

The Nativity of Our Lord



Gloria In Excelsis Deo!

“In the mystery of the Word made flesh [God has] given us a new revelation of [His] glory.” God’s holy angels are sent to proclaim the good news. Unto us a Child is born. Glory to God in the Highest, peace on earth, goodwill toward men.

Hope Lutheran Church-DeWitt MI



We are a people walking in darkness, but on this night a great light shines upon us. God “caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true

Light” (Collect “Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you” (Luke 2:11). Not only for the ancient people of God but for all nations has the Savior appeared. “Ascribe to the Lord, O

families of nations, . . . the glory due his name; bring an offering and come into his courts. . . . Tremble before him, all the earth” (Ps. 96:7-9). God’s glory bursts on the world and peace is given to those on whom His favor rests. A child is born, a son is given. He comes as the awaited King. “Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end” (Is. 9:6-7). For that peace, He gave Himself so He might ransom us and purify us for God’s service. While we wait for the fulfillment of our hope, God purifies us so we may lead upright lives in the midst of our unrighteous age (Titus 2:11-14). To celebrate Christmas is to share in the light and to reveal that light to the ages.

From Proclaim B, CPH

We welcome you to Hope, and it is a blessing to have you here. Our Lord has put His name upon us in blessing at the beginning of the service, and is given to us in blessing again at our departure. May our time spent in service and prayer today be filled with the Holy Spirit; so that we may speak of God’s love and glory to those in our lives.

The order of service follows the daily office of Evening Prayer with Lessons and Carols (resource Lutheran Service Book pg. 243)

Hope Lutheran Church-an LCMS Congregation

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✠ *In the Name of Jesus* ✠

Christmas Eve-The Nativity of Our Lord

Candlelight Evening Prayer with Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 24, 2023 A.D.

Prelude Music:

Ringers of Hope “Born is the King” and “Of the Father’s Love Begotten

Organ:

Prelude on Greensleeves
Now Sing We, Now Rejoice

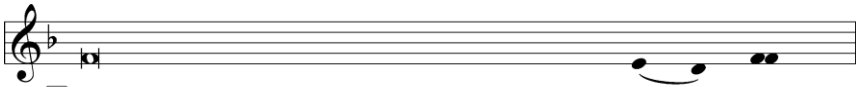
Richard Purvis
Paul Manz

At the conclusion of the bell toll, please stand and face the processional crucifix.

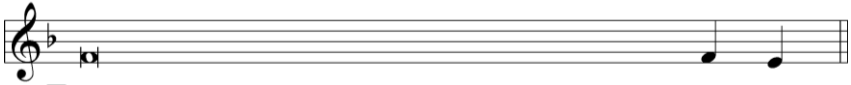
The Proclamation of the Birth of Christ- Spoken by Pastor.

✠ Service of Light ✠

In procession the liturgist begins in the back of the nave and chants:

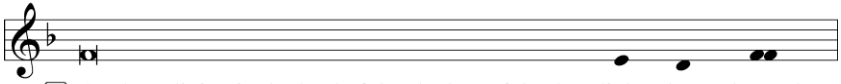


L The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

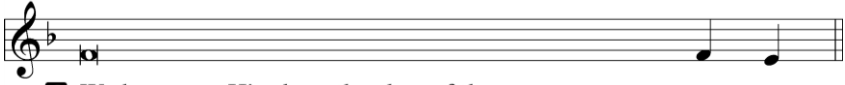


C The light shines in the darkness,
but the darkness has not under - stood it.

The liturgist proceeds to the middle of the nave and chants:

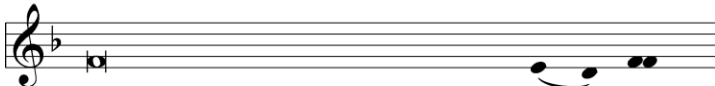


L On those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.



C We have seen His glory, the glory of the
one and only Son who came from the Fa - ther.

The liturgist proceeds to the front of the nave and chants:



L For to us a child is born, to us a Son is giv - en.



C In Him was life, and that life was the light of men.

Phos Hilaron Joyous Light of Glory

arr. by Kevin Hildebrand

The themes of light and darkness, so much a part of the testimony of John concerning Christ, the Light of the world, are developed in Phos hilaron ("Joyous light of glory") in the Service of Light in Evening Prayer, this ancient lamp-lighting hymn played a prominent role in the Evening Prayer service. The candle torches will be lit during the singing of the Phos Hilaron

Solo: Joyous light of glory. joyous light of glory of the immortal Father heavenly, holy, blessed Jesus Christ.

ALL SING REFRAIN:

Joy - ous light of — glo-ry, joy - ous light of —
glo-ry of the im - mor-tal Fa - ther; heav-en-ly, ho-ly, bless-ed Je - sus Christ.

Choir: We have come to the setting of the sun and we look to the evening light. **All Sing Refrain**

Choir: We sing to God! The Father Son and Holy Spirit. You are worthy of being praised with pure voices forever. **All Sing Refrain**

Choir(s): O Son of God, O Giver of life; the universe proclaims Your glory! **All Sing Refrain**

Thanksgiving for Light *Prayer Spoken or Chanted by Pastor*

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of the universe, who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ; may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for You are merciful, and You love Your whole creation and we, Your creatures, glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C Amen

Be Seated

Choral Introit: When All Was Still and It Was Midnight

*Choir or Soloist: When all was still and it was midnight Your Almighty Word
O Lord descended from the royal throne.*

Why do the | nations rage
and the people | plot in vain*



**The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers
take counsel to- | gether,*
against the LORD and against his a- | nointed.
He who sits in the | heavens laughs;*
the Lord holds them in de- | rision.
Then he will speak to them | in his wrath,*
and terrify them in his fury, | saying,
“As for me, I have | set my King*
on Zion, my | holy hill.”**

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

*Choir or Soloist: When all was still and it was midnight Your Almighty Word
O Lord descended from the royal throne*

Prayer

L Let us pray. Let the incense of our repentant prayer ascend before You, O Lord, and let Your loving-kindness descend on us that, with purified minds, we may sing Your praises with the Church on earth and the whole heavenly host and may glorify You forever.

C Amen

Introduction

ALL

1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten Ere the worlds be -
 gan to be, He is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
 He the source, the end - ing He, Of the things that are, that
 have been, And that fu - ture years shall see
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

2.

Choir

Oh, that birth forever blessed,
 When the virgin, full of grace,
 By the Holy Ghost conceiving,
 Bore the Savior of our race,
 And the babe, the world's Redeemer,
 First revealed His sacred face
 Evermore and evermore.

3.

Men:

This is He whom seers in old time
 Chanted of with one accord,
 Whom the voices of the prophets
 Promised in their faithful word.

Add Women and Children:

Now He shines, the long-expected;
 Let creation praise its Lord
 Evermore and evermore.

4. **ALL** (*sung antiphonally with choir*)

O ye heights of heav'n, adore Him;
 Angel hosts, His praises sing.
 Pow'rs, dominions, bow before Him
 And extol our God and King.
 Let no tongue on earth be silent,
 Ev'ry voice in concert ring
 Evermore and evermore.

△ 5. **ALL**

Christ, to Thee, with God the Father,
 And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee
 Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
 And unending praises be,
 Honor, glory, and dominion,
 And eternal victory
 Evermore and evermore.

✠ Readings ✠

Readings from Holy Scripture

Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

Reading Response

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Children's Choir: For Unto Us a Child is Born

To us a Child is born, to us a Son is given. This Christmas we receive the blessed gift of heaven.

The prophets spoke about the Savior God would send, the glorious Prince of Peace, whose kingdom shall not end. *Ref.*

The angels sang God's praise, amid the heavens bright. We also join in song and fill the church with light. *Ref.*

The shepherds left the sheep, they watched in nearby fields, to see the Lamb of God, in human flesh revealed. *Ref.*

We also kneel before, the Babe in humble stall, the Lord of righteousness who came to save us all. *Ref.*

Reading: Titus 2:11-14

Reading Response

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Choir Response: In Dulci Jubilo (In Sweet Rejoicing)

Dietrich Buxtehude (1639-1707)

Now sing we now rejoice. Now raise to heaven our voice; He from whom joy streameth poor in a manger child lies. Not so brightly beameth, the sun in yonder skies. Thou my Savior art!

Come from on high to me; I can not rise to Thee. Cheer my wearied spirit, O pure and holy Child; Through Thy grace and merit, blest Jesus Lord most mild, Draw me unto Thee!

Now through His Son doth shine. The Father's grace divine. Death over us had reigned. Through sin and vanity; He for us obtained, Eternal joy on high. May we parise Him there!

Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heavenly ground? Where angels singing with all His saints unite. Sweetest praises bringing in heavenly joy and light. Oh That we were there! Oh that we were there....!

Readings from the Holy Gospel St. Luke the Second Chapter

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 2nd Chapter

The Birth of Jesus Christ

Reading Luke 2:1-5

Reading Response

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Hymn - Once in Royal David's City

LSB 376

Solo 1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y Stood a
All 2 He came down to earth from heav - en, Who is
All 4 And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His
low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a moth - er laid her
God and Lord of all, And His shel - ter was a
own re - deem - ing love; For that child so dear and
ba - by In a man - ger for His bed; Mar - y
sta - ble, And His cra - dle was a stall; With the
gen - tle Is our Lord in heav'n a - bove; And He
was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
poor and mean and low - ly Lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
leads His chil - dren on To the place where He is gone.

All 5. Not in that poor, lowly stable
With the oxen standing by
Shall we see Him, but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high.
Then like stars His children, crowned,
All in white, His praise will sound!

Reading Luke 2:6-7

Reading Response

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Hymn - Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

arr. Mark Sheppard

Introduction



Women 1 In - fant ho - ly, In - fant low - ly, For His bed a cat - tle stall;
All 2 Flocks were sleep - ing, Shep - herds keep - ing Vig - il till the morn - ing new



Men Ox - en low - ing, Lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
All Saw the glo - ry, Heard the sto - ry, Tid - ings of a Gos - pel true.



All Swift - ly wing - ing, An - gels sing - ing, Bells are ring - ing, Tid - ings bring - ing:
All Thus re - joic - ing, Free from sor - row, Prais - es voic - ing, Greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all! *Interlude*
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

The Shepherds and the Angels

Reading Luke 2:8-14

Reading Response

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.



Hymn-Angels We Have Heard on High

Introduction



1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy-ous strains pro-long?
3 Come to Beth-le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;



And the moun-tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad-some tid - ings be Which in-spire your heav'n - ly song?
Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.



Refrain
Glo - - - - ri - a



in ex-cel-sis De - o. Glo - - -



- ri - a in ex-cel-sis De - o.

Reading *Luke 2:15–16*

Reading Response

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.



Hymn- Where Shepherds Lately Knelt

LSB 369



All 1 Where shep-herds late - ly knelt and kept the an - gel's word,
 All 2 In that un - like - ly place I find Him as they said:
 Choir 3 How should I not have known I - sa - iah would be there,
 All 4 Can I, will I for - get how Love was born, and burned



I come in half - be - lief, a pil - grim strange - ly stirred;
 Sweet new - born babe, how frail! And in a man - ger bed:
 His proph - e - cies ful - filled? With pound - ing heart I stare:
 Its way in - to my heart— un - asked, un - forced, un - earned,



But there is room and wel - come there for me,
 A still, small voice to cry one day for me,
 A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me,
 To die, to live, and not a - lone for me,



But there is room and wel - come there for me.
 A still, small voice to cry one day for me.
 A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me. *Interlude*
 To die, to live, and not a - lone for me?

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Reading Luke 2:17–20

Reading Response

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn -What Child Is This

LSB 370

Introduction

1. *Women/Children* 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?

Add Men 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 *Men* Why lies He in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.

Add Women and Children 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 **ALL** 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 sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
The babe, the son of Mary!

Choir: *Amen!*

L In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

C **But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His son.**

Sermon

Offering- Ringers of Hope, Coventry Carol

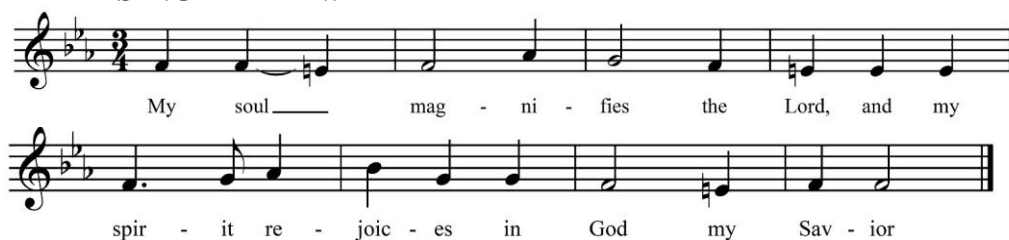
✠ Prayer and Candle Lighting ✠

The ushers' candle will be lit by the Pastor. The congregation will light their candles from the usher's candles. Candles are lit by tipping the unlit candle. Children should use their battery candles.

Lighting of the Candles- "Magnificat" arr. by Matthew Machemer

Choir: My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior

ALL SING RERAIN:



My soul _____ mag - ni - fies the Lord, and my
spir - it re - joic - es in God my Sav - ior

Choir: For he has regarded the lowliness of His hand maiden for behold from this day all generations will call me blessed. For the mighty One has done great thinks to me, and holy is His name, and His mercy is on the those who fear Him from generation to generation.

ALL SING REFRAIN

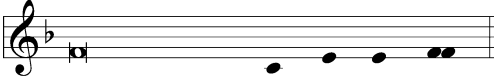
Choir: He has shown strength with his arm He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has exalted the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good thinks, and the rich He has sent empty away. He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy and He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever.

ALL SING REFRAIN

Choir: 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.

Stand

Litany



L In peace let us pray to the Lord:



C Lord, have mer - cy.

L For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For [*names of synodical and district presidents*], for all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For [*name of president or monarch*], for all public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the

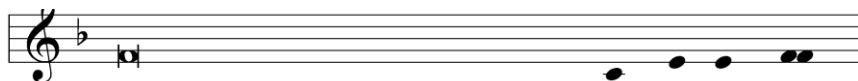
Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For . . . [*additional bids for prayer may be inserted here*] . . . let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy

The prayers then continue:

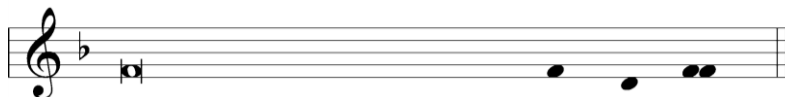


L For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:

Break in music, then all sing Alleluia



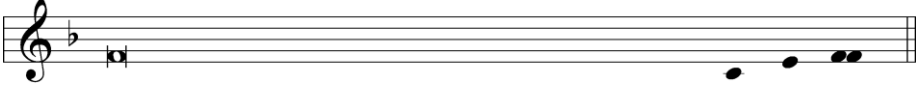
Common: **C** Al - le - lu - ia.



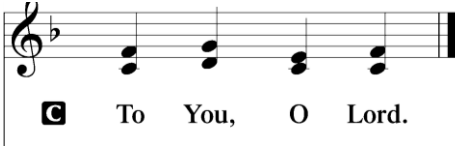
L Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



Silence for individual prayer may follow.



L Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord:



C To You, O Lord.

Collect For Peace

L O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

L Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

Lord's Prayer

C 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.

*Both the English and the German text are printed.
You are encouraged to sing which ever text you want.*

All 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.

1. Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
Alles schläft, einsam wacht
Nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh.

Musical Interlude

All 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!

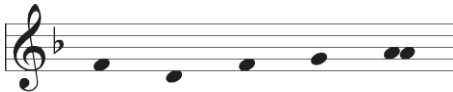
2. Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
Hirten erst kundgemacht,
Durch der Engel Halleluja
Tönt es laut von fern und nah:
Christ, der Retter, ist da,
Christ, der Retter, ist da!

All 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.

3. Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
Gottes Sohn, o wie lacht
Lieb aus deinem göttlichen Mund,
Da uns schlägt die rettende Stund,
Christ, in deiner Geburt,
Christ, in deiner Geburt.

Please Stand

Benedicamus

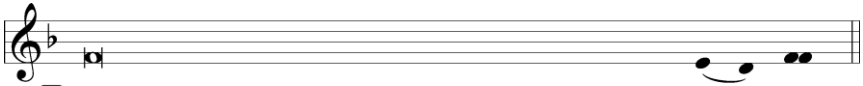


[L] Let us bless the Lord.

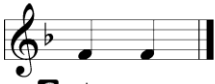


[C] Thanks be to God.

Benediction



L The almighty and merciful Lord,
the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and pre - serve us.



C A - men.

Please extinguish candles

Recessional Hymn - Joy to the World

G.F. Handel/Lowell Mason



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him
ploy; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
ground; He comes to make His bless - ings
prove; The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing. *Interlude*
joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy. *Interlude*
found, Far as, far as the curse is found. *Interlude*
love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

Go In Peace

✧ Participants ✧

Pastor	Rev. Dr. Tony Sikora
Director of Music	Nicole Leppala
Organist	Michael Kutch
Crucifer	Nicholas Sikora
Violin	Yu Xin
Violin	Wei Jia
Bass	Wen Peng

Ringers of Hope, Mixed Choir, Youth Bells/Choir

Alter Guild:

Elder:

<i>Worship Schedule</i>

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The Proclamation of the Birth of Christ taken from The Roman Martyrology; also referenced to the Lutheran Confession Blog Spot