

# The Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord Candlelight Vespers

Lutheran Service Book (p 229)

Faith Lutheran Church, Wylie

(Please remember to silence your cell phones during the Divine Service.)

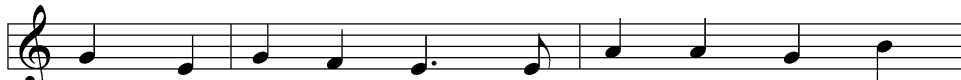


## Opening Hymn: "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"

LSB 358; Stz 1-5, 8



1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come To bear good  
2 "To you this night is born a child Of Mar - y,  
3 "This is the Christ, our God Most High, Who hears your  
4 "He will on you the gifts be - stow Pre - pared by



news to ev - 'ry home; Glad tid - ings of great  
cho - sen vir - gin mild; This lit - tle child of  
sad and bit - ter cry; He will Him - self your  
God for all be - low, That in His king - dom,



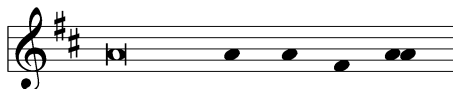
joy I bring, Where - of I now will say and sing:  
low - ly birth Shall be the joy of all the earth.  
Sav - ior be From all your sins to set you free.  
bright and fair, You may with us His glo - ry share.

5 "These are the signs that you shall mark:  
The swaddling clothes and manger dark.  
There you will find the infant laid  
By whom the heav'ns and earth were  
made."

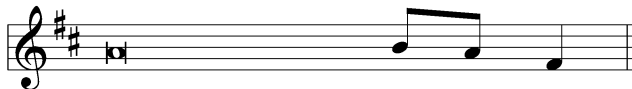
8 Welcome to earth, O noble Guest,  
Through whom the sinful world is blest!  
You came to share my misery  
That You might share Your joy with me.

Text and tune: Public domain

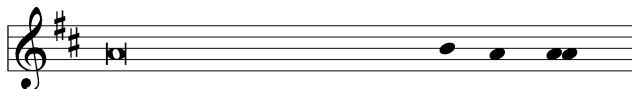
Stand



**L** O Lord, o - pen my lips,



**C** and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.



**L** Make haste, O God, to de - liv - er me;



**C** make haste to help me, O Lord.

**C** Glo-ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it;  
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.  
Praise to You, O Christ. Al - le - lu - ia.

## Psalmody

### Psalm 24

(Psalm 24:1, 3-5, antiphon: Psalm 2:6-7)

- P** The LORD | said to me,\*  
“You are my Son; today I have be- | gotten you.
- C** As for me, I have | set my King\*  
on Zion, my | holy hill.”
- P** The earth is the LORD’s and the full- | ness thereof,\*  
the world and those who | dwell therein.
- C** Who shall ascend the hill | of the LORD?\*  
And who shall stand in his | holy place?
- P** He who has clean hands and a | pure heart,\*  
who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear de- | ceitfully.
- C** He will receive blessing | from the LORD\*  
and righteousness from the God of his sal- | vation.
- C** Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\*  
and to the Holy | Spirit;  
as it was in the be- | ginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.
- P** The LORD | said to me,\*  
“You are my Son; today I have be- | gotten you.
- C** As for me, I have | set my King\*  
on Zion, my | holy hill.”

Sit

## Office Hymn: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

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  
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.  
O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text and tune: Public domain

## Readings

### Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

*Isaiah 9:2-7*

- <sup>2</sup> 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.
- <sup>3</sup> You 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.
- <sup>4</sup> For 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.
- <sup>5</sup> For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult  
and every garment rolled in blood  
will be burned as fuel for the fire.
- <sup>6</sup> For 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.
- <sup>7</sup> Of 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** O Lord, have mercy on us.
- C** Thanks be to God.

**Hymn: “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  
 ploy, 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

**Reading: Titus 2:11-14**

*Titus 2:11-14*

<sup>11</sup>For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, <sup>13</sup>waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup>who 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** O Lord, have mercy on us.
- C** Thanks be to God.

## Hymn: "It Came upon the Midnight Clear"

LSB 366



1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, That glo-rious song of old,  
2 Still through the clo-ven skies they come With peace-ful wings un-furled,  
3 All you, be-neath your heav-y load, By care and guilt bent low,  
4 For lo, the days have come to pass By proph-ets seen of old,



From an-gels bend-ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold:  
And still their heav'n-ly mu-sic floats O'er all the wea-ry world.  
Who toil a-long a drea-ry way With pain-ful steps and slow:  
When down in-to the cir-cling years Came Christ as was fore-told.



"Peace on the earth, good-will to all, From heav'n's all-gra-cious king."  
A-bove its sad and low-ly plains They bend on hov-'ring wing,  
Look up, for gold-en is the hour, Come swift-ly on the wing,  
His word of peace shall to the earth God's an-cient prom-ise bring,



The world in sol-emn still-ness lay To hear the an-gels sing.  
And ev-er o'er its ba-bel sounds The bless-ed an-gels sing.  
The Prince was born to bring you peace; Of Him the an-gels sing.  
And all who take this gift will hear The song the an-gels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810–76, alt.  
Tune: Richard S. Willis, 1819–1900  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Reading: Luke 2:1-7

Luke 2:1–7

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup>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, <sup>5</sup>to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup>And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup>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.

- A O Lord, have mercy on us.
- C Thanks be to God.

Hymn: “Angels We Have Heard on High”



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

Reading: Luke 2:8-20

Luke 2:8–20

<sup>8</sup>And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest,  
 and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

<sup>15</sup>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.” <sup>16</sup>And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup>And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup>And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**A** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

Hymn: "Angels from the Realms of Glory"



1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er  
 2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your  
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, Bright - er vi - sions  
 4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, Watch - ing long in  
 Δ 5 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,



all the earth; Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,  
 flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing,  
 beam a - far; Seek the great De - sire of na - tions,  
 hope and fear, Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,  
 Spir - it, Son, Ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing



Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth.  
 Yon - der shines the In - fant Light.  
 Ye have seen His na - tal star.  
 In His tem - ple shall ap - pear.  
 To the e - ter - nal Three in One.

*Refrain*



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship;



Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Text (sts. 1, ref, 2-4): James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt.; (st. 5): Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, Salisbury, alt.  
 Tune: Henry T. Smart, 1813-79  
 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Stand

Hymn of Response: "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

LSB 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,  
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;



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!  
 Je - sus, to Thee be glo - ry giv'n!



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:  
 Word of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

*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!

Text and tune: Public domain

*Sit*

**Offering**

*Stand*

**Canticle (Magnificat)**



**L** Let my prayer rise before You as in - cense,



**C** and the lifting up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.



**C** My soul mag - ni - fies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Sav - ior;



**L** for He has re - gard - ed the lowliness of His hand - maid - en.

LSB 231



II For be-hold, from this day all generations will call me bless-ed.

I For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name;

II and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to gen-er-a-tion.

I He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the

imagination of their hearts. II He has cast down the

might-y from their thrones and has ex-alt-ed the low-ly.

I He has filled the hun-gry with good things,

and the rich He has sent emp-ty a-way.

II He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mer-cy

as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed for-ev-er.

Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it;

as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A-men.

## Prayer

### Lighting of Candles

*(The Pastor will light his candle from the Christ candle in the Advent wreath, symbolizing the Light of Christ going out to the ends of the earth through the preaching of the Gospel. The ushers will light their candles from the Pastor's candle. The usher will then light the candle of the worshiper in each pew nearest the center aisle. When lighting your candle, please dip the unlit candle toward the lit candle, always keeping the lit candle upright. This will avoid dripping hot wax on the floor, pews, or on your hand. Parents, please carefully help any young children with their candle.)*

### Litany

**L** O Lord,  
**C** have mercy.

**L** O Christ,  
**C** have mercy.

**L** O Lord,  
**C** have mercy.

**L** O Christ,  
**C** hear us.

**L** God the Father in heaven,  
**C** have mercy.

**L** God the Son, Redeemer of the world,  
**C** have mercy.

**L** God the Holy Spirit,  
**C** have mercy.

**L** Be gracious to us.  
**C** Spare us, good Lord.

**L** Be gracious to us.  
**C** Help us, good Lord.

**L** From all sin, from all error, from all evil;  
From the crafts and assaults of the devil; from sudden and evil death;  
From pestilence and famine; from war and bloodshed; from sedition and from rebellion;  
From lightning and tempest; from all calamity by fire and water; and from everlasting death:  
**C** Good Lord, deliver us.

**L** By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your holy nativity;  
By Your baptism, fasting, and temptation; by Your agony and bloody sweat; by Your cross and passion; by  
Your precious death and burial;  
By Your glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter:  
**C** Help us, good Lord.

**L** In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the day of judgment:  
**C** Help us, good Lord.

**L** We poor sinners implore You  
**C** to hear us, O Lord.

**L** To rule and govern Your holy Christian Church; to preserve all pastors and ministers of Your Church in the true knowledge and understanding of Your wholesome Word and to sustain them in holy living;  
To put an end to all schisms and causes of offense; to bring into the way of truth all who have erred and are deceived;  
To beat down Satan under our feet; to send faithful laborers into Your harvest; and to accompany Your Word with Your grace and Spirit:

**C** **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

**L** To raise those who fall and to strengthen those who stand; and to comfort and help the weakhearted and the distressed with the peace of our newborn King:

**C** **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

**L** To give to all peoples concord and peace; to preserve our land from discord and strife; to give our country Your protection in every time of need;

To direct and defend our president and all in authority; to bless and protect our magistrates and all our people;

To watch over and help all who are in danger, necessity, and tribulation; to protect and guide all who travel;

To grant all women with child, and all mothers with infant children, increasing happiness in their blessings; to defend all orphans and widows and provide for them;

To strengthen and keep all sick persons and young children; to free those in bondage; and to have mercy on us all:

**C** **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

**L** To forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers and to turn their hearts; to give and preserve for our use the kindly fruits of the earth; and graciously to hear our prayers:

**C** **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

**L** Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

**C** **we implore You to hear us.**

**L** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

**C** **have mercy.**

**L** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

**C** **have mercy.**

**L** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

**C** **grant us Your peace.**

**L** O Christ,

**C** **hear us.**

**L** O Lord,

**C** **have mercy.**

**L** O Christ,

**C** **have mercy.**

**L** O Lord,

**C** **have mercy. Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

**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.

## Salutation

LSB 233



**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And with your spir - it.

## Collect of the Day

**P** O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

## Additional Collects

### Collect for Peace

**L** O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Benedicamus

LSB 234



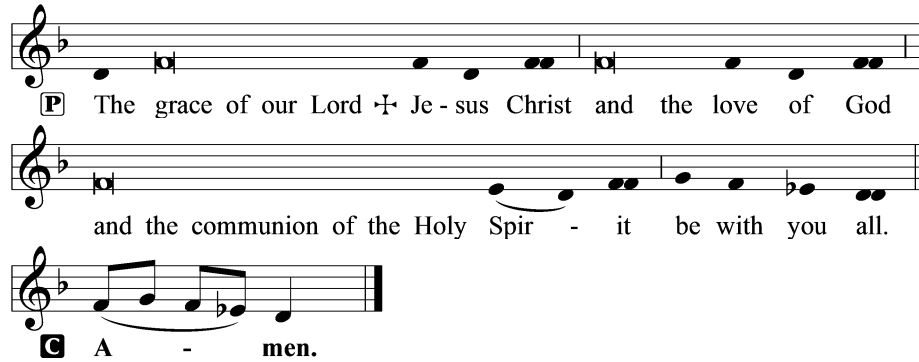
**L** Let us bless the Lord.



**C** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction

LSB 234



**P** The grace of our Lord † Je - sus Christ and the love of God  
and the communion of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.

**C** A - men.

## Closing Hymn: "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.

Tune and text: Public domain

*Following the hymn, please extinguish your candle and return it to the box in the narthex as you exit the sanctuary.*

## Acknowledgments

Vespers from Lutheran Service Book

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