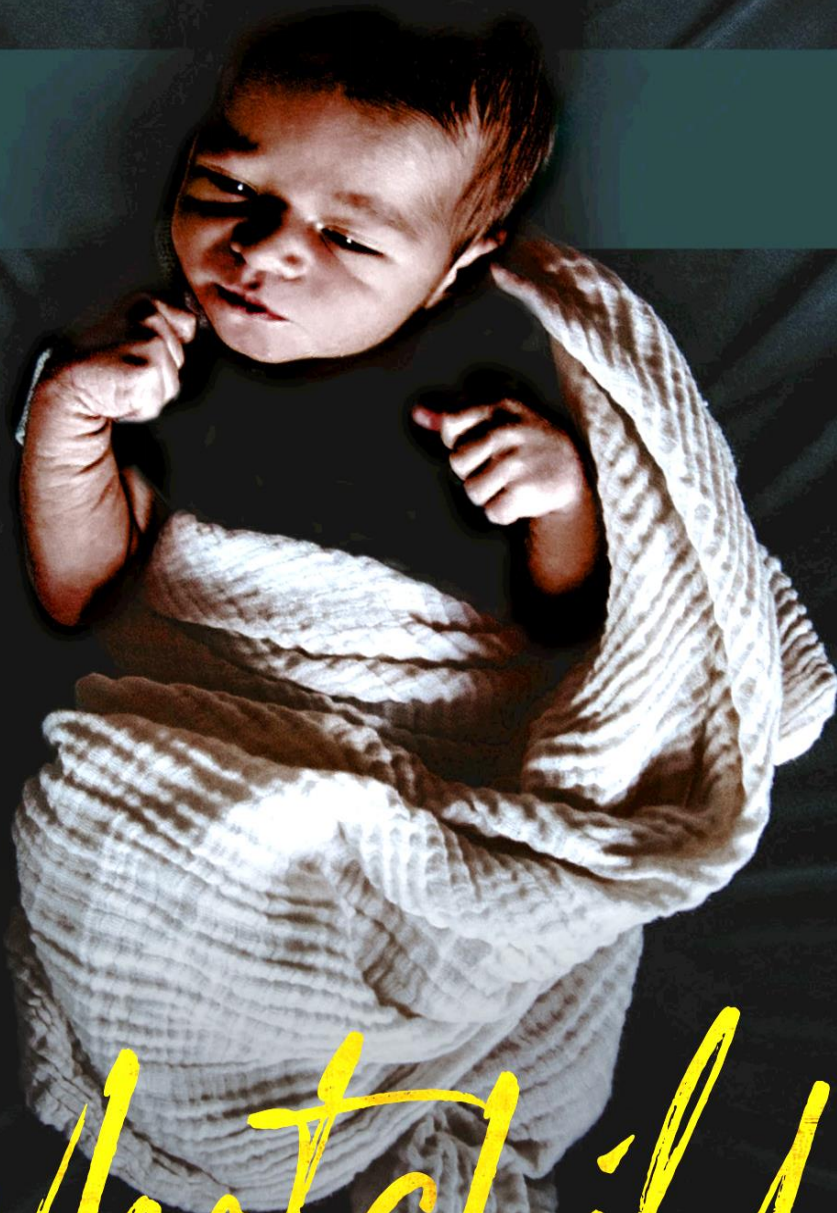


**LARGE PRINT**



*What child*  
**is this?**

**Christmas Eve**

**6:00pm Dec. 24, 2021**



# ROCK OF AGES

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Ancient Faith for Today's World*

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**Welcome!** May you be filled with peace and joy from Jesus who lived, died, and rose again to be your Savior. He is forever our living Rock of Ages.

**Our Mission** is to share the rock-solid hope of Jesus with today's world through timeless truths found in the Holy Scriptures.

**Our Message** centers around the forgiveness, freedom, and fellowship we have in Jesus.

**Membership:** We are part of a church family and together we reach out with the amazing gospel message. We'd love to have you join with us in our mission!

**Children's** activity bags, quiet toys, and a changing table are available from the nursery in entry area.

**Large Print** service folders and **hearing assistance** devices are available.

**Restrooms** are located at the far ends of the entry area.

**We Support** the world-wide gospel ministry of the WELS. We'd love to share more with you. Contact our pastor today. You can also visit [wels.net](http://wels.net)



**WELS**  
Christ's Love, Our Calling.



# Christmas Eve

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## Hymn

## What Child Is This

*Christian Worship 344*

*Hymn numbers are for the blue hymnals*

♪ **What child is this who, laid to rest,  
on Mary's lap is sleeping,  
whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the babe, the son of Mary!**

**2. Why lies he in such mean estate  
where oxen now are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here  
the silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,  
the cross be borne for me, for you;**

**hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
the babe, the son of Mary!**

**3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
come, peasant, king, to own him.**

**The King of kings salvation brings;  
let vining hearts enthrone him.**

**Raise, raise the song on high,  
the virgin sings her lullaby;**

**joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
the babe, the son of Mary!**

## **Greeting**

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

**And also with you.**

## **A Dialogue for Christmas Eve**

Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord, let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

**Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth. You have set your glory above the heavens.**

Give thanks to the Lord of lords, to him who alone does great wonders, who by his understanding made the heavens, who spread out the earth upon the waters, who made the great lights--the sun to govern the day, the moon and stars to govern the night. He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name.

**Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit.**

But our iniquities have separated us from our God; our sins have hidden his face from us, so that he will not hear. We look for light, but all is darkness; for brightness, but we walk in deep shadows. We look for deliverance, but it is far away.

**For our offenses are many in his sight, and we acknowledge our sins.**

The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. He has forgiven us in Christ.

**From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

"The days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. This is the name by which he will be called: The Lord our Righteousness."

**Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.**

"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. "

**Let the name of the Lord be praised forever  
and ever.**

## **Hymn**

**Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

*Christian Worship 350:1-2*

**♪ 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 th'angelic hosts proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"**

***Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"***

**2. Christ, by highest heav'n adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of the virgin's womb.**

**Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,  
hail th'incarnate Deity!**



**Pleased as man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Immanuel!**

***Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"***

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.

**Amen.**

**3. Hail, the heav'nly 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. *[Refrain]***

# THE WORD

## First Lesson

Isaiah 9:2-7

*The prophet Isaiah foretold a child who would bring the light of God's grace to a world mired in darkness.*

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light. For those living in the land of the shadow of death, the light has dawned. <sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation. You have increased its joy. They rejoice before you like the joy at harvest time, like the celebration when people divide the plunder. <sup>4</sup>For you have shattered the yoke that burdened them. You have broken the bar on their shoulders and the rod of their oppressor, as you did in the day of Midian. <sup>5</sup>Every boot that marched in battle and the garments rolled in blood will be burned. They will be fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup>For to us a child is born. To us a son is given. The authority to rule will rest on his shoulders. He will be named: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup>There will be no limit to his authority and no end to the peace he brings. He will rule on David's throne and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it

with justice and righteousness from now on, into eternity. The zeal of the LORD of Armies will accomplish this.

## Psalm of the Day Psalm 96

*Congregation reads boldface lines*

♪ Musical interlude

Sing to the LORD, praise his name;  
**proclaim his salvation day after day.**

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

Worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness;  
**tremble before him, all the earth.**

♪ Musical interlude

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

let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them.

**Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy,**

for he comes to judge the world in righteousness  
**and the peoples in his truth.**

**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.**

♪ Musical interlude

## **Second Lesson**

**1 John 4:9-14**

*How do you know, for certain, that God loves you?  
He sent this child, his only Son, to be the sacrifice  
for your sins.*

This is how God's love for us was revealed: God has sent his only-begotten Son into the world so that we may live through him. <sup>10</sup>This is love: not that we have

loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Dear friends, if God loved us so much, we also should love one another.

<sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God. If we love one another, God remains in us and his love has been brought to its goal in us. <sup>13</sup>This is how we know that we remain in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>We have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.

## **Hymn**

**Noel**

*Sung by 4 For Christ*

## **Verse of the Day** Luke 2:11

Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. (Luke 2:11)

## **Gospel**

**Luke 2:1-20**

*What child is this? The Savior who is born to you.*

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This

was the first census taken while Quirinius was governing Syria. <sup>3</sup>And everyone went to register, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup>And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the town of Nazareth, into Judea, to the town of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was from the house and family line of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, his wife, who was pledged to him in marriage and was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>And so it was that while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son, wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup>There were in the same country shepherds staying out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock 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. For behold, I bring you good news of great joy, which will be for all people: <sup>11</sup>Today in the town of David, a Savior was born for you. He is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>And this will be a sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>Suddenly, there was with the angel a

multitude from the heavenly army, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward mankind.”

<sup>15</sup>When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Now let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” <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 told others the message they had been told about this child. <sup>18</sup>And all who heard it were amazed by what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

## **Hymn of the Day**

**Go, Tell It On the Mountain**

*Christian Worship 361*

**♪ Go tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills, and ev'rywhere;  
go, tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born.**

**1. While shepherds kept their watching  
o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens  
there shone a holy light. *[Refrain]***

**2. The shepherds feared and trembled  
when lo, above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed our Savior's birth. *[Refrain]***

**3. Down in a lowly manger  
the humble Christ was born,  
and God sent us salvation  
that blessed Christmas morn. *[Refrain]***

## **Sermon**

Luke 2:1-20

**What Child is This?**

## **Confession of Faith**

**I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten  
of the Father from eternity, and also true man,  
born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord.**



**He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death.**

**All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally. This is most certainly true.**

## **Offerings Gathered**

*Moved by God's love in Christ, we offer him our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to him. Our offerings go to support the gospel ministry of our congregation and our national church body, the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.*

*Today you may place your offering on the table by the entryway as you enter or exit.*

# **Response of Praise** *A Te Deum*

*Laudamus For Christmas Eve*

We praise you, O God, we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, Father everlasting.

**♪ 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.**

To you all angels, all the powers of heaven,  
cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise:  
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of heavenly hosts,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

**♪ 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 the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white robed army of martyrs praise you.

Throughout the world the holy Church acclaims you: Father of majesty unbounded, your glorious, true, and only Son, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.

**♪ 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.**

You, Christ, are the King of glory, the eternal Son of the Father. When you became man to set us free, you humbled yourself to be born of a virgin. You overcame the sting of death and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.

**♪ 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.**

You sit at the right hand of God in the glory of the Father. We believe that you will come to be our judge. Come then, Lord, and help your people, bought with the price of your own blood, and bring us with your saints to glory everlasting.  
**Amen.**

## **Prayer**

Gracious and almighty Father, we praise you that you kept your ancient promises by sending your everlasting Son in human flesh.

**On this holy night, receive our thanks and devotion, our songs and prayers.**

You sent Jesus as a lowly child to demonstrate your concern for all, the weak and lonely, the troubled and frightened, the timid and helpless. No one is overlooked by your ever-seeking eyes.

No one is excluded from your upholding arms.  
No one is denied the comfort and help of your  
outstretched hand.

**Bless us with a childlike faith in the divine  
assurance that you love and care for us  
always.**

You sent Jesus as the Savior of the world to  
deliver all from the curse of sin, the power of  
death, and the torment of hell. He took our place.  
He was born under the law to set us free. He  
became the innocent lamb of sacrifice. He came  
to die and rise again in order that we might live  
eternally. Firmly implant this good news in our  
hearts, and fill us with an eager desire to spread  
the Word concerning what we have heard  
tonight.

**May all who hear the message, in every nation  
under heaven, be amazed and believe what is  
told them about the child.**

You sent Jesus as the Light of the world to drive  
out all darkness that would rob us of the full life

that you intend for us. May the “joy that will be for all people” be our joy. May the “peace on earth to all on whom his favor rests” be our peace. May the treasure that Mary pondered in her heart be our treasure.

**For today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to us. He is Christ, the Lord. Amen.**

## **Lord’s Prayer**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

## **Musical Offering**

*Lights are dimmed for closing portion of the service. Musical offering sung or played by musicians or choir*

# A Celebration of Christ our Light

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.

**See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples,**

but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you.

**Nations will come to his light, and kings to the rightness of his dawn.**

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you:

**God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.**

When Jesus spoke to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world."

**"Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." Amen.**

# **Hymn**      **Silent Night, Holy Night**

*Christian Worship 337*

♪ **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.**

**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!**

*- Pause singing for a musical interlude -*

**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.**

## **Blessing**

Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

**Amen.**

## Worship during the 12 days of Christmas

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25<sup>th</sup> 9:30 AM**

Christmas Day Song Service

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26<sup>th</sup> 9:30 AM**

Song Service II with Lord's Supper

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 1<sup>st</sup> 9:30 AM**

New Year's Day Service with Lord's  
Supper

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 2<sup>nd</sup> 9:30 AM**

Service (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Christmas)

*Everyone is invited to join for hot chocolate, coffee, and refreshments served in the Fellowship Hall after the service, hosted by the Ascoli family. They will have maps available showing the homes that have lighting displays in town.*

**Presiding Minister:** Tom Barthel, pastor  
**Music:** Keyboard, Jeni Strickland; 4 For Christ;  
Peter, Lydia, and Phineas Barthel  
**Fellowship Hall Refreshments:** Ascoli family

### **Acknowledgments**

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