

# Christmas Eve Worship

## December 24, 2025



***Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church & School***  
***7308 Wedgewood Drive***  
***Black Hawk, SD 57718***

*"We are baptized children of God, forgiven and redeemed by Jesus. We are His family, called together to receive His gifts and serve others."*

***Pastor Dennis Mercer***

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# Service of Lessons and Carols

## Hymns, Readings, and Woodcuts

### for Contemplating the Nativity of Our Lord

#### **The Prelude and Lighting of the Candles**

*A time of silent meditation on the themes of the day. The musical prelude typically speaks to those themes.*

*Prelude*

**Various Duets**

Piano

**Various Duets**

Flute & Vibraphone

**Welcome**

**Pastor Mercer**



## Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the + Son + and of the Holy Spirit  
C **Amen.**

**O Come All Ye Faithful**

**LSB 379 vs. 1-3**

## The Collect of the Day

P Let us pray.  
C **Amen.**

## The First Reading: Genesis 3:8-15



And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." Then the LORD God said to the woman,

"What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

## **Angels We Have Heard on High**

**LSB 368**

*With Children's Bell Choir*

### **The Second Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14 and 53:1-12**



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. 53:1-12 Who has believed what they heard from us?

And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

**What Child is This**

**LSB 370, vs 1 & 2**

## The Third Reading: Luke 1:5-25



In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years. Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb.

And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared." And Zechariah said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years." And the angel answered him, "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time." And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they were wondering at his delay in the temple. And when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple. And he kept making signs to them and remained mute. And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home. After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept herself hidden, saying, "Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people.

## **Of the Father's Love Begotten**

**LSB 384, vs 1 & 2**

### **The Fourth Reading: Luke 1:26-38**



In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

**Angels from the Realms of Glory**

**LSB 367 vs. 1, 4-5  
stand for the last verse**



## The Fifth Reading: Luke 1:57-66



Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. And her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. And they would have called him Zechariah after his father, but his mother answered, "No; he shall be called John." And they said to her, "None of your relatives is called by this name." And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he wanted him to be called. And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And they all wondered. And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea, and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, "What then will this child be?" For the hand of the Lord was with him.

**O Little Town of Bethlehem**

**LSB 361**

## The Sixth Reading: Matthew 1:18-25

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.

**O Come, O Come Emmanuel**

**LSB 357, vs 1, 4, 6**

## The Seventh Reading: Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And 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, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. 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.

**The Eighth Reading: Luke 2:8-14**



And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And 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. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

## The Ninth Reading: Luke 2:15-20



When 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." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

**LSB 380**

**Children's Message**

**Special Music**

**"Away in a Manger"**

*Children's Choir*

**Sermon**     “The True Light”

**Offering, Special Music**

**“Come and See the Tiny King”**

*Children & Adult Choir*

**The Prayers**

**Lord's Prayer**

**“Peace, Peace”**

*Adult Choir*

*Lighting of Candles (Please tip unlit into lit candles)*

**Silent Night**

**LSB 363**

*Sung by Congregation*

**The Benedicamus**

P    Let us bless the Lord.

C    **Thanks be to God.**

**The Benediction**

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

C    **Amen.**

**Joy to the World**

**LSB 387**

## **Poinsettias in Honor/Remembrance of:**

1. Doug & Cora Petersen in memory of Dennis Petersen
2. Doug & Cora Petersen in memory of Helen Petersen
3. Darla Senger in memory of her mom Doris Senger
4. Josie Wagner in memory of her mom Debbie Morris and grandpa Dean Lindquist
5. Dave Lundin and Jane Lundin in memory of Susan Warner and Hank Lundin
6. Rick & Connie Rathert in memory of Earl & Norma Kluender and Jim & Jo Rathert
7. Travis Karr in memory of Terry & Patsy Karr and Landon Karr
8. Dale and Mary Heidelberger in Thanksgiving of their family
9. Ardella Berg in memory of Ron, parents, and brothers
10. Ron & Judy Uecker in memory of their parents, brother, and sister
11. Lillian Halvorson & Nate Halvorson in memory of Mikey, Joel, and Dan
12. The Wilburn Family in memory of Wesley Stverak and Wesley Wilburn

Please join us for service tomorrow morning at 9:00 to further celebrate the birth of our Lord.

You can find us on Facebook and on the web at [divineshep.org](http://divineshep.org)

**Thank you for worshipping with us and celebrating the birth of our Savior!**

**God's Richest Blessings!**

**Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church and our ECC & Academy Staff**

## **Tonight's Instrumentalists**

Lynn Seifert: Organ/Piano

Kathy Roling: Piano

Kayla Stearns: Flute

Joni Mercer: Vibraphone/Timpani

## **Children's Choir**

Audrey Andelt

Lincoln Andelt

Brooks Buhler

Everett Buhler

Garrett Norman

Marshall Norman

Hannah Reiprich

Levi Reiprich

Hannah Roberts

Judah Roberts

Elizabeth Yates

## **Adult Choir**

Sarah Gardner

Isabella Peck

Cheryl Brandt

Sharon Jensen

Kayla Stearns

Melissa Sutton

Dezzi Sutton

Lucas Sutton

Dana Reiprich

Kathy Roling

Joni Mercer

Pastor Dennis Mercer

## “A Modern Nativity”

