

**CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP  
DECEMBER 25, WILL BE AT 10 A.M.**

This service of lessons and carols bring Christmas Day to life. Join us in singing some of our favorite carols, and share Holy Communion. (There is no sermon.)

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**Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup>** there will be **only one service** at 10 a.m. There will be no Education Hour. Sunday School will resume on January 8th.

**Large Print Edition** of the order of worship, the lessons, and the hymns for today are available. If you would like copies for worship, please ask an usher.

**2017 Offering Envelopes** are ready to be picked up in the Narthex on tables. They are in alphabetical order. If you don't see your envelopes stop in the church office and see Katrina.

**Our SUPER HERO SUNDAY SCHOOLERS** are making Blessing Bags for people in need this Holiday season! Want to help? Please consider donating travel size items: Washcloths, Toothbrushes, Deodorant, Soap, Lotion, Shampoo, Conditioner, Kleenex, Wipes. Our Sunday school team will begin putting the bags together soon and they will be donated to the Salvation Army! Thank you so much for your continued help in our community service projects! ~ Education committee

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**2016 Donations**

In order to claim a charitable contribution deduction for 2016, **checks must be mailed to the church by no later than December 31.** Checks must be **written, postmarked, and mailed in 2016** to qualify for a 2016 deduction. All other contributions will not qualify for this year, even if the check was actually written in 2016. Please keep this in mind when making your year-end donations.

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Interim Senior Pastor:  
Associate Pastor:  
Visitation Pastor:  
Acolytes:  
Greeters:  
Organist:

Erick Thompson  
Jennifer Rose  
Stan Satre  
Olivia Becker  
Brad, Cheryl & Anna Buck  
Keith Melberg



**Christmas Eve - 11 p.m.  
December 24, 2016**



**PRELUDE**

**CHRISTMAS GREETING**

**PROCESSIONAL CAROL**      *What Child Is This*      ELW 296  
(Please remain seated until verse 3)

- 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!
  
- 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!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898

**SILENCE FOR MEDITATION**

**\*CHRISTMAS VERSICLE**

PASTOR:    The Lord is my light and salvation; whom do I fear? The Lord is my life's refuge; of whom am I afraid?  
Psalm 27:1

PEOPLE:    **Jesus Christ is the light of the world - the light no darkness can overcome.**  
Vespers Worship Service

PASTOR:    Your light, O God, fills our whole being and is the light unto our path.  
Matthew 6:22 – Psalm 119:105

PEOPLE:    **You, O God, will be our everlasting light, and you will be our glory.**      Isaiah 60:1-9

**SOME IDEAS FOR YOUR FAMILY CHRISTMAS**

**TABLE PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS**

*With joy and gladness we feast upon your love, O God.  
You have come among us in Jesus, your Son, and your presence now graces this table.  
May Christ dwell in us so that we might bear his love to all the world, for he is Lord forever and ever.  
Amen.*

**THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL**

Have one of the children (perhaps the youngest child/grandchild who can read?) read the Christmas Gospel from Luke 2:1-20 before opening presents or before the meal.

**BLESSING OF CHRISTMAS GIFTS**

(Use this prayer before you open Christmas presents)

*Blessed be your name, O God, you are the source of every blessing. From your hand, we receive the good gifts of life, health, and salvation.  
As we give and receive these presents, bless us with hearts thankful for the birth of your Son.  
May our opening of these gifts lead us to share our love, faith, and goods with the poor and needy. In Jesus name, Amen.*

**CHRISTMAS PRAYER FOR CHILDREN**

(Use this prayer when your children go to bed on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day night. You can either sing it to the tune of *Away in a Manger*, or say it as a prayer)

*Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay  
close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care  
and fit us for heaven to live with you there. Amen.*

(excerpts from Come Lord Jesus by Susan Briehl, ©  
1996 Augsburg Fortress  
Used by permission)

**\*CAROL**

***Silent Night, Holy Night!***

**ELW 281**

**THE PASSING OF THE LIGHT**

The pastors will light their candles; the ushers will light their candles from the pastors' candles. The ushers will then light the candle of the worshiper in each pew nearest to the aisle. **[Tip only the unlit candle when lighting your candle from your neighbor.]**

- 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.

**\*CHRISTMAS BLESSING**

(Please extinguish your candles and place them in the baskets in the narthex.)

**POSTLUDE**

\*Denotes when to stand

**A GREAT LIGHT HAS SHINED ON THOSE WAITING IN DARKNESS**

Isaiah 9:2-7

**CAROL**

***Away in a Manger***

**ELW 277**

- 1 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.
- 2 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.
- 3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay  
close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care  
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

Text: North American, 19th cent.  
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**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION AND PROCESSION**

***Infant Holy, Infant Lowly***

(Please turn as Bible procession goes by)

- 1 Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;  
oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all.  
Swiftly winging, angels singing, bells are ringing, tidings bringing:  
Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!

**\*READING OF THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL**

Luke 2:1–20

(Congregation responds after Gospel is announced: **Glory to you, O Lord.**)

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 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 for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth 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 heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!’ 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.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

(Congregation responds after Gospel is read: **Praise to you, O Christ.**)

**SERMON**

Pastor Erick

**CHRISTMAS OFFERING**

The Christmas Offering will be divided amongst our benevolences. (Children are welcome to come forward for a children’s offering, which will be collected in a basket up front.)

**\*WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**\*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, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen**

**DISTRIBUTION**

Carols during Distribution

***I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve***

**ELW 271 (v. 1, 2, 4, 5)**

1. I am so glad each Christmas Eve, the night of Jesus’ birth  
Then like the sun the star shone forth, and angels sang on earth.
2. The little child on Bethlehem, he was a kind indeed!  
For he came down from heav’n above to help a world in need.
4. I am so glad each Christmas Eve! His praises then I sing;  
He opens now for ev’ry child the palace of the king.
5. And so I love each Christmas Eve, and I love Jesus too;  
And that he loves me ev’ry day I know so well is true.

Text: Marie Wexelsen, 1832-1911; tr. Peter A. Sveeggen, 1881-1959  
Music: Peder Knudsen, 1819-1863  
Text © 1932 Augsburg Publishing House

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

**ELW 289**

- 1 Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.

**REFRAIN**

Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

- 2 Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song? *Refrain*
- 3 Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king. *Refrain*

Text: French carol, tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864  
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**\*CHRISTMAS PRAYER**