

# † Christmas Eve †

“The Christ Has Arrived”



“Peace on Earth”

Luke 2:1-52

# ✠ The Divine Liturgy ✠

“Love the Creator & His Creation Like Jesus”  
Saint Luke Lutheran Church | December 24, 2021

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## † Baptism — The Way of Faith †

### Remembering Our Baptism Journey

Father, Creator of all heaven and earth, ✠ **you save us from our selfishness and make us your children through Baptism.** ✠ Through your Son, whose example we follow, ✠ **we die to Civilization's Way of arrogance, fear, and violence.** ✠ Through your Spirit, who dwells among us, ✠ **we are reborn in Jesus's Way of faith, hope, and love.** ✠ We pray that you will complete this work of Baptism within us, ✠ **as we daily surrender to you and listen to your every word.**

(the Christ candle is lit to remind us that Jesus is present among us)

♫ *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; O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!* ♫ (tune: LSB 361)

### Surrendering to the Creator

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit ✠ **we surrender our minds, bodies, and whole lives to you.**

(we make the sign of the cross, touching forehead, heart, and shoulders)

We let go of control ✠ **and submit ourselves into your loving hands.** ✠ We leave behind our people-pleasing ✠ **and seek only your approval.** ✠ We walk away from our reliance on self, family, and nation ✠ **and trust you for everything we need.**

♫ *Take my life and all my heart, take my whole soul ev'ry part. Take my mouth and let it be, filled with your truth and mercy. ♫ Take my hands and let them love, with compassion from above. Take my feet and let them go, on the Way that Jesus showed. ♫ Take my things and my money, give me faith and set me free. Take my life and teach me how, to love all creation now.* ♫ (tune: LSB 783)

### Christmas Litany

We are not alone, ✠ **for our Creator is living among us!**

Let all creation rejoice, ✠ **for our Creator is living among us!**

Let every knee bow, ✠ **for our Creator is living among us!**

Through a baby born in poverty, ✠ **our Creator has come to live among us.**

He has come to rescue us ✠ **and save us from ourselves.**

He has come to open our eyes ✠ **and show us how to be truly human.**

### Song ✠ *LSB 379 “O Come, All Ye Faithful”*

♫ *O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant! O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem! Come and behold him, born the King of angels; O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!* ♫

♫ *God of God, Light of Light eternal, Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb; Son of the Father, begotten, not created, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O*

*come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord! ♪*

♪ *Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above:  
"Glory to God, all glory in the highest!" O come, let us adore him, O come, let us  
adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord! ♪*

♪ *Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; O come, let us adore him, O come, let  
us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord! ♪*

#### Prayer of the Day

The Lord Jesus be with you. ✠ **And also with you.** ✠ Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, help us to see that peace has already come to earth through your Son. In the name of Jesus, your Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

(sit)

#### Listening to the Creator

We gather at the feet of our Lord Jesus, listening to his word and allowing it to change and shape our minds, decisions, and lives. ♪ *Listen to what Jesus teaches, listen to him every day. Listen as you walk and follow, listen also as you pray. Listen to him every moment, listen with an open mind. Listen to find peace and patience, listen so you will be kind.* ♪ (tune: LSB 770)

#### Remembering the Saints & Martyrs ✠ Mary the Mother of Jesus

Father, we give you thanks for your Spirit-filled saints and witnesses who have gone before us and have embodied the Way of Jesus. Today we remember Mary who faithfully accepted all the shame and rejection of her pregnancy out of wedlock in order to give birth to and raise Jesus our Lord. Help us learn from her faith and example, **Amen.**

#### Chanted Psalm ✠ *Psalm 113*



♪ *From the rising of the sun to | its setting  
\* the name of the Lord is | to be praised.  
The Lord is high above | all nations;  
\* his glory is above | the heavens.  
He raises the poor | from the dust  
\* and lifts the needy from | the ash heap,  
To make them sit with | the exalted.  
\* He gives the barren woman | joy and peace. ♪*

#### Law & Prophets ✠ Micah 3:5-12

The Prophets reading comes from Micah 3. ✠ **We listen with open hearts.**  
This is the word of our Creator. ✠ **Thank you, Lord, for speaking to us.**

#### Epistle ✠ Galatians 3:1-14

The epistle reading comes from Galatians 3. ✠ **We listen with open hearts.**

This is the word of our Creator. ✠ **Thank you, Lord, for speaking to us.**

(stand)

† Holy Gospel † Luke 2:1-52

We stand for the word of Jesus. ♪ ***Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Son of Righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings. Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die, born to raise us on the earth, born to give us second birth. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*** ♪ (tune: LSB 380)

The holy Gospel comes from Luke 2. ✠ **Jesus, we listen, ready to follow you.**

This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus. ✠ **We will trust and obey.**

(sit)

Message

## † Repentance — The Way of Hope †

Confronting Our Past

Let us reflect on how the word of Jesus is speaking into our lives this day.

(silence for reflection)

For placing our self, family, and nation above you, ✠ **Father, forgive us.**

For trusting the technology and works of human hands, ✠ **Father, forgive us.**

For being hypocrites who misrepresent your name, ✠ **Father, forgive us.**

For not living in restful peace with land, animals, and each other, ✠ **Father, forgive us.**

For not respecting our fathers and mothers in Christ, ✠ **Father, forgive us.**

For being violent to our bodies and your creation, ✠ **Father, forgive us.**

For not keeping our sexuality within marriage, ✠ **Father, forgive us.**

For trying to possess and control your creation, ✠ **Father, forgive us.**

For not being vulnerable and truthful with others, ✠ **Father, forgive us.**

For competing with others and not being content with our lives, ✠ **Father, forgive us.**

Father, turn us back to walking in your Spirit. ♪ ***Lord Father we have wandered and hidden from your face. Rescue your whole creation with your almighty grace. From trust in wealth and weapons and blindness to your Way, save us and all creation with your own hands, we pray.*** ♪ (tune: LSB 449)

Will you turn away from the Way of Civilization and reaffirm the Creator's claim upon you through your Baptism into the Way of Jesus? ✠ **Yes, I renounce the Way of Civilization and pledge my full allegiance to Jesus.** ✠ Will you release all debts and grudges that you hold against anyone—including yourself and every member of this church? ✠ **Yes, I forgive all those who have hurt me, frustrated me, or owe me anything.** ✠ Our heavenly Father heals all those who return to his loving arms. You are forgiven and set free from all slavery to live life in the Way of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit! ✠ **Amen.**

(stand)

Song ✠ *LSB 370 “What Child Is This?”*

- ♫ *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 praise, the babe the son of Mary.* ♪
- ♫ *Why lies he in a humble state, where animals are feeding? Good Christians fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading. Nails, spear will pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you. Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe the son of Mary.* ♪
- ♫ *So bring him ev’rything you own, come to love and follow him. The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him. Raise, raise a song on high, for through the Lord we learn to die. Joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe the son of Mary.* ♪

Waiting on the Creator

♫ *Our Father, bring your Rule and will to earth. Give what we need for worry-free rebirth. Bring peace among us and forgive us too, as we forgive and love in all we do.* ♪ *Protect us from all things that will mislead. Keep us from selfishness, violence, and greed. We place our lives into your hands this day. Teach us to listen and to walk your Way. Amen.* ♪ (tune: *LSB 637*)

(incense is lit to symbolize our prayers ascending to God and as its smell fills this space we are reminded of his presence among us)

*In peace, let us pray to the Lord, ♪ Lord have mercy.* ♪

**Our Father in heaven, make your name holy, bring your Rule, make your will be done—on earth as in heaven.** ✠ Father, set us apart from Civilization in all our thoughts, words, and deeds. Take charge of our lives and all those in authority. Use everything that happens to bring your good judgment and healing upon all creation. *Let us pray to the Lord, ♪ Lord have mercy.* ♪

**Give us this day our daily bread.** ✠ Father, provide for us, protect us, and heal our brokenness. Especially this day we remember Charlene Sargent, Jan & Paul Zugelder, COVID-19 victims, and those we name in our hearts... Father, give us exactly what we need this day and teach us to be content with that. *Let us pray to the Lord, ♪ Lord have mercy.* ♪

**Forgive us our debts as we forgive those in debt to us.** ✠ Father, forgive us and free us from all that enslaves us. Help us to walk away from our addictions to Civilization’s Way so we may walk in Jesus’s Way. Empower us to love and forgive everyone, even our enemies, in the same way you have loved and forgiven us. *Let us pray to the Lord, ♪ Lord have mercy.* ♪

**Do not abandon us in temptation, but rescue us from evil.** ✠ Father, humble us and remind us that we have no strength apart from you. Stay with us in times of difficulty and save us from our selfishness. Comfort us in the certain hope that your creation and children will be renewed and raised from the dead. *Let us pray to the Lord, ♪ Lord have mercy.* ♪

**For all authority, power, and glory are yours—now and forever.** ✠ Father, help us to let go and surrender everything into your loving hands, trusting that you are

working all things to the good of those who love you. ☩ Amen.

## † Communion — The Way of Love †

### Sharing the Lord's Peace

We prepare to be united as one Body and communion at the Lord's table by sharing with each other the peace and love our Father has freely given to us.

(sit)

### Offering

Everything belongs to our Father and is to be used to love each other in the same way Jesus has loved us. Therefore, we offer our entire lives as a living sacrifice to him while also offering gifts to support this communion.

### Musical Offering

(stand)

### Pledge of Allegiance

♩ *We come before you, Lord, to bow. We lay our lives at your feet now. All things are yours, we own nothing! Our lives are in your hands this day. Give what we need, O Lord, we pray. Please protect us, provide for us! Watch over us, ever with us, always love us!* ♪ (tune: LSB 816)

Lord, we pledge our obedience and every part of our lives to you...

**I pledge allegiance to one God, the all-powerful Father, who is the Creator of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.**

**I pledge allegiance to one Lord, Jesus Christ, who is God's only Son. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He loved and he suffered. Under Pontius Pilate, he was crucified, died, and was buried. On the third day he was raised from the dead. He ascended to heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. He is coming to judge the living and the dead. His rule will not end.**

**I pledge allegiance to the Holy Spirit, who is the giver of life, the holy universal Church, the communion of saints, the baptism for forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life in the age to come. Amen.**

### Thanksgiving

The Lord Jesus be with you. ☩ **And also with you.** ☩ Lift up your hearts! ☩ **We lift them to the Lord!** ☩ Let us give thanks to our Creator! ☩ **It is right to give him thanks and praise!** ☩ Praise and thanks are due to you, Father, ☩ **for you provide, protect, love, and renew us and all creation!** ☩ We are grateful that you bring heaven and earth together through Jesus's love for all creation!

♩ *Let all creation be humble and rejoice in awe and fear. We give thanks to our Lord Jesus who brings heaven to us here. He is giving himself to us and his presence has come near.* ♪ (tune: LSB 621)

## † Words of Our Lord Jesus †

On the night before our Lord Jesus was crucified, he revealed his Way of rescuing all creation from the Way of Civilization. Before supper, Jesus humbly washed the feet of his students and enemies. He said, “Follow my example. Love each other in the same way I have loved you.” During supper, Jesus then took the bread and broke it. He gave it to them, saying, “This is my body which is being given for you. Do the same for each other in my memory.” After supper, Jesus then took the cup and gave thanks. He said, “This is my blood which is being shed for you, for the forgiveness of all of your sin. Do the same for each other in my memory.”

♫ ***When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death Lord Jesus. So as we share this feast may we, remember your love for us. Help us now to follow your Way, and to walk in your goodness. Always make us one in you.*** ♫ (tune: LSB 384)

## Invitation to the Table

We gather around Jesus’s table, trusting that he is truly giving his whole self to us through this bread, wine, and communion. As we receive the Lord’s gifts, we commit ourselves to laying down our lives for each member of this church in the same Way that Jesus has laid down his life for us. We invite all Baptized members of the holy universal Church, who give their undivided allegiance to Jesus and are at peace with their brothers and sisters in Christ, to join us in this mysterious communion of heaven and earth. ♫ ***Come, oh long expected Jesus, born to set your people free. From our fears and sins release us, open up our eyes to see. By your own eternal Spirit, rule in all our hearts alone. By your love that has no limit, bow us to your loving throne.*** ♫ (tune: LSB 338)

(sit)

## Sharing the Bread & Wine

(stand)

## Sent to “Do the Same in My Memory”

Lord Jesus, you feed us with the bread of life ✠ ***your body, given for us.*** ✠ You judge us and heal us with your love and mercy ✠ ***your blood, shed for us.*** ✠ Now help us to do the same in your memory ✠ ***as we share our whole lives with the church and care for all your creation, including our own bodies.*** ✠ Lord, fill us with your Holy Spirit so we may always reflect your love. ✠ ***Amen.***

♫ ***Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King; let ev’ry heart prepare him room and heav’n and nature sing, and heav’n and nature sing, and heav’n, and heav’n and nature sing.*** ♫ ***He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, and wonders of his love.*** ♫ (tune: LSB 387)

## Candle Lighting

We light our candles, signifying that Christ Jesus, the Light of all creation has come among us and now shines his light through us and our lives of peace and love.

Song ✕ **LSB 366 “It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”**

- ♪ *It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold: "Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all-gracious King." The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.* ♪
- ♪ *All you, beneath your heavy load, by care and guilt bent low, who toil along a dreary way with painful steps and slow: Look up, for golden is the hour, come swiftly on the wing, the Prince was born to bring you peace; of Him the angels sing.* ♪
- ♪ *For lo, the days have come to pass by prophets seen of old, when down into the circling years came Christ as was foretold. His word of peace will to the earth God's ancient promise bring, and all who take this gift will hear the song the angels sing.* ♪

Blessing

May the Father bless you and hold you in his hands. May the Son empower you to love all his creation in the way he has loved you. May the Holy Spirit fill your body and give you a peace that is free of all anxiety. ✕ **Amen.**

Choir ✕ “Peace, Peace”

The congregation will sing the first verse of “Silent Night” while the choir sings “Peace, Peace” the third time.

Song ✕ **LSB 363 “Silent Night, Holy Night”**

- ♪ *Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright. The virgin gives birth to a child, holy infant so tender and mild. He brings heavenly peace, he brings heavenly peace.* ♪
- ♪ *Silent night! Holy night! This child gives us true sight. He opens our blind eyes to see, he's the one to set us free. Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!*
- ♪ *Silent night! Holy night! God's Son is love's pure light. Radiant truth from his holy face, he's the dawn of redeeming grace. Jesus, Lord at your birth! Jesus, Lord at your birth!* ♪

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