



Christmas Day Worship

Monday,
December 25 2017
10:00 a.m.

Welcome to Christmas Day Worship!

On this Christmas morning the people of God gather to celebrate the birth of the Word made flesh, Christ our Lord. Luke recounts the familiar story of shepherds and angels; John's gospel tells of the Word that dwells among us, full of grace and truth. The meaning of Christmas is made clear: the light shines in the darkness. It is in the liturgy that we encounter the Word made flesh—in the people of God gathered together as the body of Christ, and in the meal around the holy table. We go forth to be bearers of light as we proclaim this good news to all the ends of the earth.

*“Sharing the
Shepherd’s Love
With All of God’s
Children”*

As we continue our journey of commemorating the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation, our Christmas Day worship this year uses one of Martin Luther’s most well-known Christmas carols – “From Heaven Above.”

Martin Luther based his carol “From Heaven Above” on a refrain used for a sixteenth-century singing game. In the game, the song sets up a riddle to be solved. Within the nativity story, who would have proclaimed this text?

*“From heaven above to earth I come
to bear good news to every home!
Glad tidings of great joy I bring
to all the world, and gladly sing.”*

In the hymn, the stanzas in quotation marks become the words of the angels rejoicing at Jesus’ birth, while the other stanzas offer commentary and prayers. By sending Jesus into our world, God answers the riddle of sin and our human condition. We are set free to proclaim with the angels: “Glory to God in highest heaven, who unto us the Son has given.”

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

On the altar are the Holy Communion kits which are taken to our people who, for a variety of reasons cannot attend worship, to help them share in our celebration of the Lord’s Supper.

WORDS OF WELCOME



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Worship Schedule

Saturday

5 p.m. Heritage

Sunday

8:30 a.m. Festival

9:45 a.m. Celebrate!

11 a.m. Celebrate!

6 p.m. The Well

Wednesday

6:30 p.m.

Worship Notes

*Thank you for spending
this time in worship!*

Prior to worship you may find it helpful to bookmark the scripture readings in your pew Bible.

Large Print Bibles and bulletins are available from the ushers. If it is uncomfortable for you to stand during the service, please feel free to remain seated.

Children are always welcome to be part of worship, and the nursery is available if necessary.

Please take The Other Page home with you, check out www.GoodShepherdBismarck.com, or download the GSLC APP — it is available for iPhone and Android Smartphones

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is located on the corner of Washington St. and Divide Ave.

Contact Good Shepherd at:
(701) 255-1001
GoodShepherdBismarck.com

CHRISTMAS HYMN “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

- 1 **Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!**
- 2 **Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door,
and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!**
- 3 **Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave;
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!**

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866

CHRISTMAS DIALOGUE

Who are these angels who come to earth,
bearing the news of the Christ child's birth?
Who are these shepherds who run to see,
and worship the babe on bended knee?
Who is this child, so small, so slight,
of whom the angels sang that night?
Who is this king, a manger his throne,
who humbles himself to make us his own?
Who is this God who sends a Son
into our midst, the promised one?

GREETING & PRAYER

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the Son of God sent from heaven above,
be with you all.

And also with you.

Incarnate God,

on this Christmas Day we give

you thanks for sending your Son to bring light to our darkness.

**Grant that we, like the angels over Bethlehem, may
sing your praises in our hearts and lives. Amen.**

CAROL “Angels We Have Heard on High”

- 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

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

Who Are These Angels Who Come to Earth?

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:8-14

Following a brief silence for prayer and meditation:

Glory to God in highest heaven,
who unto us the Son has given.

CAROL "From Heaven Above"

- 1 From heav'n above to earth I come
to bring good news to ev'ryone!
Glad tidings of great joy I bring
to all the world, and gladly sing:
- 2 To you this night is born a child
of Mary, chosen virgin mild;
this newborn child of lowly birth
shall be the joy of all the earth.
- 3 This is the Christ, God's Son most high,
who hears your sad and bitter cry;
he will himself your Savior be
and from all sin will set you free.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, 1978
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Who Are These Shepherds Who Run to See?

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:15-20

Following a brief silence for prayer and meditation:

Glory to God in highest heaven,
who unto us the Son has given.

CAROL "From Heaven Above"

- 4 The blessing which the Father planned
the Son holds in his infant hand,
that in his kingdom, bright and fair,
you may with us his glory share.
- 5 These are the signs which you will see
to let you know that it is he:
in manger-bed, in swaddling clothes
the child who all the earth upholds.
- 6 How glad we'll be to find it so!
Then with the shepherds let us go
to see what God for us has done
in sending us his own dear Son.

Who Is This Child, So Small, So Slight?

SCRIPTURE READING Hebrews 1:1-4

Following a brief silence for prayer and meditation:

Glory to God in highest heaven,
who unto us the Son has given.

CAROL "From Heaven Above"

- 7 Look, look, dear friends, look over there!
What lies within that manger bare?
Who is that lovely little one?
The baby Jesus, God's dear Son.
- 8 Welcome to earth, O noble Guest,
through whom this sinful world is blest!
You turned not from our needs away!
How can our thanks such love repay?
- 9 O Lord, you have created all!
How did you come to be so small,
to sweetly sleep in manger-bed
where lowing cattle lately fed?

**Thank You for your
ministry today!**

Sermon

Pastor Bob Caranicas

Anthem

Angie Kutzer

Organist / Pianist

Karen Petersen

**Interpreter
for the Deaf**

Cori Quist
Available by request



Who Is This King, a Manger His Throne?

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 9:2-7

Following a brief silence for prayer and meditation:

Glory to God in highest heaven,
who unto us the Son has given.

CAROL "From Heaven Above"

- 10 Were earth a thousand times as fair
and set with gold and jewels rare,
still such a cradle would not do
to rock a prince so great as you.
- 11 For velvets soft and silken stuff
you have but hay and straw so rough
on which as king so rich and great
to be enthroned in humble state.

Who Is This God, Who Sends a Son?

SCRIPTURE READING John 1:1-14

Following a brief silence for prayer and meditation:

Glory to God in highest heaven,
who unto us the Son has given.

CAROL "From Heaven Above"

- 12 O dearest Jesus, holy child,
prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
a holy shrine, within my heart,
that you and I need never part.
- 13 My heart for very joy now leaps;
my voice no longer silence keeps;
I too must join the angel-throng
to sing with joy his cradle-song:
- 14 "Glory to God in highest heav'n,
who unto us his Son has giv'n."
With angels sing in pious mirth:
a glad new year to all the earth!

CHRISTMAS DAY MESSAGE

CAROL "The First Noel"

The first Noel the angel did say,
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night. *Refrain*

And by the light of that same star
Three Wise Men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went. *Refrain*

This star drew near to the northwest,
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
And there it did both stop and stay
Right over the place where Jesus lay. *Refrain*

Then entered in those wise men three,
full rev'rently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. *Refrain*

Text: English traditional



CHRISTMAS AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – “We Believe in One God”

**We believe in One God
The Eternal Power of Life and Goodness
The Maker of Space and Time
Who was and is and is to come**

**We believe in God our Maker
Whose love fires the sun
Whose word made the world
Whose law is the good**

**We believe in Jesus Christ,
Child of God and Mary’s Child,
Born into Palestine,
A prophet of Israel.
Born in a stable,
A victim of Empire.
Born to a woman
And made in her image.
Born of the Spirit
The icon of God.
Born as a savior
Of sinners and victims.
Born as a healer
Of wounds and diseases.
Born as a teacher
Of wisdom and justice.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit
The intimacy of God with creation
The power of God against death
Whose breath lives in all life
Whose peace gathers the church
Whose love sends God’s people in mission.**

**We believe in one God,
Our Maker, Savior and Helper
A trinity of Beauty and Holiness
A community of joy,
To this holy and awesome God
We give glory and praise,
Now and forever. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF GOD’S PEOPLE

Gracious God, you come from heaven above
into the midst of our world.

**Fill our hearts
with the joy of the angels at your birth.**

You come from heaven above
to the lowliest of human conditions.

**Watch over those in need,
the sick, the hungry, the grieving.**

You come from heaven above to walk the way of the cross.

**Guide us to follow your path
of forgiveness, mercy, and peace.**

You come from heaven above
to become flesh and live among us.

May we see your glory, full of grace and truth. Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

**There will be NO
Worship on
Wednesday,
Dec. 27th**



Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING PRAYER

God with us:

You came as a baby to a manger.

You slept on straw and greeted shepherds.

You come again in bread and wine.

Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things.

And then, through these gifts,

help us to bless the lives of others

in the strength of your holy name.

Amen.

OFFERING AND ANTHEM

Our offering is a significant act of worship, and we now worship God through our giving. God's mission through Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is completely dependent upon your financial stewardship and generous giving.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Holy God, Creator of all light and life, at the birth of time your Word brought light into the world. In the fullness of time, you sent your Word, born of Mary, to shine in our darkness and to make us your daughters and sons.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

"Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

"This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering Christ's birth and life among us, his death and resurrection, we wait for his coming again. Let us pray.

Through your Holy Spirit, bless us and the bread and cup, that we may live as your children, shining with the light of your Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever.

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

Come, Holy Spirit, and transform our fear into faith.

Come, Holy Spirit, and let the promise of the resurrection rise up among us.

Come, Holy Spirit, and make us willing to follow you in humble obedience.

Come, Holy Spirit, teach us to pray...

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

HYMN – "Away in a Manger"

**Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the 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.**

**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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Worship questions or conversations contact: Peder Gulleson at peder@goodshepherdbismarck.com or 255-1001.



HYMN – “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

1 Lo, how a rose e’er blooming
from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse’s lineage coming
as prophets long have sung,
it came, a flow’ret bright,
amid the cold of winter,
when half-spent was the night.

2 Isaiah ’twas foretold it,
the rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it,
the virgin mother kind.
To show God’s love aright,
she bore to us a Savior,
when half-spent was the night.

3 This flow’r, whose fragrance tender
with sweetness fill the air,
dispels with glorious splendor
the darkness everywhere.
True man, yet very God,
from sin and death he saves us
and lightens ev’ry load.

4 O Savior, child of Mary,
who felt our human woe;
O Savior, king of glory,
who dost our weakness know:
bring us at length, we pray,
to the bright courts of heaven,
and to the endless day.

Text: German, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851-1934, sts. 1-2; Harriet R. Krauth, 1845-1925, st. 3; John Caspar Mattes, 1876-1948, st. 4

HYMN – “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dream-less sleep The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth The ever-lasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch o wond’ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv’n!
So God imparts to human heart The blessings of his heav’n.
No ear may hear his coming; But, in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell;
Oh, come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

O Lord our God,
we give you thanks for the gifts of bread and wine,
the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ.
Send us out into your world to proclaim with joy:
**Glory to God in highest heaven,
who unto us the Son has given. Amen.**

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BENEDICTION

May Christ, who by his incarnation
has filled us with grace and truth,
give you peace this Christmas and always.
Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

Glory to God in the highest!
Peace to God’s people on earth!
Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.
Thanks be to God.



**There will be NO
Worship on
Wednesday,
Dec. 27th**



SENDING CAROL "Joy to the World"

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive its King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love.**

POSTLUDE

We are glad that you have spent part of Christmas Eve with Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. We are thankful you have come. If you do not have a church home, we invite you to worship often with us. Membership information is available online at www.GoodShepherdBismarck.com or by contacting the church office at 255-1001.

The Holy Child whose birth we celebrate grows to be the Good Shepherd of us all. It is in His life that we see most clearly the love God has for children of every age, every color, every place, every time. Have a blessed Christmas.

Thank You!

A special thank you goes out to everyone who helped make this year's Angel Tree successful. Good Shepherd's 2017 Angel Tree was blessed with the opportunity to share the Shepherd's love to 399 individuals in our community. The following local ministries and agencies participated in the Angel Tree: Pride, Inc.; Manchester House; Abused Adult Resource Center; Youthworks; Dacotah Foundation; Burleigh County Social Services; Will-Moore School; and Charles Hall

