



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
40 N. Main St., Hatfield, PA

The Nativity of Our Lord
December 24, 2024
9:00 p.m.

Rev. Nancy M. Raabe, Pastor
Deacon Bruce W. Tonkin, Interim Minister of Music
Pat Keen, Organist
Annette Dittman, Director of Youth Ministries
Lynn Fasick, Office Administrator
Jessica Moran, Stepping Stones Director

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. Now we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

Wherever you see the bell graphic, you may ring your sleigh bells!



Prelude:

‘Once in Royal David’s City’

“In the Bleak Mid-Winter”

“Angels From the Realms of Glory”

R.B. Farlee

D. Laskey

E. Johnson



LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: The Christ Candle

5 We light the Ad - vent can - dle! The light of Christ so
 4 dear il - lu - mi - nates our dark - ness: God's king - dom has drawn
 8 near. To - day we light the can - dle white as God's great love shines
 12 through the night that Je - sus Christ was born, that Je - sus Christ was born.

Please stand.

THE BIDDING PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS

Beloved in Christ, in this season of Advent, let it be our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the Angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem, to see the Babe lying in a manger.

Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by his holy Child; and let us look forward to the yearly remembrance of his birth with hymns and songs of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for the mission and unity of the Church for which he died, and especially in this country and within this city. And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us at this time remember in his name the poor and the helpless; the hungry and the oppressed; the unhoused and the unsheltered, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and the unloved; and all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
 2 The 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!

Greeting

P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C. And also with you.

Hymn of Praise: Angels We Have Heard on High



ELW 289



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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P. 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.**

Please be seated.

WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.



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

⁴For 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.

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

⁶For 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.

⁷His authority shall grow continually, 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.

Word of God, Word of life. **C. Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading: Titus 2:11-14

¹¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety
and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and
godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great
God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He 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.

Word of God, Word of life. **C. Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

Gospel Acclamation



Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -
le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -
lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

The Gospel with Hymns

GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20

P. The Gospel of the Lord, according to Luke, the second chapter.

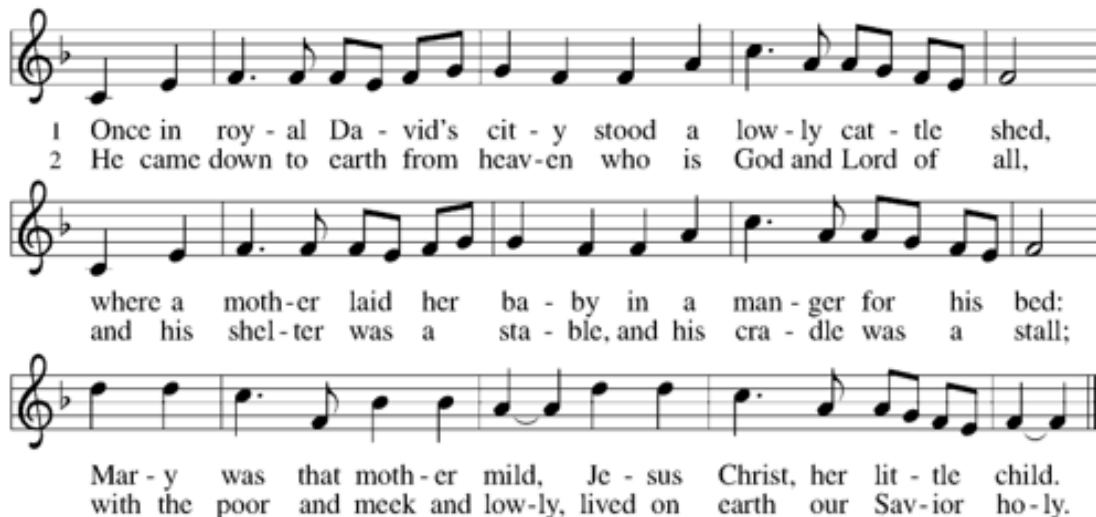
C. Glory to you, O Lord.

P. 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. 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.

Please be seated for the remainder of the reading.

Once in Royal David's City

ELW 269



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,
2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of all,
where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:
and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;
Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
with the poor and meek and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.

P. 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.

1 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!

2 Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass 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!

P. 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 to them, "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." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

All proclaim: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, goodwill to all!"

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

ELW 270

1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
 "Glory to the newborn king;
 peace on earth, and mercy mild,
 God and sinners reconciled."
 Joyful, all you nations, rise;
 join the triumph of the skies;
 with angelic hosts proclaim,
 "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing,
 "Glory to the newborn king!"



2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
 Christ, the everlasting Lord,

late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel! *Refrain*

P. 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.”
And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph,
and the Babe lying in a manger.

Away in a Manger

ELW 278

**Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

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

The Gospel of the Lord. **C. Praise to you, O Christ.**



SERMON: Be Born in Us Today

Pastor Nancy Raabe

Please stand.

HYMN of the DAY: O Little Town of Bethlehem



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
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
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.
So God im-parts to hu - man hearts the bless-ings of his heav'n.
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,
No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
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!
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

PRAYERS

To the petition "Hear us, O God" please respond, "Your mercy is great."

GREETING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING

We are grateful for your gifts to support the many ministries at Grace. You may also use this QR code to give using your credit card, or text a gift to Grace at our special number, 844-613-0815. We rely on your gifts to sustain Grace and all its ministries. Forms for electronic giving are in the narthex or ask us for help.



Music at the offering:

**“O Little Town of Bethlehem”
“Bethlehem Night”**

Grace Choir

Arr. Mark Sedio
Terry Taylor



OFFERTORY: What Child is This (stanza 3)

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!

OFFERING PRAYER

A. Gracious God, your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth. As we offer ourselves and these your gifts, prepare us to receive the grace and truth you offer at this table and renew in us the song of your salvation, in Jesus Christ our Savior.

C. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P. The Lord be with you. **C. And also with you.**

P. Lift up your hearts. **C. We lift them to the Lord.**

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C. It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy One, the beginning and the end...

In the night in which he was betrayed...

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven....

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.

Please be seated.

LAMB OF GOD

ELW Setting 4



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION:

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

ELW 276

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

ELW 282

In the Bleak Midwinter

ELW 294

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus, God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine. As we have shared this feast of love, strengthen us to share your love with all the world. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C. Amen.



*For those with wax candles, please tip yours into the flame being offered.
For those with electric candles, please light yours as your row is lit by
twisting the bulb or base or using the switch on the bottom.*

The choir will sing “Night of Silence” and “Stille Nacht” before the congregation joins on “Silent Night.”

NIGHT OF SILENCE / SILENT NIGHT

Daniel Kantor

Grace Choir

1. Cold are the people, winter of life,
We tremble in shadows this cold endless night,
Frozen in the snow lie roses sleeping,
Flowers that will echo the sunrise,
Fire of hope is our only warmth,
Weary, its flame will be dying soon.
2. Voice in the distance, call in the night,
On wind you enfold us, you speak of the light,
Gentle on the ear you whisper softly,
Rumors of a dawn so embracing,
Breathless love awaits darkened souls,
Soon will we know of the morning.
3. Spirit among us, shine like the star,
Your light that guides shepherds and kings from afar,
Shimmer in the sky so empty, lonely
Rising in the warmth of your son's love,
Star unknowing of night and day,
Spirit we wait for your loving Son.

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.

HYMN: Silent Night, Holy Night! (all sing)

1 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.



2 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!

3 Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from your holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

BLESSING

P. The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh.

C. Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN: Joy to the World

ELW 267

DISMISSAL

A. Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

C. Thanks be to God.

Postlude: "Joy to the World"

C. Phillips

*A joyous and blessed Christmas to all,
from Pastor Raabe, Deacon Bruce Tonkin, Pat Keen, Lynn Fasick,
and the Grace Council!*

POINSETTIAS ARE GIVEN:

In Memory of Violet Bailey, LeRoy & Violet Rex, Bill & Jane Stawasz, Bill Stawasz, Jr., Denise Pierce, Elmer & Helen Bush, Joe Black from The Stawasz Family.

In Memory of Alyssa Oxenford and loved ones from Mike & Lynn Oxenford.

In Memory of Wanda Przybylski and Eli & Lilly Schmidt from Peggy & Bruce Schmidt.

In Memory of Earl Kratz, Husband, Father & Grandfather from Laura Kratz & Family.

In Memory of Ed & Jean Meibohm and Ed & Thea Woltmann from Emily & Rich Woltmann.

In Memory of their Parents and Grandparents and in Honor of their Children and Grandchildren

from Kay & Frank Stone.

In Memory of her husband Dale, parents-Bob & Mary Rufe, Paul & Helen Alderfer Walter Moyer; brother-Rev. Merle Alderfer; in Honor of her children-Mike, Cora, Mark Moyer and granddaughter-Allie, brother-Bob Rufe & sister-Suzanne Morrell from Mary Jane Moyer.

In Honor of Callie Elisabeth Van Horn and Charles Gustaf Engstrand-Raabe from Pastor & Bill Raabe.

In Memory of Nick & Helen Wolf, Chuck McKeefrey, Ella Dinger and Glenn Szakal from Phyllis McKeefrey & Karen Heacock.

In Memory of Gail Walter and in Honor of June Detweiler and Nancy Sellers from The Walter Family.

In Memory of Juliana Tula and Betty Coyle; in Honor of Patricia Boyer from Crystal Tula.

In Memory of her Parents, Milton & Theresa St. Mary from Linda Pribbernow.

In Memory of her Parents and Bill's Parents, her brother Edward and her friend Karen from Jean Shaffer.

In Memory of Aunt Peg from The Campolongo Family.

In Memory of their Parents from Bruce & Marcia Tonkin.

In Memory of Robert Smyrl Sr., and Mary Zuech from Bob & Debbie Smyrl.

In Memory of William Keen from Patricia Keen.



Serving today – Thank You!

Preacher and Presider: Rev. Nancy M. Raabe

Minister of Music: Bruce W. Tonkin

Ushers: Peggy Schmidt and Dan Walter

Acolyte: Dan Walter

Communion Assistant: Bruce Schmidt Lector: Jean Shaffer

Altar Guild: Emily Woltmann and Wendy Walter

Video team: Harold Schaefer

