

# Christmas Eve Carol Service

*Heritage Lutheran Church  
Apple Valley, Minnesota*

[office@heritagelutheran.org](mailto:office@heritagelutheran.org) - Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Worship: Sunday 8:00 & 10:30 AM; - Sunday School 9:15 A.M. - Pastor K.J. Anderson - (952) 431-6225

## 1. Pre-service music

## 2. The Invocation

**Pastor** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Congregation** Amen.

**Hymn: "O Come, All Ye Faithful" ELH #133**

<sup>1</sup> 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

Refrain:

O come, let us adore Him,  
O come let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord.

<sup>3</sup> Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;  
Refrain

<sup>4</sup> Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy  
morning,  
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;  
Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing,  
Refrain

## 3. The Confession of Sin

**Pastor** Let us confess our sins:

**Congregation** Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have sinned against Your divine majesty by thought, word, and deed, provoking Your wrath against us. We earnestly repent and are heartily sorry for our sins. We grieve to think of them. Their burden is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, gracious Father! Forgive us our sins for the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ. Grant that we may serve You in newness of life, to the honor and glory of Your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Pastor** Lift up your hearts. The Lord God, according to His promise, is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. By the command of Christ and the authority of my holy office I forgive your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## 4. Entrance Hymn: "Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord" ELH #165

<sup>1</sup> Let the earth now praise the Lord,  
Who hath truly kept His word  
And the sinners' help and friend  
Now at last to us doth send.

<sup>2</sup> What the fathers most desired,  
What the the prophet's heart inspired,  
What they longed for many a year,  
Stands fulfilled in glory here.

<sup>4</sup> Welcome, O my Savior, now!  
Hail! My Portion, Lord, art Thou.  
Here, too, in my heart, I pray,  
O prepare Thyself a way!

## 5. The Kyrie: ELH # 34

Kyrie, God Father in heaven above, Great art Thou in grace and love,  
Of all things the Maker and Preserver, Eleison, Eleison!  
Kyrie, O Christ, our King, Salvation for sinners Thou didst bring.  
O Lord Jesus, God's own Son, Our Mediator at the heavenly throne,  
Hear our cry and grant our supplication. Eleison, Eleison!  
Kyrie, O God the Holy Ghost, Guard our faith, the gift we need the most;  
Do Thou our last hour bless; Let us leave this sinful world with gladness. Eleison, Eleison!

## 6. The Gloria Hymn "Angels We Have Heard on High" ELH #116

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heavenly song?  
Refrain

<sup>3</sup> Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King.  
Refrain

<sup>4</sup> See, within a manger laid, Jesus, Lord of heaven and earth,  
Lend your voices, lend your aid To proclaim the Savior's birth!  
Refrain

## 7. A Collect for Christmas Eve

**Pastor** O God, as you once caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light, grant, we beseech you, that we who have known the mysteries of that Light here on earth may come to the fullness of its joys in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

**Congregation** Amen.

## 8. The Old Testament Lesson

### Isaiah 9:2-7

*"He shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace"*

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. <sup>3</sup> You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as men rejoice when dividing the plunder. <sup>4</sup> For as in the day of

Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. <sup>5</sup> Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup> Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

## **9. Hymn: "The People That in Darkness Sat" ELH #153**

<sup>1</sup> The people that in darkness sat A glorious light have seen;  
The light has shined on them who long In shades of death have been,  
In shades of death have been.

<sup>4</sup> To us a Child of hope is born, To us a Son is given.  
And on His shoulders ever rests All power in earth and heaven,  
All power in earth and heaven.

<sup>5</sup> His name shall be the Prince of Peace, The Everlasting Lord,  
The Wonderful, the Counselor, The God by all adored,  
The God by all adored.

<sup>6</sup> His righteous government and power Shall over all extend;  
On judgment and on justice based, His reign shall have no end,  
His reign shall have no end.

<sup>7</sup> Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray, And make us Thine alone,  
Who with the Father ever art And Holy Spirit one,  
And Holy Spirit One.

## **10. The Epistle Lesson**

### **Titus 2:11-14**

*The grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men*

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. <sup>12</sup> It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, <sup>13</sup> while we wait for the blessed hope--the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup> who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

## **11. Hymn: "God Rest You Merry" ELH #126**

<sup>1</sup> God rest you merry, gentlemen, Let nothing you dismay,  
For Jesus Christ, our Savior, was born on Christmas day  
To save us all from Satan's power When we were gone astray.

Refrain – O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy;  
O tidings of comfort and joy.

<sup>2</sup> From God, our heavenly Father, A blessed angel came;  
And unto certain shepherds Brought tidings of the same:  
How that in Bethlehem was born The Son of God by name.  
Refrain

<sup>3</sup> "Fear not" then said the angel, "Let nothing you affright;  
This day is born the Savior, A Babe of glorious might.  
See, death and hell and Satan This child shall put to flight."  
Refrain

<sup>4</sup> Now to the Lord sing praises, All you within this place,  
In Christian faith and charity Each other now embrace,  
This holy tide of Christmas Reveals to us God's grace.  
Refrain

## 12. The Gospel Lesson

### Luke 2:1-20

*"While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born"*

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. <sup>2</sup> (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup> And everyone went to his own town to register. <sup>4</sup> So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. <sup>5</sup> He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup> and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. <sup>8</sup> And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." <sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." <sup>16</sup> So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

## 13. Hymn: "Once In Royal David's City" ELH #139

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> Jesus is our childhood's pattern; Day by day like us He grew;  
He was little, weak and helpless; Tears and smiles like us He knew;  
And He feeleth for our sadness, And He shareth in our gladness.

<sup>4</sup> And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His own redeeming love;  
For that Child, so dear and gentle, Is our Lord in heaven above;  
And He leads His children on To the place where He is gone.

<sup>5</sup> Not in that poor lowly stable With the oxen standing by  
We shall see Him, but in heaven; See at God's right hand on high;  
Where, like stars, His children crowned, All in white shall wait around.

#### **14. Christmas Eve Message**

#### **15. The Offertory - "Now Sing We, Now Rejoice" ELH Hymn #135**

*The ushers may collect the offerings during the offertory hymn*

*The ushers may light the candles and dim the house lights*

<sup>1</sup> Now sing we now rejoice, Now raise to heaven our voice;  
Lo! He from whom joy streameth, Poor in the manger lies;  
Yet not so brightly beameth The sun in yonder skies  
Thou my Savior art! Thou my Savior art!

<sup>2</sup> Giv'n from on high to me; I cannot rise to Thee.  
O cheer my wearied spirit; O pure and holy Child,  
Through all Thy grace and merit Blest Jesus, Lord most mild,  
Draw me unto Thee! Draw me unto Thee!

<sup>3</sup> Now through His Son doth shine The Father's grace divine.  
Death over us hath reigned Through sin and vanity;  
The Son for us obtained Eternal joy on high.  
May we praise Him there! May we praise Him there!

<sup>4</sup> O where shall joy be found? Where but on heavenly ground:  
Where now the angels singing With all His saints unite.  
Their sweetest praises bringing In heavenly joy and light.  
May we praise Him there! May we praise Him there!

#### **16. The Christmas Eve Prayer**

- "Thy Little Ones, Dear Lord, Are We" ELH #144

<sup>1</sup> Thy little ones, dear Lord, are we, And come Thy lowly bed to See;  
Enlighten every soul and mind, That we the way to Thee may find.

<sup>2</sup> With songs we hasten Thee to greet And kiss the dust before thy feet;  
O blessed hour, O sweetest night, That gave Thee birth, our soul's delight.

<sup>3</sup> Now welcome! From Thy heavenly home Thou to our vale of tears art come;  
Man hath no offering for Thee save The stable, manger, cross, and grave.

<sup>4</sup> Jesus, alas! How can it be So few bestow a thought on Thee  
Or on the love so wondrous, great, That drew Thee down to our estate?

<sup>5</sup> O draw us wholly to Thee, Lord, Do Thou to us Thy grace accord  
True faith and love to us impart, That we may hold Thee in our heart.

<sup>6</sup> Keep us, howe'er the world may lure, In our baptismal cov'nant pure;  
That ev'ry yearning thought may be Directed only unto Thee.

<sup>7</sup> Until at last we, too, proclaim, With all Thy saints, Thy glorious name;  
In Paradise our songs renew, And praise Thee as the angels do.

<sup>8</sup> We gather round Thee, Jesus dear, So happy in Thy presence here;  
Grant us, our Savior, ev'ry one, To stand in heaven before Thy throne.

**17. The Lord's Prayer** *sung by all. Tune: ELH p. 53*

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.

**18. The Benediction** *Hymn #593 "On My Heart Imprint Thine Image"*

On my heart imprint Thine image, Blessed Jesus, King of grace.  
That life's riches, cares, and pleasures, Have no pow'r Thee to efface.  
This the superscription be: Jesus crucified for me,  
Is my life, my hope's foundation, And my glory and salvation.

**19. Postlude Christmas Carols**

- **"O Little Town of Bethlehem"** ELH 137

<sup>1</sup> O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie;  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep The silent stars go by;  
Yet in the dark streets shineth The everlasting Light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight.

<sup>2</sup> 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 on earth.

<sup>3</sup> How silently how silently The wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts The blessings of His heaven.  
No ear may hear His coming, But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him still, The dear Christ enters in.

<sup>4</sup> 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!

- **"Away in a Manger"** ELH Hymn #119

<sup>1</sup> Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus lay down His sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

- **"Silent Night** ELH #140

<sup>1</sup> 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

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> Silent night! Holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;  
With the angels let us sing. Alleluia to our King;  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.