



## Christmas Eve

### Grace Lutheran Church

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Rochester, Minnesota 55906  
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The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod  
Pastor Peter Gueldner  
Church Office  
Church Office Hours  
Pete Heyrman, President  
Ron Daede, Elder  
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Rochester Central Lutheran School

Wednesday, December 24, 2025  
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## Serving This Evening

**WORSHIP LEADER**

**ELDERS/USHERS**

**4PM**

**6PM**

Pastor Peter Guelchner

Corey Nelson

Ron Daede, Mark Heaton

**ORGAN/PIANO** Hope Nelson

**LIVESTREAM** Emilie Pentico



## Silent Prayer Before Worship

Lord, on this Christmas Eve, we pause to prepare our hearts for a most beautiful celebration: Your birth and coming to earth as our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Clear our minds so we can focus on You and the joy You bring to us through Your gift of salvation. May the same thrill and anticipation that filled Mary, the chosen mother of Jesus, consume us and draw us close to You. May our spirits cry out, “Alleluia,” with the host of angels who first delivered the good news of great joy to humble, awe-struck shepherds that night so long ago—the news that would literally one day be heard around the world. Amen.

## Congregational Prayers

✠ Diane Grieve

✠ Sam Konakowitz

✠ Pat Swanson

✠ Allen Kvitem

✠ John & Bea Beilke

✠ Patricia Meyer

✠ Don & Kathy Jungwirth

✠ Jon Swanson

## Lectionary Summary for Christmas Eve

### *The Word of the Lord Is Fulfilled in the Flesh of Jesus*

Though Ahaz would not ask, the Lord gives a sign to the house of David, that “*the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel*” (Is. 7:14). With this promise, He signifies that salvation is by His grace alone; it is no work or achievement of man, but the Lord’s own work and His free gift. The promise is fulfilled as the Son of God is conceived and born of the blessed Virgin Mary, and the sign is received in faith by the house of David in the person of Joseph (Matt. 1:20–24). “Incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary” (Nicene Creed), God is with us (Immanuel) in the flesh of Jesus, Mary’s Son. Joseph believes that Word of God and so demonstrates a marvelous example in his immediate and quiet obedience, taking Mary to be his wife and caring for her in faith and love. He loves her because the love of God is manifest in this, that “*the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world,*” “*to be the propitiation for our sins*” (1 John 4:10, 14).

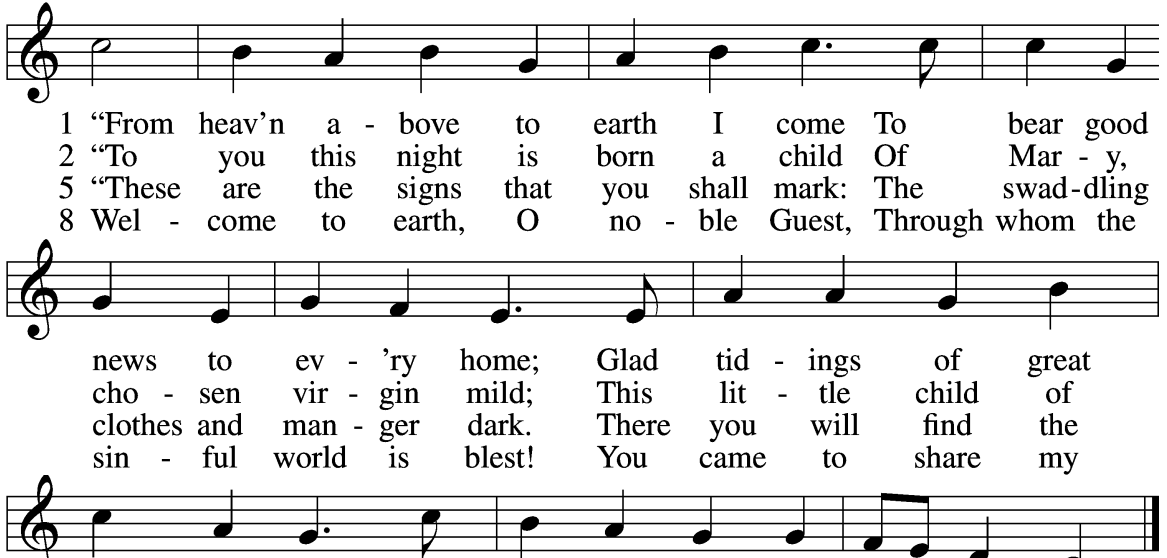
## Hymn of Invocation

## LSB 358 From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

sts. 1-2,5,8,14-15

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.; Tune: Geistliche lieder, Leipzig, 1539, ed. Valtin Schumann

Text and tune: Public domain



1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come To bear good  
 2 "To you this night is born a child Of Mar - y,  
 5 "These are the signs that you shall mark: The swad-dling  
 8 Wel - come to earth, O no - ble Guest, Through whom the  
 news to ev - 'ry home; Glad tid - ings of great  
 cho - sen vir - gin mild; This lit - tle child of  
 clothes and man - ger dark. There you will find the  
 sin - ful world is blest! You came to share my  
 joy I bring, Where - of I now will say and sing:  
 low - ly birth Shall be the joy of all the earth.  
 in - fant laid By whom the heav'ns and earth were made."  
 mis - er - y That You might share Your joy with me.

14 My heart for very joy must leap;  
 My lips no more can silence keep.  
 I, too, must sing with joyful tongue  
 That sweetest ancient cradlesong:

15 Glory to God in highest heav'n,  
 Who unto us His Son has giv'n!  
 While angels sing with pious mirth  
 A glad new year to all the earth.

## Invocation

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## Exhortation

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

## Confession of Sins

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

## Absolution

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## Introit

I will tell of | the decree:\*

The LORD said to me, “You are my Son; today I have be- | gotten you.”

The earth is the LORD’s and the full- | ness thereof, \*

the world and those who | dwell therein.

Who shall ascend the hill | of the LORD? \*

And who shall stand in his | holy place?

He who has clean hands and a | pure heart, \*

who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear de- | ceitfully.

He will receive blessing | from the LORD \*

and righteousness from the God of his sal- | vation.

**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.**

I will tell of | the decree:\*

The LORD said to me, “You are my Son; today I have be- | gotten you.”

## Kyrie

**A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**A** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**A** 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.

**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C** Amen.

### Gloria in Excelsis

**A** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.

**C** Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father:  
We worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God:  
You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.  
For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord,  
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

### Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

### Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 7:10-14*

<sup>10</sup>Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, <sup>11</sup>“Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” <sup>13</sup>And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Gradual

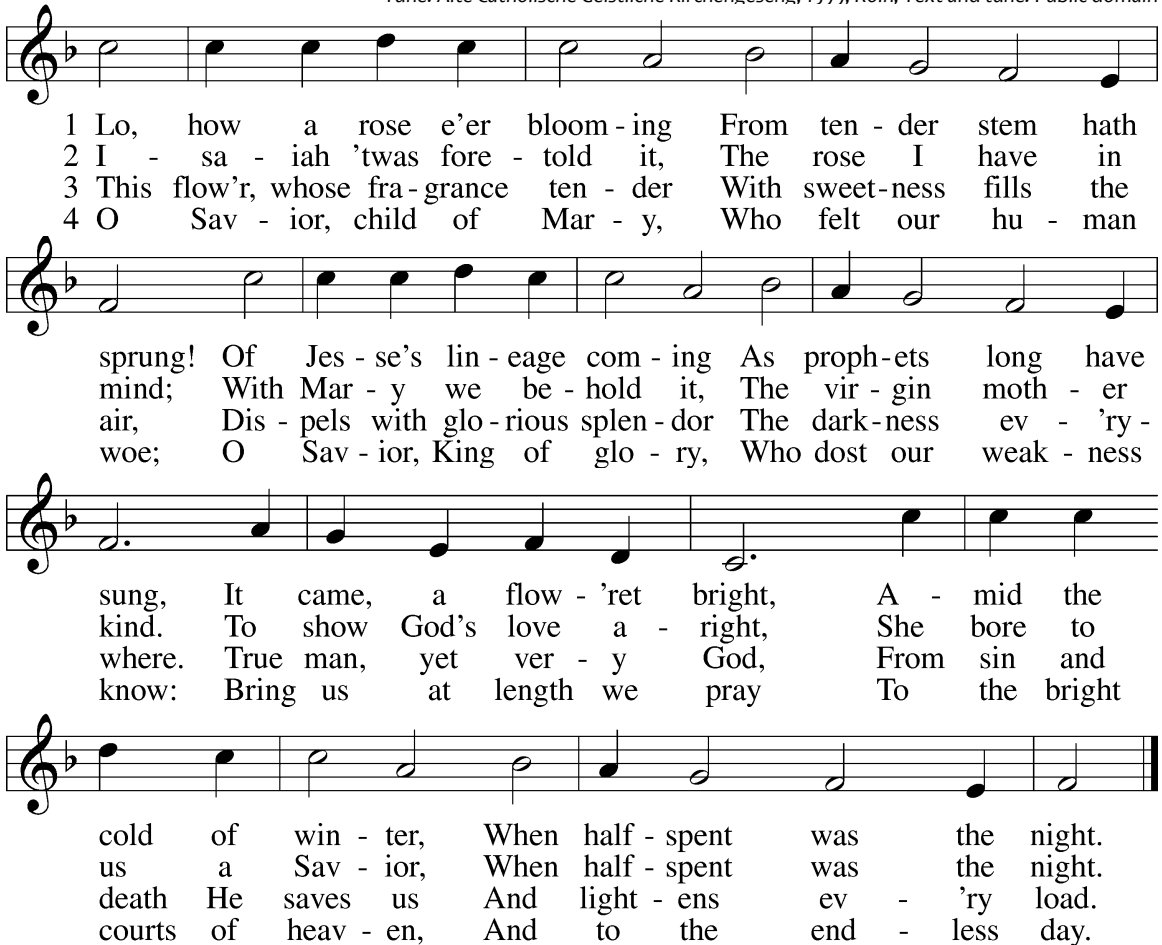
To us a child is born, to us a son is | given;\*  
and the government shall be upon his | shoulder.  
And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, | Mighty God,\*  
Everlasting Father, | Prince of Peace.  
Sing to the Lord a | new song,\*  
for he has done | marvelous things!

## Hymn

### LSB 359 Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming

Text (sts. 1–2): tr. Theodore Baker, 1851–1934, alt.; (sts. 1–2, 4): German, 16th cent.; (st. 3): Friedrich L. C. Layriz, 1808–59; (st. 3): tr. Harriet R. K. Spaeth, 1845–1925; (st. 4): tr. John C. Mattes, 1876–1948

Tune: Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng, 1599, Köln; Text and tune: Public domain



1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing From ten - der stem hath  
2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, The rose I have in  
3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der With sweet - ness fills the  
4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, Who felt our hu - man  
sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing As proph - ets long have  
mind; With Mar - y we be - hold it, The vir - gin moth - er  
air, Dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor The dark - ness ev - 'ry -  
woe; O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry, Who dost our weak - ness  
sung, It came, a flow - 'ret bright, A - mid the  
kind. To show God's love a - right, She bore to  
where. True man, yet ver - y God, From sin and  
know: Bring us at length we pray To the bright  
cold of win - ter, When half - spent was the night.  
us a Sav - ior, When half - spent was the night.  
death He saves us And light - ens ev - 'ry load.  
courts of heav - en, And to the end - less day.

## Epistle

1 John 4:7-16

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup>In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Alleluia and Verse

**C** Alleluia.

Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, alleluia.

## Holy Gospel

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: <sup>23</sup>“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (*which means, God with us*). <sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup>but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.



## Hymn of the Day

## 370 What Child is This?

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98; Tune: English, 16th cent.; Text and tune: Public domain



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is  
2 Why lies He in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are  
3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to



sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While  
feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The  
own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is  
si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall  
lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the



Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;  
pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;  
song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar - y!  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

## Sermon





## Offering

### Offertory

- C** What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?  
I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.  
I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.  
I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,  
in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

### Apostles' Creed

- C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.  
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life ☩ everlasting. Amen.

### Prayer of the Church

#### 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.

## Benediction

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**C** Amen.

## Hymn to Depart

### LSB 363 Silent Night, Holy Night

Text: Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792–1848; tr. John F. Young, 1820–85; Tune: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1787–1863; Text and tune: Public domain

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,  
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake  
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,  
all is bright Round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.  
at the sight; Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,  
love's pure light Ra - diant beams from Thy ho - ly face  
Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, Sleep in heav - en - ly  
Heav'n - ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is  
With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy  
peace, born! Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
birth, Je - sus, the Sav - ior, is born!  
Lord, at Thy birth.



Thank you for joining us this evening!  
God's Blessings on your Christmas!

## Acknowledgments

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