



**Heritage Lutheran Church
Sunday School Christmas
Worship Service
Sunday, December 24, 2023
10:00 a.m**

THE TREES OF CHRISTMAS

PROCESSIONAL - Congregation: Hymn #138 "Joy to the World"

1 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 heav'n and nature sing.

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

3 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, far as the curse is found.

4 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, wonders of His love.

INVOCATION (Pastor)

RESPONSIVE PSALM 96 (Spoken):

P: Sing to the Lord a new song.

All CHILDREN: *Sing to the Lord a new song.*

P: Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day.

C: *Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.*

P: Worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness; tremble before him, all the earth.

C: *Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it.*

All CHILDREN: *Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them. **Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy;***

P: For he comes to judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in his truth.

ALL: *Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be forevermore. Amen.*

Prayer – (Pastor)

INTRODUCTION

Narration – Nathan Nikoley

Children: *Hymn #127 “I Am So Glad When Christmas Comes” (verses 1,2,5,6)*

PART 1: THE GARDEN TREES

Recitation All Children:

*Let's begin our long journey with a promise foretold
In the Garden of Eden where sin first took hold.
There a life-giving tree played a part in the scene
So let's turn our tree first to a life-giving GREEN.*

Narration - Fischer Chapman

Recitation – Paige Chapman

Narration – Fischer Chapman

Recitation – Tanner Holz

Narration – Fischer Chapman

Recitation – Kyrie Mears

Narration – Fischer Chapman

Recitations:

Tanner Holz

Delaney Arehart

Alex Meany

Marie Mears

Sophia Robb

Paige Chapman

Josiah Mears

Maddie Paulsen

Cooper Sickmann

Narration – Nicholas Henricks

All Children Recitation

Preschool & Kindergarten Recitation

Narration – Nicholas Henricks

Grades 1-4 Recitation

Narration – Nicholas Henricks

Recitation – Delaney Arehart

Children & Congregation: Hymn #302 “The Tree Of Life”

(Verse 1:Children, V.2: Women & Girls, V.3: Men & Boys, V.4: All)

1 Children

2 Women & Girls - The stillness of that sacred grove Was broken, as the serpent strove
With tempting voice to Eve beguile And Adam too by sin defile.
O day of sadness when the breath Of fear and darkness,
Doubt and death, Its awful poison first displayed Within the world so newly made.

3 Men & Boys - What mercy God showed to our race, A plan of rescue by His grace:
In sending One from woman’s seed, The One to fill our greatest need-
For on a tree uplifted high His only Son for sin would die,
Would drink the cup of scorn and dread To crush the ancient serpent’s head!

4 All - Now from that tree of Jesus’ shame Flows life eternal in His name;
For all who trust and will believe, Salvation’s living fruit receive.
And of this fruit so pure and sweet The Lord invites the world to eat,
To find within this cross of wood The tree of life with ev’ry good!

PART 2: THE FAMILY TREE

Recitation Preschool – 4thGrade:

***And that promise continued for many a year,
As the Lord still assured them salvation was near.
Down from father to son the Word remained true.
We remember it now with the color of BLUE.***

Narration – Martin Paulsen

Recitation – Marie Mears

Recitation – Maddie Paulsen

Narration – Martin Paulsen

Narration – Libby Paulsen

Recitation – Alli Paulsen

Narration – Libby Paulsen

Recitation – Alex Meany

Narration – Libby Paulsen

Children & Congregation: Hymn #109 "Hark The Glad Sound, The Savior Comes"
(Children v. 1,4; Cong. V 2,3)

1 Children

2 He comes the prisoners to release,
In Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before Him burst,
The iron fetters yield.

3 He comes the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of His grace
To enrich the humble poor.

4 Children

PART 3: THE BRANCHING TREE

Recitation 5th-8th Grade:

***Well, the time finally came for the promise to show,
As the branch of God's tree was now ready to grow.
In a dark, lonely stall on that first Christmas night
God sent his own Son to give the world light.***

Narration – Oliver Cook

Narration – Eleanor Robb

Recitation – Sophia Robb

Narration – Eleanor Robb

Recitation – Desmond Yaeger

Congregation: Hymn #121 "Behold, a Branch Is Growing"

1 Behold, a branch is growing Of loveliest form and grace,
As prophets sung, foreknowing; It springs from Jesse's race
And bears one little Flow'r In midst of coldest winter,
At deepest midnight hour.

2 Isaiah hath foretold It In words of promise sure,
And Mary's arms enfold It, A virgin meek and pure.
Through God's eternal will This Child to her is given
At midnight calm and still.

3 The shepherds heard the story, Proclaimed by angels bright,
How Christ, the Lord of Glory, Was born on earth this night.
To Bethlehem they sped And in the manger found Him,
As angel heralds said.

4 This Flow'r, whose fragrance tender With sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor The darkness ev'rywhere.
True Man, yet very God; From sin and death He saves us
And lightens ev'ry load.

5 O Savior, Child of Mary, Who felt our human woe;
O Savior, King of Glory. Who dost our weakness know,
Bring us at length, we pray. To the bright courts of heaven
And to the endless day.

Narration – Eleanor Robb

Recitation from Luke 2:1-7 - All Children

Recitation from Luke 2:8-9 - All Boys

Recitation from Luke 2:10-12 – All Girls

Recitation from Luke 2:13-20 – All Children

Children & Congregation: Hymn #140 “*Silent Night*” (Children v. 1,4; Cong. V 2-4)

1 Children

2 Congregation 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 Congregation 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.

4 All 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.

PART 4: THE CALVARY TREE

Recitation Grades 9-12:

***The trees are not finished, another appears;
It is carved as a cross and is covered with tears.
There, wanting to cover the sins we all dread,
God gave us a cloak in the color of RED.***

Narration – Nathaniel Reedstrom

Narration – Elijah Cook:

Recitation – Cooper Sickmann

Narration – Elijah Cook

Recitation – Josiah Mears

Narration – Elijah Cook

Congregation: Hymn #89 “Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring”

1 Jesus came, the heav'ns adoring,
Came with peace from realms on high;
Jesus came for man's redemption,
Lowly came on earth to die,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Came in deep humility.

2 Jesus comes again in mercy,
When our hearts are bowed with care;
Jesus comes again in answer
To a faithful, trusting prayer,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Comes to save us from despair.

3 Jesus comes to hearts rejoicing,
Bringing news of sins forgiv'n;
Jesus comes in sounds of gladness,
Leading souls redeemed to heav'n.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Now the gate of death is riv'n.

4 Jesus comes in joy and sorrow,
Shares alike our hopes and fears;
Jesus comes, whate'er befalls us,
Glads our hearts, and dries our tears;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Cheering e'en our failing years.

5 Jesus comes on clouds triumphant
When the heav'ns shall pass away.
Jesus comes again in glory;
Let us then our homage pay,
"Alleluia" ever singing
Till the dawn of endless day.

Offering & Prayers

PART 5: THE CHRISTMAS TREE

Recitation – All Children:

*And now that we've told you of trees long ago
That have taught us the story we all love and know
We will light up our tree with a glad Christmas cheer,
And we'll carry that glow throughout the new year.*

Narration – Magdalena Mears

Recitation – All Children

Narration - Magdalena Mears

ALL CHILDREN: The Christmas tree gives us a place to gather at Christmas to hear the story of God's wonderful love.

Benediction (Pastor)

RECESSIONAL: "O Christmas Tree" ("O Tannenbaum")
(verse 1 In German sung by all children followed by remaining verses sung in English by the congregation)

1 Children - *O Tannenbaum, O Tannenbaum, Wie treu sind deine Blätter!
O Tannenbaum, O Tannenbaum, Wie true sind deine Blätter!
Du grunzt nicht nur zur Sommerzeit, Nein, auch im Winter, wenn es schneit.
O Tannenbaum, O Tannenbaum, Wie true sind deine Blätter!*

1 ALL O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree, O tree of green unchanging.
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree, O tree of green unchanging.
Your boughs, so green in summer time, Do brave the snow of winter time.
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree, O tree of green unchanging.

2 ALL O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree, You set my heart a-singing.
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree, You set my heart a-singing.
Like little stars, your candles bright Send to the world a wondrous light.
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree, You set my heart a-singing.

3 ALL O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree, You come from God, eternal.
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree, You come from God, eternal.
A symbol of the Lord of Love Whom God to man sent from above.
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree, You come from God, eternal.

**Heritage Lutheran Church
Sunday School Christmas Program
December 24, 2023**

Pre-Service Music

Magdalena Mears – Angels We Have Heard On High - Piano Solo

Josiah Mears – Silent Night - Piano Solo

Cooper Sickmann – God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen - Piano Solo

Tanner Holz – Silent Night - Piano Solo

Maddie Paulsen – O Little Town Of Bethlehem - Piano Solo

Announcements

Christmas Worship Schedule – Christmas Eve Carol Service at 6:30 p.m., Christmas Day Worship with Communion at 10:00 a.m.

New Year's Eve Day Worship – New Year's Eve Worship with Communion at 10:00 a.m.

2024 Offering Envelopes – Please pick up your 2024 offering envelopes from the table in the narthex.

Heritage School Call Extended - At the call meeting this last Sunday, the voters of Heritage extended a Divine Call to Miss Nicole Roper to teach in our new K-2 classroom. She is currently serving as preschool director and teacher at Cross of Christ in Coon Rapids. Please pray for her as she deliberates her new call to Heritage as well as her current call at Cross of Christ. May the Lord guide her to what is best for his Kingdom.

Women's Bible Study – The Women's Monday evening Bible Class will reconvene in January.

Men's Bible Study – Men's Bible study will reconvene in January.

Fellowship - Volunteers are always needed to provide fellowship food every Sunday. Please sign up on the volunteer board.

2024 Offering Envelopes – Please pick up your 2024 offering envelopes from the table in the narthex.

