

**Our Savior Lutheran Church
Christmas Eve – December 24, 2020
“Prepare a Place”**



***Theme verse – Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes
and lying in a manger. Luke 2:12***

The First Noel (SE Samonte)

<https://youtu.be/tvAJqK9a6Bw>

O Come All Ye Faithful (THENBA)

<https://youtu.be/Q8dgl4-bVPU>

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D0t5CH_3280

Invocation and Call to Worship

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God the Father,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: Amen.

A: Prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight in the desert a highway for our God!

C: To us a child is born.

A: To us a Son is given.

C: And the government will be on his shoulders.

A: And he will be called –

C: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

A: For unto you is born today in the city of David –

C: a Savior, who is Christ the Lord!

Christmas Beginnings:

Handel's Messiah: For Unto Us a Child is Born – Tabernacle Choir

<https://youtu.be/FJ9wS2J0GOs>

Christmas Confession

P: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

C: Jesus Christ is the light of the world, the light no darkness can overcome.

P: In his name let us make confession of our sins.

For his sake let us seek forgiveness.

A time of silence and reflection

P: Father in heaven,

C: We do not deserve to be called your children, for we have disobeyed. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. We deserve your wrath and punishment.

P: "His name shall be called JESUS, for he will save his people from their sins."

C: It is in the name of Jesus that we come before you, heavenly Father, pleading the merits of his holy life, his innocent suffering and death.

P: Good news! Great joy! A Child is born to us, a Son to us is given, a Savior, Christ the Lord!

C: "He shall save his people from their sins."

P: All who receive him, who believe in his name, are given power to become the children of God.

C: Glory to God in the highest!

P: And peace to God's people on earth.

C: Amen.

Christmas Greeting

P: The love of God born unto us in a stable to bring salvation be with you
as we celebrate this wondrous gift.

Christmas Kyrie

What Child Is This? (Birmingham Boys Choir)

<https://youtu.be/YDf1JyIFPNs>

Christmas Prayer

Almighty God, you gave your only Son to take our human nature upon himself and to be born of a virgin. Grant that we may rejoice in this Christmas gift – “For unto you is born today in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord”; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath – Roberta Stiles

“Are We There Yet? – LOVE”

<https://youtu.be/rjymdWi6O1Q>

Reader One: We light this candle. It seems a simple thing, lighting a candle, a quiet thing that I do alone, to provide something bright in the midst of all my darkness. But it doesn't make that much difference. It doesn't change the power of the night to bring doubt and fear and separation. It doesn't make the world a better place, lighting a candle. Does it?

Reader Two: We light these candles. Because we have seen a light and we believe increasing that light does make a difference in the world around us. We light these candles because we want to be people of the light, who know a God who loved the world so much, this God chose to be born in a manger in the midst of the darkness. We light these candles as a sign of the light of the world that is coming into our darkness, and we sing with joy.

Reader One: We light the candles of Peace, Hope, Joy, and Trust as our circle is complete. And we light the light of Love as the sign of Christ's presence among us, no matter how dark it may seem.

(Light all four candles on the wreath and light the Christ candle in the center.)

Reader Two: The people who have walked in darkness have seen a great light. Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth let there be Love.



Away in a Manger/Carols from Kings 2019 (Kings College Choir)

<https://youtu.be/pbQpEdwGEXo>

The Word

Old Testament reading – Isaiah 9:1-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. 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. 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. For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. 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. 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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle reading – 2 Corinthians 4:5-6

For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Christmas Gospel – Luke 2:1-20

<https://youtu.be/X4sP5HcnmUA>

The Holy Gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, 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, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

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

Children’s Time – Wrapped in Swaddling Clothes

Pastor’s Video: <https://youtu.be/8OEyblqanxk>

In the Bleak Midwinter (Gustave Holst - Quire Cleveland, Trinity Cathedral)

<https://youtu.be/SE0alQp9V4s>

Homily – Pastor Barnes: “Prepare a Place”

<https://youtu.be/A9KIKGUvRHM>

Music – Angels We Have Heard on High (Portland Choir and Orchestra)

<https://youtu.be/ZOnivHAhdU0>

Prayers of Intercession

P: Dear Lord Jesus, you came from eternity into time and space—not as a metaphor or myth, fable or tale—but to bear our sin and be our Savior. We sing to you with all the humility and joy we can muster, “Born that man no more may die, born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.” We praise, bless and adore you as we embrace the hymn of the angels. For unto you is born today in the city of David—

C: A Savior, who is Christ the Lord!

P: Dear Lord Jesus, we thank you that Luke took such great care to detail the history of your birth—one of the greatest details is the lowliness of your birth. Any other king—like Caesar Augustus—would’ve come with great fanfare and a royal entourage. But you came into our world in profound weakness. “No room in the inn” wasn’t an insult to you; it was your choice, your plan, the way of the gospel. We rejoice with the angels who announced: For unto you is born today in the city of David—

C: A Savior, who is Christ the Lord!

P: Dear Lord Jesus, you didn’t consider equality with God something to be protected or hoarded. Rather, you made yourself nothing, becoming one of us. And with measureless love and indescribable compassion, you died in our place upon the cross. Thank you for these angelic lyrics. For unto you is born today in the city of David—

C: A Savior, who is Christ the Lord!

P: Dear Lord Jesus, we long for the Day when every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that you are Lord, to the glory of God the Father. But on this Christmas Eve, we humble ourselves, in quietness and stillness, gratefulness and peace. We pray in your merciful and mighty name, Jesus.

C: Amen.

Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming (First-Plymouth Church, Lincoln, NB)

<https://youtu.be/mz2H1VE7maU>

The 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,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Christmas Eve Candlelight

(as you are able light a candle to share this special time)

As we light our candles, we remember and worship our Savior, Jesus Christ, God's light of love. "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you." (Isaiah 60:1) "When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life'" (John 8:12). "For you were once in darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light, for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth." (Ephesians 5:8-9) "In the same way, let your light shine before people, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:16)

Silent Night – with Lyrics (Yoder family)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=btIX3xWX7rw>

Christmas Benediction

P: Prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight in the desert a highway for our God!

C: For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness" –

P: has shone in our hearts.

C: To give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God –

P: in the face of Jesus Christ.

**C: For unto us is born today in the city of David – a Savior,
who is Christ the Lord!**

Amen!

World's Largest Virtual #Hallelujah Chorus – Come unto Christ.org

<https://youtu.be/akb0kD7EHlk>

Sending

**A: May the Love of God direct your life and the Peace of Christ
guide you day to day. Amen.**