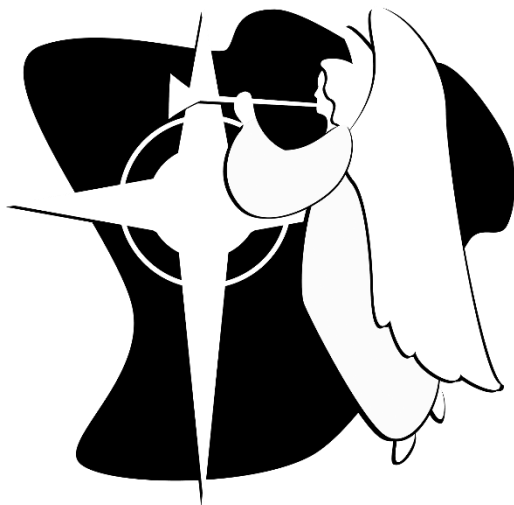


# Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 24, 2017



## Christ Lutheran Church

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The Mission of Christ Lutheran Church is to help all people know  
Jesus as their Savior and grow in relationship with Him.

# Christmas Eve

## Sunday, December 24, 2017

### AS WE GATHER

“Glory to God in the highest!” The expression of praise by the heavenly host on the night when Jesus was born into our world has echoed through the ages. As we gather for this most special day, we find joy in repeating the words of God’s heavenly messengers. The angels proclaimed a message of peace and good will, a word from God that was appearing in the Word made flesh—the baby Jesus born to bring the light of redemption to a people on earth lost in darkness. “Gloria in excelsis Deo!” Whether we are singing in English or Latin or some other language, the message of the words is what matters. We worship our Lord and rejoice in the glory of Christmas!

**HYMN** “Once In Royal David’s City” ..... *LSB 376*

**Once in royal David’s city  
Stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby  
In a manger for His bed:  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little child.**

**He came down to earth from heaven,  
Who is God and Lord of all,  
And His shelter was a stable,  
And His cradle was a stall;  
With the poor and mean and lowly  
Lived on earth our Savior holy.**

**And our eyes at last shall see Him,  
Through His own redeeming love;  
For that child so dear and gentle  
Is our Lord in heav’n above;  
And He leads His children on  
To the place where He is gone.**

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### INVOCATION

*P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

**C: Amen.**

**OPENING SENTENCES**

*Psalm 96:1-3, Liturgical Text, Psalm 98:1a*

*P: Oh sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth!*

**C: Sing to the Lord, bless His name; tell of His salvation from day to day.**

*P: Declare His glory among the nations,*

**C: His marvelous works among all the peoples!**

*P: When all was still, and it was midnight, Your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the royal throne.*

**C: Sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things!**

***HYMN*** "On Christmas Night All Christians Sing"..... ***LSB 377***

**On Christmas night all Christians sing  
To hear the news the angels bring,  
On Christmas night all Christians sing  
To hear the news the angels bring,  
News of great joy, news of great mirth,  
News of our merciful King's birth.**

**All out of darkness we have light,  
Which made the angels sing this night,  
All out of darkness we have light,  
Which made the angels sing this night:  
"Glory to God and peace to men  
Now and forevermore. Amen."**

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**CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION**

*P: In peace let us pray to our heavenly Father, confident of His forgiveness for Jesus' sake.*

*(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination)*

*P: Almighty Father,*

**C: we confess that we are sinners by nature and by thought, word, and deed. We cannot, and do not, merit any forgiveness. But with repentant hearts, we turn to You for mercy, seeking Your grace. In Your loving kindness, forgive, restore, and lead us so that we may be renewed and may live to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

*P: With joy I announce God's good news to You. Our gracious God in His mercy has given His Son to be born, to live, and then to die for you, and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Be at peace and rejoice in the Lord.*

**C: Amen.**

*P: The joy of Christmas echoes through this night as the song of the angels echoed through the night sky when Jesus was born. Angels are messengers of God who often announce special blessings to His people. Many of our best loved songs and carols of Christmas include references to the angels. "Angels We Have Heard on High" comes from France and had been sung already for many years before it was included in an English songbook with an English translation in 1862. The "Gloria in excelsis Deo" gives us an opportunity to join with centuries of Christian ancestors who sang their praise in the Latin, expressing glory to God in that timeless way.*

**HYMN** "Angels We Have Heard on High" ..... LSB 368

**Angels we have heard on high,  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply,  
Echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
Which inspire your heav'nly song?  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

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*P: Luke records that the first angel who brought the good news of the birth of the Savior was suddenly joined by a multitude of the heavenly host who praised God together. What an amazing sight that must have been – and what amazing sounds for the shepherds to hear! The music must have resounded off the rocks on the fields there outside of Bethlehem in an unforgettable way! Through our singing, we echo that praise. Although the history of many carols is not known, we do know the stories behind many other songs of Christmas. Edmund Sears, who served a number of congregations in the Boston area in the mid-1800s, wrote the text of “It Came upon the Midnight Clear” in 1849 and sent it to a popular magazine called The Christian Register. It was published the following year. About forty years later, the text by Sears was linked to a melody composed by Richard Willis, a musical editor who lived in New York City. Through this carol, we are invited to listen to the angels as they announce and rejoice in the birth of the Prince of Peace.*

***HYMN*** “It Came upon the Midnight Clear” ..... LSB 366

**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, goodwill to all,  
From heav’n’s all-gracious king.”  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
To hear the angels sing.**

**Still through the cloven skies they come  
With peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heav’nly music floats  
O’er all the weary world.  
Above its sad and lowly plains  
They bend on hov’ring wing,  
And ever o’er its babel sounds  
The blessed 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 shall to the earth  
God's ancient promise bring,  
And all who take this gift will hear  
The song the angels sing.

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**INTROIT**

*Psalm 24:1, 3–5; antiphon: Psalm 2:7*

*P: I will tell of the decree: The Lord said to Me, "You are My Son; today I have begotten You."*

**C: The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein.**

*P: Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in His holy place?*

**C: He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.**

*P: He will receive blessing from the Lord*

**C: and righteousness from the God of his salvation. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

*P: I will tell of the decree: The Lord said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten You."*

**SALUTATION and COLLECT**

*P: The Lord be with you.*

**C: And also with you.**

*P: Let us pray. O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ.*

**C: Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge;**

*P: through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

**C: Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**

*Isaiah 7:10–14*

<sup>10</sup> Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz: <sup>11</sup> “Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” <sup>12</sup> But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.” <sup>13</sup> And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

*P: This is the Word of the Lord.*

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN** “From East to West” ..... *LSB 385*

**From east to west, from shore to shore  
Let ev’ry heart awake and sing  
The holy child whom Mary bore,  
The Christ, the everlasting king.**

**For this how wondrously He wrought!  
A maiden, in her lowly place,  
Became, in ways beyond all thought,  
The chosen vessel of His grace.**

**And while the angels in the sky  
Sang praise above the silent field,  
To shepherds poor the Lord Most High,  
The one great Shepherd, was revealed.**

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**EPISTLE READING**

*1 John 4:7–16*

<sup>7</sup> Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup> In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him. <sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and His love is perfected in us. <sup>13</sup> By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us

of His Spirit. <sup>14</sup> And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent His Son to be the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup> Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in Him, and He in God. <sup>16</sup> So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

*P: This is the Word of the Lord.*

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*(We stand.)*

**GRADUAL**

*Isaiah 9:6*

*P: To us a Child is born, to us a Son is given;*

**C: and the government shall be upon His shoulder.**

*P: And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,*

**C: Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

**THE HOLY GOSPEL**

*Matthew 1:18–25*

*P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.*

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: <sup>23</sup> “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). <sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup> but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called His name Jesus.

*P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.**



**Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With the\_angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"**

**Christ, by highest heav'n adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold Him come,  
Offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,  
Hail the\_incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Immanuel!  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"**

**Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail, the Sun 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 the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"**

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***SERMON***

***NICENE CREED***

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **OFFERING**

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

*P: Let us pray for God's great mercy, asking that He would hear our petitions and grant them according to His gracious will.*

*P: As we recall the first Christmas, Lord, we thank You for the gift of Jesus Christ. Give us faith to never forget the magnitude and importance of His sacrifice for us in coming to earth to be our Savior, our Brother, and our Friend. Lord, in Your mercy,*

**C: hear our prayer.**

*P: As we remember Mary and Joseph, we thank You for the gift of family. Give us hearts to fully appreciate the gifts we receive through them and move us to seek to be those who cherish and nourish our family associations. Lord, in Your mercy,*

**C: hear our prayer.**

*P: As we echo the song of the angels, we thank You for the gifts of poetry and music and for all of the writers and composers who have enriched our celebration with their devotion and creativity. Give us*

*eagerness to ever seek to bring You all that is the best and most beautiful in our worship. Lord, in Your mercy,*

**C: hear our prayer.**

*P: As we think of the shepherds to whom the angel brought the greatest of news, we thank You for those who serve in the various vocations of life, including those whose daily work often goes unnoticed. We commend to Your special care, Lord, those in the military, our first responders and medical personnel, and all who labor on our behalf in careers that are specially challenging or hazardous. Lord, in Your mercy,*

**C: hear our prayer.**

*P: As we consider those who were at the inn surrounding Mary and Joseph and the baby Jesus, we pray for all situations and conditions of people, especially those on our hearts at this time. Be with them and bless them according to their needs, Lord, and give us opportunities to be of comfort and assistance in Your name. Lord, in Your mercy,*

**C: hear our prayer.**

*P: As we pray, gracious God, we remember our dear ones who have completed their earthly lives and now are in Your eternal keeping. As the brightness of the light of Christ shines on them, may we follow their footsteps in ways of peace and love throughout our lives as we live to Your glory. Lord in Your mercy,*

**C: hear our prayer.**

*P: These and any other things You would have us ask of You, heavenly Father, grant to us for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord; the One who has also taught us to pray,*

## **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 and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

## **PAX DOMINI**

*P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.*

**C: And also with you.**

If you are a confirmed member of a Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod congregation, we invite you to commune with us. If you are not a confirmed member of an LCMS congregation and would like to come forward with your family and friends during the distribution, please place your hands over your heart and you will receive a blessing.

## **DISTRIBUTION HYMN** “Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising” ..... *LSB 375*

- 1           **Come, your hearts and voices raising,  
Christ the Lord with gladness praising;  
Loudly sing His love amazing,  
          Worthy folk of Christendom.**
  
- 2           **Christ, from heav'n to us descending  
And in love our race befriending;  
In our need His help extending,  
          Saved us from the wily foe.**
  
- 3           **Jacob's star in all its splendor  
Beams with comfort sweet and tender,  
Forcing Satan to surrender,  
          Breaking all the pow'rs of hell.**
  
- 4           **From the bondage that oppressed us,  
From sin's fetters that possessed us,  
From the grief that sore distressed us,  
          We, the captives, now are free.**
  
- 5           **Oh, the joy beyond expressing  
When by faith we grasp this blessing,  
And to You we come confessing  
          That Your love has set us free.**
  
- 6           **Gracious Child, we pray, O hear us,  
From Your lowly manger cheer us,  
Gently lead us and be near us  
          Till we join Your choir above.**

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**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

*P: We give You thanks, Heavenly Father, for the gift of Your Son as He has come to us this night in His body and blood. Strengthen our faith so that, like the angels, we may be joyous messengers of the love and forgiveness that come through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

**C: Amen.**

*P: We hear again the Good News from the Gospel according to St. Luke, chapter 2. Following each section of the reading, we sing songs of Christmas joy, echoing the sounds of the angels on that first Christmas night.*

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

*P: A Christmas visit to the little town of Bethlehem by Rev. Phillips Brooks of Pennsylvania in 1865 led to his writing one of the most beloved of all Christmas hymns. We reflect on the importance of that special place.*

**HYMN** "O Little Town of Bethlehem"..... LSB 361 Vs. 1,2

**O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by;  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting 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 of wond'ring love.  
O morning stars, together  
Proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the king  
And peace to all the earth!**

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And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths and laid Him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

*P: Although "Away in a Manger" has been called "Luther's Cradle Hymn" by some people, its actual Lutheran connection comes from the fact that it was first published in a Lutheran Sunday School hymnal in Philadelphia in 1885. It was not translated into German until 1934, but since then has become as well-loved by Christian people in the "Old World" as it is here in the "New World."*

**HYMN** "Away in a Manger" ..... LSB 364

**Away in a manger, no crib for a 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.**

**The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay  
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,  
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.**

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And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”

*P: There are many Christmas songs and carols that include references to angels and the angelic hosts. Now more than two centuries old, “Angels from the Realms of Glory” was written by English poet James Montgomery, who is the author of a number of hymns we sing throughout the year. Let us lift our voices together with the angels as we sing “Angels from the Realms of Glory”.*

***HYMN*** “Angels from the Realms of Glory” ..... LSB 367 Vs. 1,2

**Angels from the realms of glory,  
Wing your flight o’er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation’s story,  
Now proclaim Messiah’s birth.  
Come and worship, come and worship;  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

**Shepherds in the field abiding,  
Watching o’er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing,  
Yonder shines the Infant Light.  
Come and worship, come and worship;  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

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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 among those with whom He is pleased!”

*P: Some of the Christmas songs we cherish have deep historical roots. "Now Sing We, Now Rejoice" dates back to the thirteenth century and is one that Martin Luther and his family would have been familiar with. Originally, the lines of the song alternated between Latin and German. Together we raise our voices to heaven as we join the "multitude of the heavenly host" in holy song.*

***HYMN*** "Now Sing We, Now Rejoice" ..... LSB 386 Vs. 1,4

**Now sing we, now rejoice,  
Now raise to heav'n our voice;  
He from whom joy streameth  
Poor in a manger lies;  
Not so brightly beameth  
The sun in yonder skies.  
Thou my Savior art!  
Thou my Savior art!**

**Oh, where shall joy be found?  
Where but on heav'nly ground?  
Where the angels singing  
With all His saints unite,  
Sweetest praises bringing  
In heav'nly joy and light.  
Oh, that we were there!  
Oh, that we were there!**

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When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.



*P: Almost a century old now, the text of “Gentle Mary Laid Her Child” was written by Joseph S. Cook for a carol-writing competition in 1919. It won the competition and was printed in the Christian Guardian magazine the following year. About ten years later it appeared in a Canadian hymnal. The words, which have been set to a melody from the sixteenth century, create for us a vision of Christ’s marvelous birth, complete with the shepherds and the angels.*

***HYMN*** “Gentle Mary Laid Her Child” ..... *LSB 374*

**Gentle Mary laid her child  
Lowly in a manger;  
There He lay, the Undeified,  
To the world a stranger.  
Such a babe in such a place,  
Can He be the Savior?  
Ask the saved of all the race  
Who have found His favor.**

**Angels sang about His birth,  
Wise Men sought and found Him;  
Heaven’s star shone brightly forth  
Glory all around Him.  
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight,  
Heard the angels singing;  
All the plains were lit that night,  
All the hills were ringing.**

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*P: Luke writes that Mary “treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.” That phrase “all these things” includes everything that she saw and heard on that first Christmas night as God’s promise to come and save us was being fulfilled. God kept His covenant with His people, and we are blessed by it. With renewing faith, growing hope, and expanding love on this most holy night, we invite you to listen to the choir as they sing “Night of the Father’s Love”. During this time you may illuminate your candles, and are invited to join the choir in singing verses two and three of Silent Night when invited to do so.*

**Verse 1: Sung by Choir**

**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 Thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.**

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**CLOSING PRAYER**

*P: Let us pray. O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true light. Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that light on earth we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

**C: Amen.**

**BENEDICTION**

*P: God Almighty – the Father, who gave His Son for the life of the world, the Son, who has revealed to us God's grace, mercy, and love, and the Holy Spirit, by whose blessed work in us we are seen to be children of God – bless you now and forever.*

**C: Amen.**

*P: Go in peace and with great joy, for Christ your Savior is born!*

**Acknowledgments**

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