

December 24, 2021

Nativity of Our Lord - Christmas Eve



“We Preach Christ Crucified...”

- 1 Corinthians 1:23

LUTHER MEMORIAL
CHURCH & SCHOOL K-8

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An Affiliate of the Church of the Lutheran Confession ♦ www.clclutheran.org



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Pastor Rob Sauers • Principal Jennifer Wiese

✠ The Signs of Christmas ✠

Luther Memorial Church and School Christmas Eve Program 2021

Processional Hymn

CW 55 – Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful

Oh, come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant,
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, Born the King of angels.
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, 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.
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

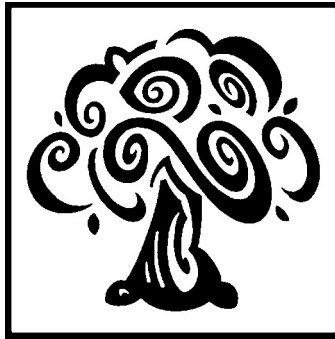
Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy evening;
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n,
Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing.
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

P Bells. Christmas trees. Ribbons and bows. Stars. Wreaths. Lights. Holly. Mistletoe. We see these things all around us, and they all tell us it is Christmastime. You may have many of these items in your homes. Perhaps you even have an Advent wreath or a nativity scene set up in your living room. There are so many images that remind us of Christmas, and without them Christmas seems almost empty. But what do they all mean? The church has a rich heritage of symbolism tracing back to the beginning of the world. Look around at our church building and consider the many images that surround us. They initially serve as reminders, but upon further inspection they teach us truths about God and his Word.

Educational psychologists tell us that we learn best if all of our senses are engaged in the learning process. At Christmas we hear the familiar music and the Christmas story, taste the food, smell the lit candles, see the lavish adornments, and greet our family and friends. Our service tonight focuses on how God speaks to us through the many visual symbols that he has given us through the ages to remind us of the history of his people, to instruct us in his plan of salvation, to support our understanding of his truths, and to beautify our worship.

As you worship tonight, take special note of these symbols and signs that we are given to focus on Christ's birth at Bethlehem.

✠ Part One: The Tree ✠



Joanna Seibel

The Christmas tree is easily one of the most recognizable symbols of the Christmas season. Some believe that Martin Luther may have been the first to set up an evergreen tree in his home and decorate it with candles. The tree as a symbol for Christmas, however, goes all the way back to the beginning of time when God placed two special trees in the Garden of Eden: the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Brett Moodie

God gave special instructions to Adam and Eve regarding these trees: Don't eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil or you will die. One day in the garden, Satan, in the form of a serpent, tempted Adam and Eve to eat from this tree. Adam and Eve both ate fruit from the tree and had to answer to God for their sin. But before God told them of the consequences, he first gave them a promise. This was the first promise of the Savior, who would be born to pay for that sin in the garden as well as the sins of the entire world. This promise was found in God's curse on Satan, who would be defeated by the Savior's death on another tree.

Madysyn Goldapske

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head and you will strike his heel. (Genesis 3:15)

Joanna Seibel

God's plan for the Savior is like a red thread woven through the fabric of the Old Testament, reminding believers of the Messiah and his work for them. God used animal sacrifices as special symbols to show that their Savior's life had to be offered in death for their own in order to rescue them from eternal punishment. He also had them burn incense during their prayers to show them that those prayers did rise to God, like the smoke of the incense, and that he heard their cries for help.

Brett Moodie

The Holy Spirit spoke through the prophet Isaiah about another tree. He was speaking of the promised Messiah. But the picture doesn't stop with a tree. He also speaks of the work the Messiah would do on earth. This Prince of peace would return his people to the state of perfection that they had in the Garden of Eden.

Responsive Reading

Isaiah 11:1-4, 10

- P** A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
C **from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.**
P The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—
C **the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,**
P the Spirit of counsel and of power,
C **the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord—and he will delight in the fear of the Lord.**
P He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,
C **or decide by what he hears with his ears;**
P but with righteousness he will judge the needy,
C **with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.**
P He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth;
C **with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.**
P In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples;
C **the nations will rally to him, and his place of rest will be glorious.**

Congregation Song:

CW 23 – Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel

Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel!

Women: Oh, come, O Root of Jesse, free Your own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell your people save, And bring them vict'ry o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel!

Men: Oh, come, O Dayspring from on high, And cheer us by your drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel!

Oh, come, O Key of David, come, And open wide our heav'nly home.
Make safe the way that leads on high, And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel!

Joanna Seibel

The first chapter of the gospel of Matthew shows how Jesus' family tree grew from the seed of Adam and Eve to its sturdy trunk in Abraham, Jacob, and David, all the way to the branches of Joseph and Mary. In the first chapter of Luke, we hear how Mary, an ordinary young woman, received a visit from an extraordinary messenger.

Caleb Goldapske

In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Austin Immerfall

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.

Samuel Kiefer

The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."

Kayla Kern

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin."

Sid Shafer

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

Cooper Sabel

Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God."

Magdalene Seibel

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

Brett Moodie

Mary rushed to see her cousin Elizabeth and tell her the news. Elizabeth, however, was not the only one to hear this announcement and rejoice.

Charlotte Rabe

When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear!”

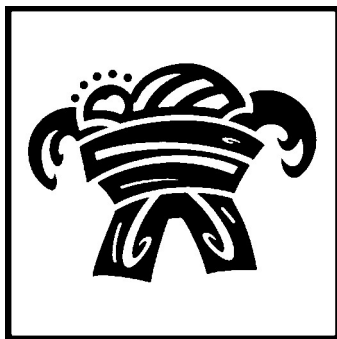
Joanna Seibel

On hearing Mary’s news, Elizabeth was overjoyed. Her unborn son, whom we know as John the Baptist, leaped with delight. Filled with the Holy Spirit, Elizabeth prophesied. And Mary, whom we have come to think of as quiet and introspective, burst forth in a song of her own.

Solo Song

Song of Mary

✠ Part Two: The Manger ✠



Brett Moodie

A nativity scene makes a lovely Christmas decoration and reminds us of the true meaning of Christmas. At the center of any nativity scene is a manger, a feedbox. That bed for the Creator of the universe was not the ideal place for a newborn. But it was the perfect start in life for our Savior. It was a picture of the humility that he took on himself all through his life—a picture of his submission to God’s law and the laws of men.

Joanna Seibel

The account of Jesus’ birth begins in Luke chapter 2, with Mary and Joseph obeying the law of the Roman emperor that the population of the entire empire should be counted.

Grades 3-8

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria. And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; because he was of the house and lineage of David: To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. (Luke 2:1-7)

Children's Song (Preschool - 8th)

CW 68 – Away in a Manger

1. 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.

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 side until 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 take us to heaven to live with you there.

Brett Moodie

The King of kings and Lord of lords humbled himself by taking on the form of a human. God be praised that this “riches to rags” story turns into a “rags to riches” story for us sinners. The apostle Paul, in his letter to the Galatians, wrote:

Sid Shafer

When the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.

Madysyn Goldapske

Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.” So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.

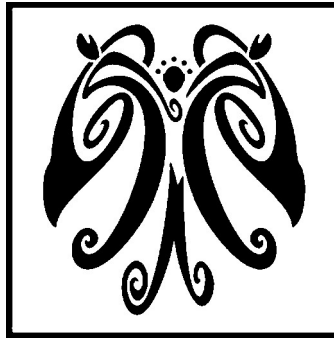
Congregation Song

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Infant holy, infant lowly, For his bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging angels singing, Bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is Lord of all! Christ the babe is Lord of all!

Flocks were sleeping; shepherds keeping Vigil till the morning new
Saw the glory, heard the story, Tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, Praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you! Christ the babe was born for you!

✠ Part Three: The Angel ✠



Joanna Seibel

Scripture speaks of angels throughout its pages. They are God’s messengers. God sent angels to people to announce important news. Angels visited Abraham to tell him that he and his wife, Sarah, would have a baby boy in their old age. The angel Gabriel announced the birth of John to Zechariah and Elizabeth. Later he proclaimed to Mary that she was to be the mother of the Savior. After the birth in the manger, angels made an announcement to shepherds at work in the fields.

Alliyah Kiefer

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

Blayn Rademann

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

Bryce Rademann

And the angel said unto them, “Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. “

Kobe Siedschlag

“And this shall be a sign unto you; You shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.”

Blayn Rademann

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, good will toward men.”

Congregation Song

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

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.

Grades 3-8

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

Congregation Song

Silent Night! Holy Night

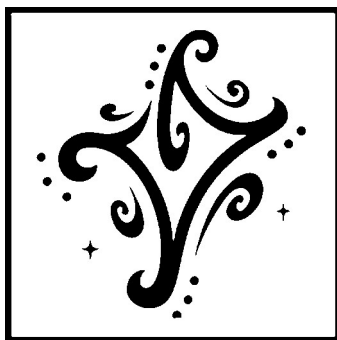
Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

Stille Nacht! Heil'ge Nacht! Alles schläft; einsam wacht
Nur das traute hoch heilige Paar. Holder Knab' im lockigen Haar,
Schlafe in himmlischer Ruh! Schlafe in himmlischer Ruh!

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!

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.

✠ Part Four: The Star ✠



Brett Moodie

Stars seem to appear everywhere at Christmas. You can find them on the tops of Christmas trees, on wrapping paper, cut out as cookies, even in the eyes of children when they hear and recite the Christmas story. Certainly the Christmas lights on houses and the candles in the Advent wreath can remind us of stars too. The Bible's many references to stars often point to Jesus. God led Abraham outside one night and had him gaze upon the stars.

Madysyn Goldapske

“Look up at the heavens and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” (Genesis 15:5)

Joanna Seibel

Part of that covenant with Abraham was that the promised Savior would be one of those descendants that God promised him. In the book of Numbers, Moses wrote:

Charlotte Rabe

I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near. A star will come out of Jacob; a scepter will rise out of Israel. (Numbers 24:17)

Brett Moodie

We know from the book of Revelation that the star spoken of is Jesus, as Jesus himself says in the last chapter of Scripture:

Kayla Kern

“I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star.” (Revelation 22:16)

Joanna Seibel

God put a special star in the sky for Magi from the East to lead them to the newborn Savior. Matthew wrote in his gospel:

Magdalene Seibel

They went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.

Caleb Goldapske

On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him.

Cooper Sabel

Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. (Matthew 2:9-11)



Congregation Song

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

**Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hills, and ev'rywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born.**

*ALL: While shepherds kept their watching O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens There shone a holy light.*

**Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hills, and ev'rywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born.**

*Women: The shepherds feared and trembled When lo, above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus That hailed our Savior's birth.*

**ALL: Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hills, and ev'rywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born.**

*Men: Down in a lowly manger The humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation That blessed Christmas morn.*

**ALL: Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hills, and ev'rywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born.**

Brett Moodie

The apostle Peter wrote in his second letter that we have the word of the prophets, which is certain. The star that the Magi followed is for us too. It directs us to the Scriptures.

Austin Immerfall

We have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. (2 Peter 1:19)

Joanna Seibel

Until that day dawns, when the Morning Star rises for us and all believers and our eyes at last shall see him, may we, his children, who will be crowned like the stars, sound his praises, not only in this festive season but every day throughout our lives.

Prayer

P Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true light. Grant that as we have known on earth the wonder of that light, we may also behold him in all his glory in the life to come; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

C 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.

Blessing

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.

Congregational Recessional Hymn

Joy to the World

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.

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

No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground; He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found,
Far as, 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, And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.

8th Grade

Brett Moodie
Joanna Seibel

7th Grade

Caleb Goldapske
Madysyn Goldapske
Austin Immerfall
Sid Shafer

6th Grade

Kayla Kern
Samuel Kiefer
Charlotte Rabe
Cooper Sabel
Magdalene Seibel

4th Grade

Alliyah Kiefer

3rd Grade

Blayn Rademann

1st Grade

Bryce Rademann

Preschool

Kobe Siedschlag

Pastor: Pastor Rob Sauers
Principal: Mrs. Jennifer Wiese

Director: Mrs. Jennifer Wiese

Accompanist: Mr. Barry Hay
Violinist: Mrs. Susan Moodie

Narrators:

Brett Moodie
Joanna Seibel

Chimes:

Joanna Seibel
Caleb Goldapske
Madysyn Goldapske
Kayla Kern
Samuel Kiefer
Charlotte Rabe
Magdalene Seibel

