

Jesus Christ, Our Light and Life!

A Christmas Eve Service

Adapted by Rev. James DeLoach



24 December 2021 + 7:00 p.m.

**Zion Lutheran Church & School
Kearney, NE + (308) 234-3410**

Rev. James DeLoach, Pastor + (308) 627-5260

Rev. Doug Gaunt + (308) 455-0552

Tony Splittgerber, Principal + (308) 293-0168



Jesus Christ, Our Light and Life!

A Christmas Eve Service

“Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful” (LSB: 379)

All stand and sing

Oh, come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant!

Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;

Come and behold Him | Born the king of angels:

Oh, come, let us adore Him | Oh, come, let us adore Him,

Oh, come, let us adore Him | Christ the Lord!

Highest, most holy, Light of light eternal,

Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;

Son of the Father | Now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,

Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God | In the highest: *Refrain*

The Service of Light

Pastor: *Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,*

Soloist: **The light no darkness can overcome.**

All students sing the antiphon:



Pastor: *Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,*

Soloist: **And the day is almost over.**

Sunday School Students:



Pastor: *Let Your light scatter the darkness*

Soloist: **And illumine Your church.**

Sunday School Students:



God's Light Fills the Darkness

The men and women of the congregation will speak the following section responsively.

Men: Before God made the heavens and earth,

Women: Before one creature had its birth,

Men: There was a void of darkened space,

Women: Before God's glory filled this place.

Men: Then God said: "Let there be light!"

Women: He called light "day," and darkness "night."

Men: He made the sun to govern day,

Women: At night the stars and moon hold sway.

Men: God saw light was good when He was done,

Women: But the Greater Light was yet to come.

-based on Genesis, Chapter 1

Reading: *The Gospel according to St. John 1:1-5*

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten” (LSB: 384)

Students

Of the Father’s love begotten,
Ere the world began to be
He is Alpha and Omega
He the source, the ending he,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see
Evermore and evermore.

Congregation

**This is he whom seers in old time
Chanted of with one accord,
Whom the voices of the prophets
Promised in their faithful word;
Now he shines, the long expected;
Let creation praise its Lord
Evermore and evermore.**

Congregation

**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.**

Congregation

**Christ, to you, with God the Father
And the Spirit, there shall be
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
And the shout of jubilee:
Honor, glory, and dominion
And eternal victory
Evermore and evermore.**



God's Light Dispels the Shadow of Death

Recitation: The people waited many a year
for the Savior to appear.
The prophets spoke and it came true.
God sent His Son to rescue you.

Reading: ***Isaiah 9:2***

“The People That in Darkness Sat” (LSB: 412)

Congregation sings

The people that in darkness sat
A glorious light have seen;
The light has shined on them who long
In shades of death have been,
In shades of death have been.

To us the Child of hope is born,
To us the Son is given,
And on his shoulder ever rests
All power in earth and heaven,
All power in earth and heaven.



The Sun of Righteousness Rises to Heal

Reading: ***Malachi 4:2***

All pray together

**O Jesus, SUN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, rise in our hearts
and enlighten us with the brightness of Your coming,
that we who rejoice in the sure word of Your promise
may not be confounded at Your coming in glory. Amen.**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (LSB: 357)

All sing

Oh, come, our *DAYS*PRING from on high,
And cheer us by Your drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!



God's Light Enfleshed in the Virgin Mary

Reading: *The Gospel according to St. Luke 1:26-38*

“This Night a Wondrous Revelation” (TLH: 88)

This night a wondrous revelation
Makes known to me God's love and grace;
The Child that merits adoration
Brings light to our benighted race;
And though a thousand suns did shine,
Still brighter were that Light divine.

The Sun of Grace for thee is beaming;
Rejoice, my soul, in Jesus' birth!
The light from yonder manger streaming
Sends forth its rays o'er all the earth.
It drives the night of sin away
And turns our darkness into day.

This light, which all thy gloom can banish,
The bliss of heaven glorifies;
When sun and moon and stars shall vanish,
Its rays shall still illumine the skies.
This light through all eternity
Thy heaven and all to thee shall be.

O Jesus, precious Sun of Gladness,
Fill Thou-my soul with light, I pray.
Dispel the gloomy night of sadness
And teach me on this Christmas Day
How I a child of light may be,
Aglow with light that comes from Thee.



The Light of the World in Lowly Manger Laid

Reading: *The Gospel according to St. Luke 2:1-5*

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” (LSB: 361)

O little town of Bethlehem | How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep And dreamless sleep,
The silent stars go by;
Yet in they darkness shineth | The everlasting Light,
The hopes and fears Of all the years,
Are met in thee tonight.

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 men on earth.

Reading: *The Gospel according to St. Luke 2:6-7*

“In A Little Stable”

K – 2nd grade

*In a little stable far across the sea
Was a little Baby just like you and me.
Not a bed or cradle, not a pillow deep,
But a lowly manger was His place to sleep.*

*See His light is shining | Showing me His love.
Guiding me to heaven, | Where I’ll live above.*

“Away in a Manger”

K – 2nd grade

*Away in a manger, no crib for a 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.*

All Students

*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 ‘til morning is nigh.*

All sing

**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.**

Hymn #364 from Lutheran Service Book



God’s Light of Glory Shines Upon Shepherds Tending Sheep

Reading: ***The Gospel according to St. Luke 2:8-15***

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

All sing

**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!”
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn king!”**

*Hymn #380 from **Lutheran Service Book***



Reading: ***The Gospel according to St. Luke 2:15-18***

Sunday School Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

**Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn king.
Gloria in excelsis Deo;
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

*Hymn #368 from **Lutheran Service Book***

Reading: ***The Gospel according to St. Luke 2:19-20***

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

Students

I want to walk as a child of the light.

I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world.

The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain: In Him there is no darkness at all.

The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God.

Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

Congregation

I want to see the brightness of God.

I want to look at Jesus.

Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path,

And show me the way to the Father. *Refrain*

(Lutheran Service Book, 411:1-2)

The Preaching of the Light –

Jesus Christ, Our Light and Life

Offering ~ *The offerings are brought forward. In case you missed it on your way in, you may put your offering in the plate as you leave the sanctuary.*

Offertory: “O Holy Night / Jesu Joy of Man’s Desire”

Piano medley played by Grace Burger



The Candlelight Service

Never tip the lit candle. Rather tilt the unlit candle and place its tip in the flame to light your candle.

Pastor: *Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,*

Soloist: *The light no darkness can overcome.*

Sunday School Students:



Pastor: *Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,*

Soloist: **And the day is almost over.**

Sunday School Students:



Pastor: *Let Your light scatter the darkness*

Soloist: **And illumine Your church.**

Sunday School Students:



The Prayer for Christmas Eve

P: O God, because you once caused this holy night...one
God, now and forever.

ALL: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

"Silent Night"

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,
Heav'nly 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 Your holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Your birth, | Jesus, Lord, at Your birth.

Hymn #363 from Lutheran Service Book

The Benediction

*Please cup your hand behind your candle and carefully
extinguish it, then place it in the box as you leave church.*

“Joy to the World”

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.

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.

No more let sin 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.

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.

Hymn #387 from Lutheran Service Book