

Christmas Eve 2018
Festival Service of Lessons and Carols
Holy Communion



Ministers:	The people of St. Paul's– Crossroads
Pastor:	Pastor Creighton
Greeters:	Gary and Nan Larson
Accompanist:	Sheryl Harmeyer
Acolytes:	Lexi Allison and Kennedy Rasnick
Assisting Minister:	Laura Nicholson
Communion Assistant:	Darrell Nicholson
Sound System:	Ross Harmeyer
Offering Counters:	Dennis Westerfeld and Larry Siebert

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Assisting minister: The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light.

Congregation: **The light shines in the darkness
and the darkness has not
overcome it.**

Assisting minister: Those who dwelt in the land of
deep darkness, on them light has
shined.

Congregation: **We have beheld Christ's glory,
glory as of the only Son from the
Father.**

Assisting minister: To us a child is born, to us a Son is
given.

Congregation: **In him was life, and the life was
the light of all people.**

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Assisting Minister: Let the light of this candle be a reminder for us of the
hope, peace, joy, and love you gave us dear Lord in the birth of your
precious Son. As we celebrate his coming among us as a babe in Bethlehem,

and watch for his coming again, may your loving and guiding presence be ever with us. Let us rejoice in God our Savior!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Presiding minister: The Lord be with you.

Congregation: **And also with you.**

Presiding minister: Let us pray.

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 Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Congregation: **Amen**

GATHERING MUSIC

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ELW 279

CHILDREN'S SERMON

LESSONS AND CAROLS

FIRST LESSON: *Isaiah 9:2–7*

Laura Nicholson

Carol: It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

ELW 282

SECOND LESSON: *Luke 1:26-38*

Noah Mack

Carol: Go Tell It on the Mountain

ELW 290

THIRD LESSON: *Luke 2:1-7*

Quinn Rasnick

Special Music: O Holy Night by Laura and Aaron Nicholson

FOURTH LESSON: *Luke 2:8-15*

Patrick O'Hara

Carol: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

ELW 270

FIFTH LESSON: *Luke 2:16-20*

Gena Mack

Carol: Angels We Have Heard On High

ELW 289

SIXTH LESSON: *John 3:16-17*

Aaron Nicholson

Carol: Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

ELW 288

SEVENTH LESSON: *John 1:1-18*

Adam Mack

Carol: O Come, All Ye Faithful

ELW 283

SERMON

The assembly stands and all confess their faith.

**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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**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,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who 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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The assisting minister leads the assembly in prayer.

Filled with wonder and joy that God's gift of grace has been given in the Son born for us, let us pray for the church, the good creation, and the needs of all.

Everlasting God, let your radiance shine forth and renew in your people an eager desire to proclaim the good news of salvation to those who still wait in darkness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creating God, on this blessed night the heavens and the earth rejoice. Make us ever mindful of our calling to be faithful stewards of all you have given us, so that generations to come may flourish and praise you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Peacemaking God, we pray for those nations where your peace does not yet reign. Have mercy on our enemies, and deliver those who are caught in cycles of violence. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Wonderful Counselor, shelter those who seek refuge and safety but find no welcome. Help those who are homeless, hungry, unemployed, without health care, and all who are in any need or distress. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Mighty God, watch over those who travel to join loved ones, and those who are lonely or grieving. Bless all who seek you, and open our hearts to receive the gift of your love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We give thanks for the faithful who treasured the gospel in lives of witness and service. We wait in hope to join the multitude of the heavenly hosts in praising and glorifying you forever. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Into the manger of your love, holy God, we lay our prayers, trusting in your promise made known to us in Jesus the Christ, our brother and Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

ELW p. 143

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

OFFERING

OFFERING SONG

Love Has Come

ELW p. 292

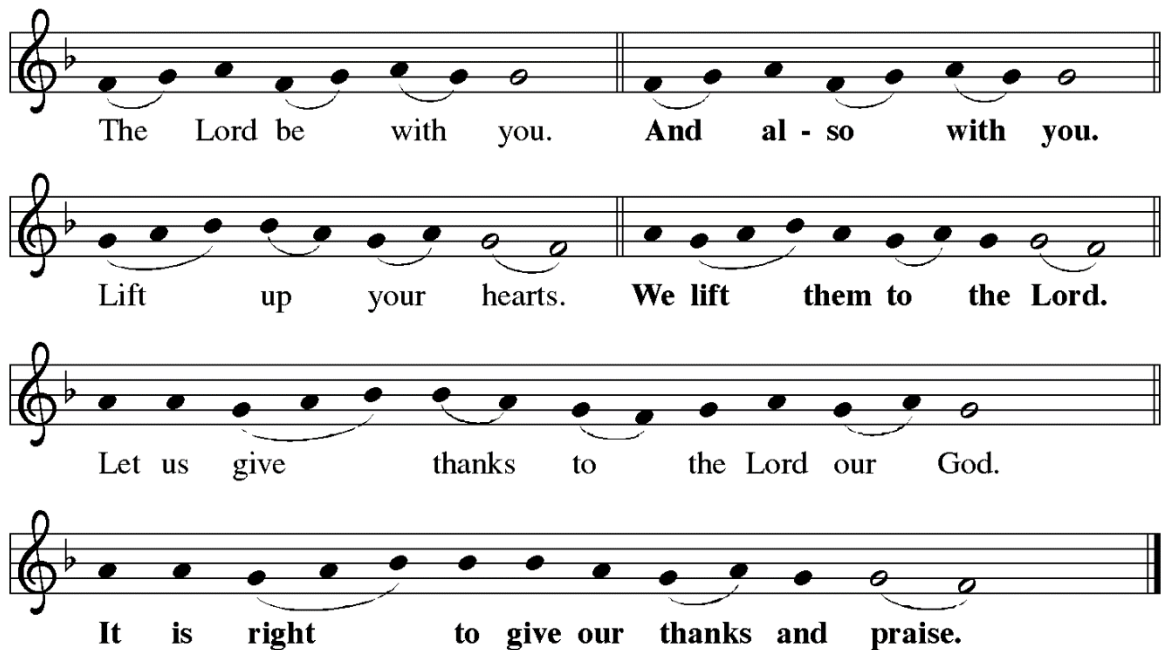
OFFERING PRAYER

Assistant minister: Good and loving God,

Congregation: **we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

DIALOGUE

The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right and salutary, ...
praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW p. 144

♪ **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r 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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.

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.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The presiding minister addresses the assembly in invitation.

The assembly is seated. The bread may be broken for the communion.

All are welcome at Christ's table! If you are a visitor and receive communion at your home church, you are invited to do so here. Everyone is invited to receive communion or a blessing.

COMMUNION SONG

ELW p. 146

♪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.

COMMUNION

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say
The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
and each person may respond
Amen.

The congregation is invited to sing during Communion –
Hymns 277, 275, 296, 300

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

After Holy Communion has been distributed, the assembly stands and the presiding minister says:

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

Candles are lit.



SONG AFTER COMMUNION

Silent Night

ELW 281

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The assisting minister leads the following prayer.

Let us pray.

Great and saving God, you have gathered your scattered people around gifts of grain and wine, the 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.

Amen.

Candles are extinguished

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Presiding minister:

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, and the peace of the Christ child this night and always.

Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit
bless you now and forever
and remain with you always.

Amen.

Go in the peace of God's gift of love. (assisting minister)

Thanks be to God!

SENDING SONG: *Joy to the World*

ELW 267

POSTLUDE

*And they went with haste
and found **Mary**
and **Joseph,**
and **the baby**
lying in a manger.*

