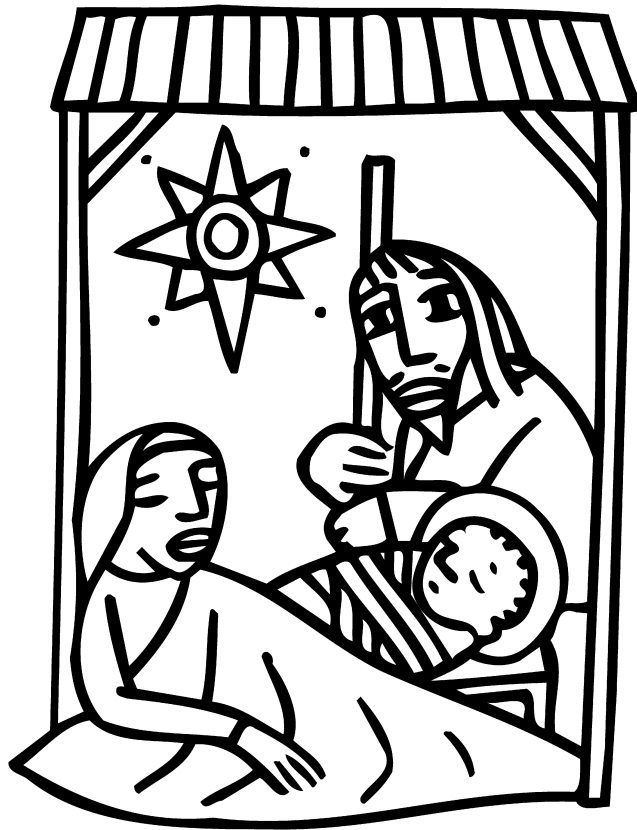


THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

# CHRISTMAS EVE

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SPRING VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH



"The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see--I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord." Luke 2:10-11

**Proclamation of the Birth of Christ**

Many ages after God created the heavens and the earth, when man and woman were formed in God's own image; long after the great flood, when God set the rainbow in the clouds as a sign of the covenant; twenty-one centuries from the time of Abraham and Sarah; thirteen centuries after Moses led God's people to freedom; eleven centuries from the time of Ruth and the judges; a thousand years from the anointing of David as king; in the sixty-fifth week as Daniel's prophecy takes note; in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad; the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the founding of the city of Rome; the forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus; in the sixth age of the world, all earth being at peace, Jesus Christ, eternal God, Son of the eternal Father, willing to hallow the world by his coming in mercy, was born of the virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judea. This is the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, God made flesh.

**The Processional Hymn  
#39 "Joy to the World"**

- [1] Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive its 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.
- [2] 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.
- [3] No more let sins and sorrow 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.
- [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 of his love,  
And wonders, wonders of his love.

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*Tune: George F. Handel, 1685-1759, adapt.—Public Domain*

**The Apostolic Greeting**

P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, born of Mary be with you all.

**C. And also with you.**

**The Collect of the Day**

P. Almighty God, you made this Holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; 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.**

**Hymn #41 O Little Town of Bethlehem**

- [1] 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.
- [2] 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!
- [3] How silently, how silently  
The wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of his heav'n.  
No ear may hear his coming;  
But, in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive him still  
The dear Christ enters in.
- [4] 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;  
Oh, come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Immanuel!

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*Tune: Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908— Public Domain*

**The Readings**

*The First Lesson is written in Isaiah the ninth Chapter.*

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness--on them light has shined. [3] You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. [4] For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. [5] For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. [6] For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. [7] His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 96: pg. 261

[1] Sing to the Lord  
a new song; \*

**C: sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.**

[2] Sing to the Lord and bless his Name; \*

**C: proclaim the good news**

**of his salvation from day to day.**

[3] Declare his glory among the nations \*

**C: and his wonders among all peoples.**

[4] For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; \*

**C: he is more to be feared than all gods.**

[5] As for all the gods of the nations,  
they are but idols; \*

**C: but it is the Lord who made the heavens.**

[6] Oh, the majesty  
and magnificence of his presence! \*

**C: Oh, the power  
and the splendor of his sanctuary!**

[7] Ascribe to the Lord,  
you families of the peoples; \*

**C: ascribe to the Lord honor and power.**

[8] Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; \*

**C: bring offerings and come into his courts.**

[9] Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; \*

**C: let the whole earth tremble before him.**

[10] Tell it out among the nations:

“The Lord is King! \*

**C: he has made the world so firm  
that it cannot be moved;**

**he will judge the peoples with equity.”**

[11] Let the heavens rejoice,  
and let the earth be glad;

let the sea thunder and all that is in it; \*

**C: let the field be joyful  
and all that is therein.**

[12] Then shall all the trees of the wood  
shout for joy before the Lord when he comes, \*

**C: when he comes to judge the earth.**

[13] He will judge the world with righteousness \*

**C: and the peoples with his truth.**

*The Epistle is written in Titus the second Chapter.*

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, [12] training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, [13] while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. [14] He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

**The Gradual Hymn****#55 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice**

[1] Good Christian friends, rejoice  
With heart and soul and voice;  
Give ye heed to what we say:  
Jesus Christ is born today;  
Ox and ass before him bow,  
And he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today!  
Christ is born today!

[2] Good Christian friends, rejoice  
With heart and soul and voice;  
Now ye hear of endless bliss:  
Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He has opened heaven's door,  
And we are blest for evermore.  
Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born for this!

[3] Good Christian friends, rejoice  
With heart and soul and voice;  
Now ye need not fear the grave;

Jesus Christ was born to save!  
 Calls you one and calls you all  
 To gain his everlasting hall.  
 Christ was born to save!  
 Christ was born to save!

*Composers & Copyrights:*

*Text: Medieval Latin carol—Public Domain*

*Tune: German melody, 14th cent., alt.—Public Domain*

*P. The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the  
 Second Chapter*

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. [2] This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. [3] All went to their own towns to be registered. [4] Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. [5] He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. [6] While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. [7] And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

[8] In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. [9] Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. [10] But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: [11] to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. [12] This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." [13] And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, [14] "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" [15] When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." [16] So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. [17] When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; [18] and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told

them. [19] But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. [20] The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**The Sermon**

**Hymn #60 Hark the Herald Angels Sing**

[1] Hark! The herald angels sing,  
 "Glory to the newborn king;  
 Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
 God and sinners reconciled."  
 Joyful, all you nations, rise;  
 Join the triumph of the skies;  
 With angelic hosts proclaim,  
 "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

[Refrain] 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 a virgin's womb.  
 Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!  
 Hail, incarnate deity!  
 Pleased as man with us to dwell,  
 Jesus, our Emmanuel! [Refrain]

[3] 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 we no more may die,  
 Born to raise each child of earth,  
 Born to give us second birth. [Refrain]

*Composers & Copyrights:*

*Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88—Public Domain*

*Tune: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-47, alt. Public Domain*

**The Nicene Creed**

**We believe in one God,  
 the Father, the Almighty,  
 maker of heaven and earth,  
 of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
 the only son of God,  
 eternally begotten of the Father,  
 God from God, Light from Light,  
 true God from true God,**

**begotten, not made,  
 of one being with the Father.  
 Through him all things were made.  
 For us and for our salvation  
 he came down from heaven:  
 by the power of the Holy Spirit  
 he became incarnate  
 from the Virgin Mary,  
 and was made man.  
 For our sake he was crucified  
 under Pontius Pilate;  
 he suffered death and was buried.  
 On the third day he rose again  
 in accordance with the Scriptures;  
 he ascended into heaven  
 and is seated  
 at the right hand of the Father.  
 He will come again in glory  
 to judge the living and the dead,  
 and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
 the Lord, the giver of life,  
 who proceeds from the Father  
 and the Son.  
 With the Father and the Son  
 he is worshipped and glorified.  
 He has spoken through the Prophets.  
 We believe in one holy catholic  
 and apostolic Church.  
 We acknowledge one baptism  
 for the forgiveness of sins.  
 We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
 and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

### *The Prayers of the Church*

#### *The Peace*

P. Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given:  
 and his name is called Prince of Peace. The peace of  
 the Lord be with you always.  
**C. And also with you.**

#### *The Offering*

**C. Create in me a clean heart, O God: and re-  
 new a right spirit within me. Cast me not  
 away from your presence, and take not your  
 Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy  
 of your salvation: and uphold me with your  
 free Spirit.**

#### *The Offertory Prayer*

P. Merciful God: It would have been enough for you

to give us the fruit of the earth by which we live.  
 But in this meal, by your promise, you also give us  
 your self. Use what we have gathered here in feed-  
 ing the world with your love; through Jesus Christ  
 our Lord. **Amen.**

#### *The Great Thanksgiving*

P. The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

P. Lift up your hearts.

**C. We lift them to the Lord.**

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C. It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

#### *The Preface*

P. It is indeed right, and salutary, that we should at  
 all times, and in all places, offer thanks and praise  
 to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our  
 Lord. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made  
 flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and  
 radiant vision of your glory; that, beholding the  
 God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God  
 whom we cannot see. And so, with the Church on  
 earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name  
 and join their unending hymn:

#### *The Sanctus*

**C. Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord, God of power and  
 might: Heaven and earth are full of your  
 glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the  
 highest. Blessed is he who comes in the  
 name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

#### *The Eucharistic Prayer*

P You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God;  
 you are most holy,

and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,  
 that whoever believes in him may not perish but  
 have eternal life. Having come into the world,  
 he fulfilled for us your holy will  
 and accomplished our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
 Take and eat; this is my + body, given for you.  
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my + blood,  
 shed for you and for all people

for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving Passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and his promise to come again, we give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, not as we ought, but as we are able; and we implore you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving, and, with your Word and Holy Spirit, to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine; that we and all who share in the body and blood of your Son may be filled with heavenly peace and joy, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be sanctified in soul and body, and have our portion with all your saints.

All honor and glory are yours,  
O God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church, now and forever.

**C Amen**

***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.**

***The Agnus Dei***

**Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace. Amen.**

***The Invitation to Holy Communion***

Taste and see that the Lord is good:  
**And His mercy endures forever. Amen.**  
***The Communion***

**Hymn #67 Away in a Manger**

[1] Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

[2] The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,  
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky  
And stay by my cradle till 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 fit us for heaven to live with you there.

*Composers & Copyrights:*

*Text: William Johnson, b. 1906—Public Domain*

*Tune: James R. Murray, 1841-1905—Public Domain*

**Hymn #54 It Came upon the Midnight Clear**

[1] 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.

[2] 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.

[3] And you, beneath life's crushing load,  
Whose forms are bending low,  
Who toil along the climbing way  
With painful steps and slow;  
Look now, for glad and golden hours  
Come swiftly on the wing;

Oh, rest beside the weary road  
And hear the angels sing!

[4] For lo! The days are hast'ning on,  
By prophets seen of old,  
When with the ever-circling years  
Shall come the time foretold,  
When peace shall over all the earth  
Its ancient splendors fling,  
And all the world give back the song  
Which now the angels sing.

*Composers & Copyrights:*

*Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810-76—Public Domain*

*Tune: Richard S. Willis, 1819-1900—Public Domain*

### **Hymn #71 Angels We Have Heard on High**

1. Angels we have heard on high  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains  
And the mountains in reply,  
Echoing their joyous strains.  
Glo-ori-a  
In excelsis de-o  
Glo-ori-a  
In excelsis de-o

2. Shepherds, why this Jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
Which inspire your heavenly song?  
Glo-ori-a  
In excelsis de-o  
Glo-ori-a  
In excelsis de-o

3. Come to Bethlehem and see  
Christ Whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee,  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.  
Glo-ori-a  
In excelsis de-o  
Glo-ori-a  
In excelsis de-o

*Composers & Copyrights:*

*Text: French carol - Public Domain*

*Tune: Nouveau recueil de cantiques, 1855 - Public Domain*

P. The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ  
strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

### **The Post-Communion Canticle**

**Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell everyone what he has done. Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name.**

**He recalls his promises and leads his people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

### **The Post-Communion Prayer**

P. Great and saving God,  
you have gathered your scattered people  
around the gifts of grain and wine,  
the true body and blood of our Savior Christ.  
As we, like the shepherds, return on our way, may  
we proclaim all we have heard and seen,  
praising you in word and loving deed  
for the gift of Jesus, our Savior and Lord.  
**C. Amen.**

### **The Lighting of the Candles**

P. Let us pray: Father of lights,  
from whom comes every good and perfect gift:  
keep us in the light of Christ,  
to shine in your world, that all may believe in you  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **C. Amen**

### **Hymn #40 What Child Is This**

[1] 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 ox and ass 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 loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high,  
The virgin sing her lullaby;  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
The babe, the son of Mary!

*Composers & Copyrights:*

*Text: William C. Dix, 1837-98—Public Domain*

*Tune: English ballad, 16th cent.—Public Domain*

**Hymn #65 Silent Night**

[1] 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!

[3] Silent night, holy night!  
 Son of God, love's pure light  
 Radiant beams from your holy face,  
 With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
 Jesus, Lord, at your birth,  
 Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

*Composers & Copyrights:**Text: Franz J. Mohr, 1792-1848—Public Domain**Tune: Franz X. Gruber, 1787-1863, alt. Public Domain****The Conclusion***

P. The Word of Life which was from the beginning we proclaim to you. The darkness is passing away, and the true Light is already shining. Jesus is the Word made flesh: Revealed in his glory, he was born of the Virgin Mary. Exalted to the highest heavens, he was worshipped by angels. Proclaimed among the nations, he is believed throughout the world. Glory to God in the Highest:

**C. And peace to his people on earth.**

***The Benediction***

P. May the joy of the angels,  
 the eagerness of the shepherds,  
 the perseverance of the wise men,  
 the obedience of Joseph and Mary,  
 and the peace of the Christ child  
 be yours this Christmas.

And the blessing of  
 the Father,  
 and the ✠ Son  
 and the Holy Spirit  
 be upon you always.

**C. Amen.**

**C. Amen.**

**C. Amen.**

***The Dismissal***

P. Christ is the Light of the world.

**C. Praise to Christ our Savior.**

P. Go, in the peace. Serve the Lord.

**C. Thanks be to Christ  
 our Light and our Life. Amen.**

*The congregation leaves in silence.*

