



About the Cover

The Old Testament sacrifices and offerings were always given in order to point forward to Christ. Christ has come to fulfill the Law, not merely with the outward observance of sacrifices and offerings, but with His whole body. For Christ has accomplished what we could never do. By taking on human flesh, He has redeemed and sanctified us, going all the way to the cross. He has become the one-time and eternal sacrifice for us.

What a Gift!

If we are honest with ourselves, we realize that we don't really deserve the Christmas gifts we receive. Someone loves us and thinks of us so much that he or she gives us a gift!

Our gracious God has given us a gift—His only Son. What a gift! Completely undeserved. Wrapped in swaddling cloths, the gift was the long-awaited Messiah, "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, . . . Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6). Jesus, the Christ!

This is the greatest gift we can receive. It is free but expensive. It cost the Father His Son. It cost the Son His life. None of us deserves this gift. What we deserve is punishment for our sins now and in eternity. Jesus came to save us from our sins (see 1 Timothy 1:15). When He said from the cross, "It is finished," His mission of saving us from our sins was accomplished (John 19:30).

Jesus is the gift that keeps on giving. In faith, we receive Him, our only Savior for this life and the life to come, the forgiveness of our sins, life, and salvation.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,

Descend to us, we pray (LSB 361:4). Amen.

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PORTALS
of PRAYER

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When Christ came into the world





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Dec. 22 2024
S.S. Christmas
Program

Memories of Christmas Past
Christmas Program, Dec. 22nd, 2024

Welcome; For our Year of Remembrance and 150th Anniversary of our church, we will look back to Christmas traditions we have known.

Opening Hymn by Congregation; #379 O Come, All Ye Faithful

- O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem; Come and behold Him,
Born the king of angels; **Refrain**
- Sing choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,
Sing all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, - In - the - highest, **Refrain;**
- Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee - be - glory given!
Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing! **Refrain**



*Refrain; O come, let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him;
Christ the Lord!*

In the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit;

C. Amen.

Unto us child is born, unto us a Son is given;



And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

A Son shall be born to you, and you shall call Him Jesus
For He will save His people from their sins.

Let us pray; Heavenly Father, we pray that you would be with us and bless us with Your Holy Spirit as we remember the joy, the meaning, and the power of Christmas' past. Help us to see how we also join in this chain of remembering and sharing the process of honoring Jesus, our Savior, born in a manger, to be our King.

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming; German, 16th Century; Friedrich Layritz
Tune; *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng, Koln, Deutschland, 1599*

The Congregation Sings; #359

- Lo, how a rose e'er blooming; From tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming, As prophets long have sung.
It came, a flower'et bright,
Amid the cold of winter, When half-spent was the night.
- Isaiah 'twas foretold it, The rose I have in mind;
With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright,
She bore to us a Savior, When half-spent was the night.
- O Savior, child of Mary, who felt our human woe;
O Savior, King of glory, Who dost our weakness know:
Bring us at length we pray,
To the bright courts of heaven, and to the end-less day.



The Candle Lighting;

P. We begin this service of remembrance thinking of and honoring not only our traditions and families, but also the individuals, the Saints and Angels of God, who through the years have brought to us the Christmas Story. As we remember the birth of Jesus, we also remember those who told us that story.

L. Reading from John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

L. Jesus Christ is the Light of the world!

C. Light of the world, shine down upon us!

God is light! In Him there is no darkness!

**If we say we belong to Jesus, and still walk in darkness,
we lie and do not tell the truth.**

But, if we walk in the light, as He is in the light,

**we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus,
cleanses us from all sin.**

Jesus said, "I am the Light of the World."

**The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness does not
Overcome it.**

Jesus said, "Let your light shine!"

We light this candle of remembrance today – *(light the candle)* - remembering the people and the times of Christmas Past. Those who have gone before us light our way. We welcome Jesus, the light of the world, and pray that He will shine in our hearts, both now and forever.

C. Amen.

We usually celebrate the Christmas Story with the telling of the birth of Jesus. The children have helped us for many years as they told the Christmas story, with all the familiar characters, the Wisemen, shepherds, stars, angels, camels, sheep, and sang the familiar carols. This year we want to remember how the faithful have celebrated the birth of Jesus in years past. The process is not new. The story has been told for a long time, and we want to review it for you today.



It all starts with a Christmas Tree! The Christmas Tree song in German means, "O Fir Tree" The song was written by Ernst Anschutz in 1824. It has been sung for many years in preparation for Christmas.

The Children sing: "O Tannenbaum"

*O Tannenbaum, O Tannenbaum, wie treu sind deine blätter
O Tannenbaum, O Tannenbaum, wie treu sind deine blätter*

Not only green when Summer's here,

But also when -it's cold and drear,

O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree, your leaves are so unchanging.



The tree must be decorated.

How have we done it in the past?



The kids decorate the tree while we sing;

Hymn; **Of the Father's Love begotten;** Text Aurelius Clemens, 348 A.D.

Tune; Plainsong, 13th Century

Of the Father's love begotten, Ere the worlds began to be;
He is Alpha and Omega; He the source, the end—ing he.
Of the things that are, that have - - been; and that future years shall see;
Ev-er more and ev-er mo - re.

Oh, that birth for-ever blessed When the virgin, full of grace;
By the Holy Ghost conceiv-ing Bore the Savior of our race
And the babe, the world's Redeem- - - er; first revealed his sacred face
Ev-er more and ev-er mo - re.

This is He whom seers in old time; chanted of with one ac-cord
Whom the voices of the prophets promised in their faith-ful word.
Now he shines, the long expec - ted Let creation praise its Lord
Ev-er more and ev-er mo - re.

What would Christmas be without Candy Canes?
(The kids place candy canes on the tree)



Congregation Hymn; #386 Now Sing We, Now Rejoice
 - tune, German 14th Century

Now sing we, now rejoice, Now raise to heaven our voice;
 He from whom joy stream-eth, poor in a manger lies;
 Not so brightly beam-eth the sun in yonder skies.
 Thou my Savior art! 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 mer-it, Blest Jesus, Lord most mild;
 Draw me unto Thee! Draw me unto Thee!

Now through His Son doth shine, the Father's grace divine.
 Death was reign-ing over us, through sin and vanity.
 Till He opened for us, a bright eternity.
 May we praise Him there! May we praise Him there!

The Shepherds tell the Story; Luke 2:8-14
 Children Sing; "Go, Tell it on the Mountain".



The Glory of the Angels Singing;
 The angels tell the story of Jesus' birth;

Congregation sings Angels We Have Heard on High #368



Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
 And the mountains in reply, Echo-ing their joyous strains.

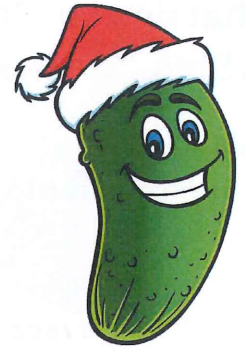
Glo - - - - ria in excelsis De-o
Glo - - - - ria in excelsis De-o

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
 What the gladsome tidings be, which inspire your heaven-ly song? **Glo ...**

Come to Bethlehem and see, Him whose birth the angels sing;
 Come adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the new-born King! **Glo ...**

Have you ever heard of a Christmas Pickle?

Perhaps his name was McDill Gerkin; Or maybe **Larry!**



Let there be light!

The Evolution of Christmas lights;
 Can you really put a lit candle on a dry Christmas Tree?
(Christmas Tree Candle Clamps are from Joann Brooks)



El Dean Holthus; his remembrance of the first Christmas tree he saw with electric lights at Zion Lutheran Church, Athol.

The Christmas Story Continues;
Luke 2:2-7 ² This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Kids sing Away in a Manger; #364

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed.
 The little Lord Jesus, lay down His sweet head,
 The stars in the sky, look down where He lay,
 The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
 But little Lord, Jesus, no crying He makes.
 I love Thee, Lord Jesus, Look down from the sky,
 And stay by my cradle, till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay,
 Close by me forever, and love me I pray.
 Bless all the dear children, in Thy tender care,
 And take us to heaven, to live with Thee there



What do you "TOP" a tree with?

A Star An Angel A Monkey A Pickle

"We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him!"



Congregation Hymn; O Little Town of Bethlehem. #361 (2 verses)
The Offering is received during the singing of the hymn.

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 ever-lasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years, are met in thee tonight.

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;
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!

In this Christmas season, we celebrate the greatest gift of all; the gift of Jesus, born among us, to save us from our sin. He has brought us light, life, and the hope of eternal life in Him. He came to show us the great and powerful Love of God;

The kids lead the congregation in saying together; John 3:16

**For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son,
That whoever believes in Him, should not perish,
But have everlasting life.**

The Tradition of Gift giving: Saint Nicholas of Myra



A Christmas Caroling Tradition;
We have carolers who will come and sing for us!

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300 A.D.

The Tradition of Tutje; - the Christmas Candy Sacks



Merry Christmas to all,
and to all a Good Night!

PD; The Prayers;
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...**

Closing:

P. Let us make a joyful noise to honor the Lord

C. Let us give thanks and tell of his marvelous gift;

For unto us a Child is born;

Unto us a Son is given.

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

In Jesus the Word was made flesh and dwells among us.

Oh give thanks unto the Lord and bless His name;

To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us, now and forever.

Amen.

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Silent Night; The familiar hymn, Silent Night, was revealed on Dec. 24, 1818 by Franz Gruber. The story is that the local priest, Joseph Mohr, went for a walk before he wrote it, and he looked out over a very quiet, winter-laden town. "He was inspired...the town was at peace."

It was Christmas Eve, 1818, when the now-famous carol was first performed as **Stille Nacht Heilige Nacht**. Joseph Mohr, the young priest who wrote the lyrics, played the guitar and sang along with Franz Xavier Gruber, the choir director who had written the melody.

*Von Obendorf bei
Salzburg, Austria*

We All Sing;

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht,
Alles schlaft; einsam wacht
Nur das traute, hoch-heilige Paar
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
Schlaf in himmlischer ruh! Schlaf in himmlischer ruh!

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.

Silent Night, Holy night, Shepherds quake, at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts, sing "Alleluia!"
Christ the Savior is born. Christ the Savior is born!

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!

The Tutje will be handed out by the ushers.



Thank you; - to all who have worked and volunteered so much in this season. We know schedules are crazy with much to be done. But, You have brought your children here to practice and present this program. Our thanks also to Annie Adams, Alyse Peterson, Sandy Reneberg, Kim Rietzke, and all who have helped present and prepare for the program. It takes lot to get it all done.

Thank You Kids; - for all your work and the story that you shared with us today. Good job! You are all a wonderful part of our own history of Christmas Celebrations.

Christmas Eve Service; Our Christmas Eve Service will start at 5:30 on Tuesday, Dec. 24. This service typically has much singing of carols and a review of the Christmas Story. WE hope you can join us for this special service.

There will be **No Sunday School for kids on Sunday, Dec. 29.** However, **we will** have the **Adult SS Gospel Study** Group at the regular time.

The Gospel of John Group will not meet again until January 7 at 9:00 a.m. We are ready to start into chapter 11. See you then!

We will not have a Christmas Day Service or a New Years Eve Service.

*Thank you to all
for all that you do.
Another year is almost gone,
and your love and partnership
continues through all. Peace.*



Happy Birthday This Week!
Ty Wallgren Dec. 25
Matraca Baetz Dec. 28