

## The Nativity of our Lord, Christmas Eve

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Merry Christmas!

In countless churches all over the world, the use of votive candles helps those who choose to light the candle to pray for someone or some event in their lives, especially the loss of someone they loved dearly.

These candles serve as our intention to pray. The light of Christ, made visible to mankind both in the star and in the person and work of Jesus the Christ, shows us God's intention to answer the prayers of

the centuries and send a Savior. On Christmas morn, He did exactly that.

Imagine- prayers in thousands of languages around hundreds of nations all directed to heaven for a solution to our sinful state. The only way the human experience could find a lasting solution to our dilemma was granted by the Light of Christ, a light which powers away the darkness, and gives us all the opportunity to live a new life. No longer dead, but now alive in the light of Christ.

Our Advent prayers come to completion as we celebrate this night. We have made room in our cluttered lives to pause and simply gaze at this marvelous light. We will light our candles and sing Silent Night later in our worship. We celebrate on this night, the answered prayers, the hopes and fears of all the years, all brought to bear in the birth of Jesus.

May your Christmas celebration be an answer to your prayers. May you see God's plan of salvation in your life, and the gift of a new life to all those who welcome the birth of the King of Kings and who receive Him into their hearts. Celebrate the light of Christ!

Pastor Jonathon Kosec

**OUR WORSHIP THIS EVENING**

**GATHERING AND MEDITATION TIME**

Pre-Service Music

Welcome and Announcements

**THE CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION**

Tonight, on the eve of the twenty-fifth day of December,  
unknown ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth  
and then formed man and woman in his own image.

Several thousand years after the flood,  
when God made the rainbow shine forth as a sign of the covenant.

Twenty-one centuries from the time of Abraham and Sarah;  
thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt.

Eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the Judges;  
one thousand years from the anointing of David as king;  
in the sixty-fifth week according to the prophecy of Daniel.

In the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad;  
the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the foundation of the city of  
Rome.

The forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus;  
the whole world being at peace,  
Jesus Christ, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father,  
desiring to sanctify the world by his most merciful coming,  
being conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
and nine months having passed since his conception,  
was born in Bethlehem of Judea of the Virgin Mary.

Today is the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh.

**Amen.**

**HYMN 98 "Angels, from the Realms of Glory" 1,3,5**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY (Unison): **Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the rightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

**Alleluia. 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 Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. Alleluia.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC    “O Holy Night”**

**Dean Carson**

**FIRST LESSON : Isaiah 9:2-7**

**New Living Translation (NLT)**

The people who walk in darkness will see a great light. For those who live in a land of deep darkness, a light will shine. You will enlarge the nation of Israel, and its people will rejoice. They will rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest and like warriors dividing the plunder. For you will break the yoke of their slavery and lift the heavy burden from their shoulders.

You will break the oppressor's rod, just as you did when you destroyed the army of Midian. The boots of the warrior and the uniforms bloodstained by war will all be burned. They will be fuel for the fire. For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His government and its peace will never end. He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David for all eternity. The passionate commitment of the Lord of Heaven's Armies will make this happen!

**RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 96**

**New Living Translation (NLT)**

*The congregation reads the bold print.*

Sing a new song to the Lord! Let the whole earth sing to the Lord! Sing to the Lord; praise his name. Each day proclaim the good news that he saves.

**Publish his glorious deeds among the nations. Tell everyone about the amazing things he does. Great is the Lord! He is most worthy of praise! He is to be feared above all gods.**

The gods of other nations are mere idols, but the Lord made the heavens! Honor and majesty surround him strength and beauty fill his sanctuary. O nations of the world, recognize the Lord; recognize that the Lord is glorious and strong.

**Give to the Lord the glory he deserves! Bring your offering and come into his courts. Worship the Lord in all his holy splendor. Let all the earth tremble**

**before him. Tell all the nations, “The Lord reigns!” The world stands firm and cannot be shaken. He will judge all peoples fairly.**

Let the heavens be glad, and the earth rejoice! Let the sea and everything in it shout his praise! Let the fields and their crops burst out with joy!

**Let the trees of the forest sing for joy before the Lord, for he is coming! He is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with justice, and the nations with his truth.**

**THE SECOND LESSON: Titus 2:11-14**

**New Living Translation (NLT)**

For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people. And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. We should live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God, while we look forward with hope to that wonderful day when the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be revealed. He gave his life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us his very own people, totally committed to doing good deeds.

**Hymn 100 “It Came Upon a Midnight Clear 1,3,5**

**THE HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20**

**New Living Translation (NLT)**

At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire. This was the first census taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria. All returned to their own ancestral towns to register for this census. And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David’s ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. He took with him Mary, his fiancée, who was now obviously pregnant.

And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. She gave birth to her first child, a son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them.

That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord’s glory surrounded them. They were terrified, but the angel reassured them. “Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! And you will

recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger.”

Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying, “Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased.”

When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, “Let’s go to Bethlehem! Let’s see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger. After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. All who heard the shepherds’ story were astonished, but Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often. The shepherds went back to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. It was just as the angel had told them.

P: The Gospel of our Lord:  
**PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST.**

SERMON “Prayers Are Answered”

Pastor Jonathon Kosec

**SERMON HYMN: 110 “What Child is This” 1,2,3**

OUR CONFESSION OF FAITH: The Apostles Creed (C)

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

THE OFFERING:

*After the consecration of the Offering, we will sing the Doxology:*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, Praise him, all creatures here below, Praise him above, Ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

-PRAYERS OF PRAISE, WORDS OF INSTITUTION, LORD'S PRAYER

THE DISTRIBUTION

THE COMMUNION BLESSING

**HYMN 89 "Silent Night" 1,2,3,4**

*As the light proceeds from the Altar, please dip your UNLIT candle only! Once all candles are light, our lights will be dimmed and we will sing Silent Night together.*

THE BENEDICTION & THE DISMISSAL

P. Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C. **Thanks be to God**

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**WELCOME TO OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN!** Thank you for joining us as we worship our Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! We are happy you are here! If you are visiting, we welcome you and invite you to participate in our service this evening. Pastor Jon will give specific directions as all are welcomed at the Lord's Table this evening. We are glad you are here to join with us in our Christmas celebration!

**YEAR END & SPECIAL GIFTS** must be received no later than tomorrow, Sunday December 25th, 2016 for inclusion on this year's giving statement.

**CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS TO YOU ALL** from Pastor Jon and Cheryl!

**Our Savior Lutheran Church, LCMC**

14344 Jamison Way Port Charlotte, FL 33953

Website: <http://www.oslc-lcmc.com>

Worship Time: Sunday 10 A.M.

**Rev. Jonathon Kosec, Lead Pastor**

Pastor's email: [jonathonkosec@gmail.com](mailto:jonathonkosec@gmail.com)

Cell Phone: (941) 916-7300