessings you bestow.

Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world,

that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace,

through Christ our Savior.

Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also 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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit,
Let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

God is now in flesh appearing.
Come to the feast of joy!

COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONG

What Child Is This

ELW 296

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Incarnate God, you are among us at this table.
May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts
the mystery of your presence.
Move us to discover the wonders of your love
in the everyday moments of our lives,
through Christ born in us.
Amen.

SENDING

SHARING OF LIGHT

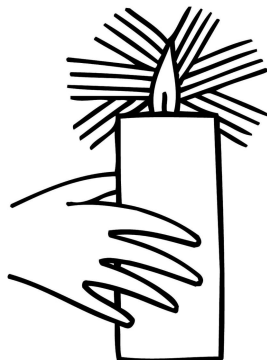
As you share light, tip the unlighted candle to the lighted one.

CHOIR ANTHEM

Night of the Father's Love

Congregation, please join in singing Silent Night as directed.

ELW 281 (v1)



BENEDICTION

May the obedience of Mary, the wonder of the shepherds and the love of God shown in the infant Jesus, go with you this night and always.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Christ the Savior is born!

Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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Let us together lift up a prayer of thanks for today's participants: Pastor Peter Johnson; Organist Judi Wilson; Our Lakeside Choir; Dave & Linda Speidel; Producer, Margy Rogers; December Conveners, Pat & Daryl Sulander; and Shepherds, Carol Aakhus, Ken & Dotty Busby, Ken Olson, Dawn & Doug Straub, and Vicki Struve.

Thank you to those who contributed poinsettias to enhance our Christmas worship:

Carol Aakhus	In memory of my mother & father
Steve & Marilynne Gallman	In memory of Devan
Charley & Jolyne Peterson	In honor of Prayer Warriors of Lakeside
Tim & Laura Smith	In celebration of the Christmas Season
Dave & Linda Speidel	In memory of our parents, Millie, Virginia & Harold
Dawn & Doug Straub	In memory of our loved ones
Bob & Vicki Struve	In celebration of our granddaughter's wedding on December 20th
Deb & Jim Studley	In memory of Curtis Studley & in celebration of our 54th anniversary
Mark & Sheila Treise	In memory of our daughter, Margaret Alice Treise
Vern Umholtz	In memory of Barbara Umholtz