



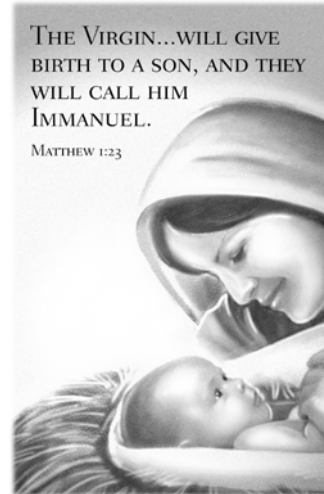
## **2010 Christmas Eve Worship Service Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church**

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**AS WE GATHER** The old hymn announced the beginning of the worship service with the words, “God Himself is present” (LSB 907), meaning God is near, God is here, God is with us. At Christmas we celebrate how God has made Himself present, namely, in “Immanuel,” “God with us,” God Himself now in human flesh appearing. If we’re honest we would admit a bit of fear if the holy God would suddenly appear, especially if we had no time to “get ready” meaning to cover up anything that might offend Him. But God is love (1 John. 4:8) and by making Himself present in the flesh of His Son, born of Mary, He is also the greatest Christmas present, the Gift of God that brings forgiveness and new life. God’s presence brings judgment on sin and the gift of His own remedy that is given to all as a free gift of His grace.



### **THE RINGING BELL INVITES US TO CELEBRATE THE SAVIOR'S BIRTH**

#### **THE OPENING PRAYER AND WELCOME**

#### **THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN** “O, Come, All Ye Faithful” LSB 379 (We Rise)

*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: O, come, let us adore him, O, come, let us  
adore him, O, 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! O, come, let us adore him, O, come, let us adore  
him, O, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

*Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation, Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God . . . In . . . the . . . highest: O, come, let us adore him, O, come, let us adore him,  
O, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

*Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee . . . be . . . glory given!  
Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing! O, come, let us adore him, O, come, let us adore  
him, O, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*



### THE INVOCATION AND OPENING VERSICLES

<sup>3</sup>  
In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C**  
<sup>3</sup>  
Amen.

God Himself is present:

**C**  
<sup>3</sup>  
Let us now adore Him And with awe appear before Him.

God is in His temple;

**C**  
<sup>3</sup>  
All within keep silence; Humbly kneel in deepest reverence. *LSB 907, adapted*

God is with us.

**C**  
Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name  
Immanuel. *Isaiah 7:14*

### THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

<sup>3</sup>  
As Christ's birth approaches, we are filled with joy. Yet it was to die for our sins that the Father sent His own Son born as a human child long ago. Let us, therefore, confess our sins to God our Maker and beg His forgiveness.

**C**  
Loving Father, sometimes it seems that You have abandoned me, that you have forgotten me, Your wayward child. But it is not really that way at all. It is I who has abandoned You and forgotten Your ways. May the star of Bethlehem that proclaims Your Son Jesus Christ's birth draw me back to You in faith, that I might be forgiven of all my sins and trust in Him as my Savior.

God is gracious. He has seen your sorrow for sin and heard your plea for mercy. Jesus Christ, God's Son, has died for all your sins and has risen to assure you of eternal life. As His called and ordained servant, in His stead and at His command, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen. Thanks be to God.**

**THE HYMN OF PRAISE** *“Glory Be To God On High” (Tune: LSB 380)*

*"Glory be to God on high!" This is now our joyful cry.  
Peace to all who live on earth, Grace and favor for new Birth!  
You we praise and glorify, Worship You, O Lord most high.  
Gracious Father, heav'nly King, To Your name alone we sing:  
"Praise the glory of Your name, Now and evermore the same!"*

*Jesus Christ, the Father's Son, Sole-begotten, holy One,  
Born on earth from realms on high, Born true man for us to die.  
Lamb of God, You take away this world's sin---grant peace we pray.  
With the Spirit, You alone are most high, O God the Son,  
And the Father, God above, Praise we now Your glorious love.*

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Tune: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-47, public domain.

**THE SALUTATION** *(Spoken)*

3

The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

**THE COLLECT (Prayed together)**

Loving Father, when the time had fully come, You sent forth Your Son, Jesus Christ, to be born of a woman. With a bright star, You guided Wise Men from a distant land to Bethlehem where Jesus was born showing to all mankind that He is the Savior of the world, and therefore our Savior too. With joy we give You thanks and praise, in the name of Jesus Christ, one God with You and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**THE OLD TESTAMENT** *Micah 5:2-5a*

This is the word of the Lord, that in Bethlehem, our King would be born.

**C** Thanks be to God! Christ our peace had been born.

**THE CHRISTMAS MUSIC**

5:00 "A Spiritual Quodlibet for Christmas"...Traditional Spirituals  
Mixed Vocal Ensemble setting by David S. Walker  
7:30 "Star of Wonder, Christmas Star" ... Gene Grier / David Bryant.  
Mixed Ensemble

**THE EPISTLE** Titus 2:11-14 (How to live until Jesus comes again.)

3

This is the word of our redeeming Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God! The Son born to Mary makes us children of God.

**THE HYMN** "Angels From The Realms of Glory" LSB 367 (We rise for verse 5)  
Angels from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation's story, Now proclaim Messiah's birth.

**Refrain:** Come and Worship, Come and Worship,  
Worship Christ, the newborn king.

Shepherds in the fields abiding, Watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing, Yonder shines the infant light. **Refrain**

Sages, leave your contemplations, Brighter visions beam afar;  
Seek the great desire of nations, Ye have seen his natal star. **Refrain**

Saints before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear,  
Suddenly the lord, descending, In His temple shall appear. **Refrain**

**We Rise**

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,  
Evermore your voices raising To the eternal Three in One. **Refrain**

## THE GOSPEL PROCESSIONAL

This evening we will use our Processional Torches as a part of the Reading of the Holy Gospel. It is actually an ancient tradition in the church to remind us that the Gospel, which most often includes the very words of Jesus, is that bright light that brings us the Word of salvation. The Gospel is read this evening from the middle of the Chancel, closer to the congregation to remind us that in Christmas, the Word of God, Jesus Himself became Incarnate and dwelt among us.

**THE HOLY GOSPEL**      Luke 2:1-20 (*The story of God's gift of Himself to us.*)

3

This is the Gospel of the Lord, whom kings of the earth come and worship.

**C**      **And also with you.**

**THE SERMON HYMN**      *"Let the Stars Their Story Tell "*

*Tune – Gloria LSB 368*

*Let the stars tell their story tell, For the heavens know it well:  
How the Son of God, enfleshed, Came to breathe our mortal breath.*

**Refrain: *Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.***

*As God's promises foretold Led the patriarch of old,  
So a star the magi led To the Savior's lowly bed.*

**Refrain: *Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.***

*So may we in glory glow With your presence, here below.  
Grant that we the story tell Which the heavens know so well.*

**Refrain: *Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.***



**THE SERMON**      *"The Stars Tell the Story – The Guiding Star of Bethlehem"*

*Matthew 2:2*

*Pastor Brad Urbach*

## THE NICENE CREED

*I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.*

*And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And he will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.*

*And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen*

**THE OFFERING** We gather our tithes and gifts of love

***Faith Promise Cards*** – We continue this evening to return our “Faith Promise” cards having prayerfully pondered our giving for the New Year. There are additional cards on the Oak Table in the Narthex. If you did not bring yours today, please return them soon. We will dedicate our “Faith Promise” cards on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Epiphany, January 9, 2011.

**THE OFFERTORY 5:00** “*Star of Wonder, Christmas Star*”...Gene Grier / David Bryant  
*Mixed Vocal Ensemble*

**THE OFFERTORY 7:30** “*Now Sing We, Now Rejoice*” LSB 386

*Now sing we, now rejoice, Now raise to heav'n our voice;  
He from whom joy streameth Poor in a manger lies;  
Not so brightly beameth the sun in yonder skies,  
Thou my Savior art! Thou my Savior art!*

*Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'nly ground?  
Where the angels singing With all His saints unite,  
Sweetest praises bringing In heav'nly joy and light.  
Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!*

Text: Latin and German, 14th century; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806-74, alt., public domain  
Tune: IN DULCI JUBILO, German, 14th century, public domain

## THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

3

We praise You, O God, for having given us the gift of Yourself, and for having called us to faith by the power of the Holy Spirit. Let Your Spirit work through us and through all Your people, that the good news of Christ's birth, death, and resurrection may be proclaimed in every corner of the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C**

3

**hear our prayer.**

God of grace and glory, we remember before You all who are lonely and separated from family and loved ones this night. Comfort them with the knowledge of Your presence and love. We remember before you all who are ill or troubled in mind or body. Grant healing and peace according to Your good and gracious will. We remember before You all who mourn because they experience earthly separation from loved ones who have gone before them into eternal life. Grant hope and peace, which comes from Your promise of resurrection of the body and life everlasting for all who trust in Jesus Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C**

3

**hear our prayer.**

As You gave Your Son to us as an infant, born of the virgin Mary, and so brought forgiveness, life, and salvation to all, so we pray that You would strengthen our faith and life as You give His very body and blood to us this night in Holy Communion. May we be comforted by Your forgiveness and strengthened to live lives that honor and glorify You. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C**

3

**hear our prayer.**

Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves, our loved ones, Your Church, and all for whom we pray, through Christ our Lord.

**C**

**Amen.**

## THE COLLECT *(Prayed together)*

**O God, because You once caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light, grant that we who have known the mystery of that Light here on earth may come to the full measure of its joy in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.**

## THE CANDLE LIGHTING

We use candles in our service tonight. While it is a beautiful custom, we ask your thoughtful care in handling the candles. Especially be careful of the children. For this reason, candles are given only to older children and adults. Please follow the lighting procedures as indicated below, and again -- we invite your care.

The Pastor will light his candle from the light of the Christ Candle provided by the acolytes. The acolytes will light their candles from the Pastor's candle and pass this light to the worshipers in each pew nearest the center aisle. Pass your light to your neighbor in the pew.

**Dip the unlit candle when lighting your candle from the person next to you.** We will extinguish the candles following the Benediction before the singing of "Joy to the World".

<sup>3</sup>  
The people walking in darkness have seen a great Light.

**C**  
<sup>3</sup> **Jesus Christ is the Light of the world.**

Shine as Light that all may see your good works and praise your Father in heaven.

**C**  
<sup>3</sup> **Jesus Christ is the Light of the world.**

If we walk in the Light as he is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another.

**C**  
**Jesus Christ is the Light of the world.**

**THE HYMN** "*Silent Night, Holy Night*" LSB 363

*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.  
Stille nacht, heilige nacht! Alles schlaft, Einsam wacht,  
Nur das heilige eltern-paar Das in stalle zu Bethlehem war,  
Bei dem himm-li-chen kind, Bei dem himm-li-chen kind*

*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!*

**Instrumental - Reflect on how we can be lights to our Father's World.**

*Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, Loves 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 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.

### **THE BENEDICTION**      *(With Sung triple Amen)*

3

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. May the Lord look upon you with favor and grant you His peace.



**C** A-men, a-men, a - men.

### **THE CLOSING HYMN**      *“Joy To The World” LSB 387      (Sung twice if needed)*

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her 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 men 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.*

\* \* \*

**Welcome** to Faith Lutheran on this Christmas Eve. We rejoice that you again have come to

the manger to celebrate God's gift of love in Jesus Christ. Should you be visiting from out of town we wish you God-speed in your journey. Should you be visiting from our community and you have no church home we invite you to make Faith your church home.



### **Christmas Day Worship Service**

**10:30 A.M.**

**With Holy Communion**

**Sunday, December 26**

**(One Service)**

**11:00 A.M.**

**With Holy Communion**



### **New Year's Eve Worship Service**

**7:00 P.M.**

**With Holy Communion**

# **Christmas Flowers on the Altar**

- Pastor Urbach – To the Glory of God.
- Pauline Votteler, Vicki & Jane - in loving memory of Vince Votteler.
- Pauline Votteler – in remembrance of Pauline & Doc's December 26<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.
- Sandy & Marrill Bales – in memory of our parents.
- John & Carlene Barber – To the Glory of God.
- Janice and Vern Dockter –in memory of Jan's mom & dad and Vern's dad.
- Jim and Char Russell – To the Glory of God.

- Lari and Linda Ott – in memory of Clifford and Mary Ott.
- Ben & Loni Shoup – in memory of our parents and thanksgiving for our children.
- Judy & Monte Farnsworth – in memory of our parents & grandparents.
- Pat, Jill & Sarah Burger, Mark, Amy & Mackenzie Burger – in memory of Alice Scheibe.
- Mary Hiller - in memory of Chet and their families.
- Cody and Lila Briggs – in memory of our parents.
- Jerry & JoAnn Sanders – in memory of our parents.
- Irene LaFurge Smith in memory of lost loved ones.
- Leonard & Carolyn Spomer - in Thanksgiving for our children & grandchildren.
- Jerry & Corinne Wulf – in thankfulness for God’s many blessings.
- Dan & Pamela Cronin – in celebration of our family.
- Dale & Mary Heidelberger – To the Glory of God.
- Forrest & Alice Wixon – in celebration of Christmas.
- Diane Hansen, Jon & Cathy Stahl - in memory of Dave Hansen.
- Marvin & Jeanne Schweigert – in memory of our parents.
- Bob & Carla Schmidt – in loving memory of Bob’s brother, Bill.
- Pam & Doug Peterson – To the Glory of God.
- Veryl & Pat Huisman – To the Glory of God.
- The Adams & Humphrey families – in

loving memory of Harold & Alice Thompson.

- Mike, Loretta, Bethany & Joel Jochim – in memory of mom & grandma Darlene Adam.
- Steve & Vona Johnson – To the Glory of God.
- Jeff & Deb Karst – in memory of daughter, Kimberly and in thanksgiving to God for their son, Eric and family.
- Brian & Laurie Gustafson – in memory of Laurie’s dad, Gerrit Doppenberg.
- David & Jan Johnson – in celebration of Christmas.
- Fred & Anita Marso – White Advent Poinsettias on Altar in memory of Freddie Marso Jr.

