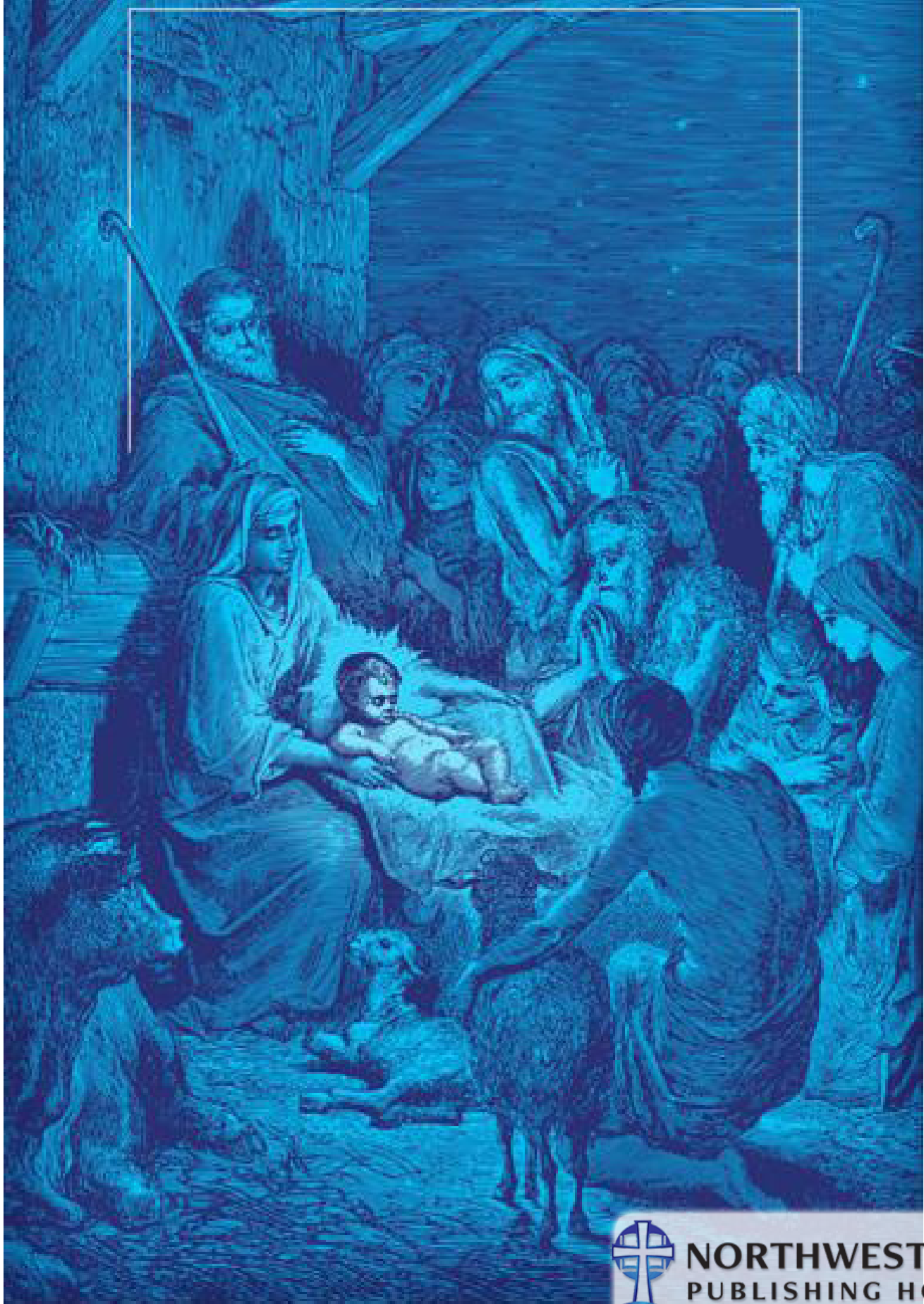
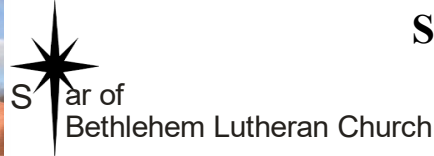




**NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE**



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Santa Maria, CA 93455
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Pastor Michael Foley

Worship Service

Friday, December 24, 2021 7:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE

Theme of the day: “But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.” Just as Mary, on the very first Christmas, we too meditate on the mystery of Christmas. Christ was born in order to live, die and rise from the grave for us! The Word became flesh and through faith we see his glory! Glory to God in the highest!

WELCOME

A warm welcome to our friends and visitors! Star of Bethlehem Lutheran Church is eager to share with you the blessings of its Christ-centered ministry. If you are a new or long-time resident of the Central Coast looking for a church home, we invite you to meet with us at the close of this worship service or at your convenience. All are welcome to stay for refreshments in the fellowship hall.

Families are encouraged to worship together. If you need to step out with your children, the service can be seen and heard in the fellowship hall or narthex area. Feel free to enter and return at any time.

OUR MISSION

Our congregation exists for the purpose of “HOLDING OUT THE WORD OF LIFE.” This is accomplished by faithfully preserving and proclaiming all of God’s inerrant word, and administering the Sacraments as they were instituted by Christ.

Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!



Minister: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Congregation: Amen.

M: Arise, shine, for your light has come!

C: And the glory of the Lord is dawning upon you.

M: Look, darkness covers the earth, and deep darkness covers the peoples,

C: but the LORD will dawn upon you, and his glory will be seen over you.

M: Nations will walk to your light,

C: and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

M: For to us a child is born. To us a son is given.

C: The authority to rule will rest on his shoulders.

M: He will be named: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

C: Do not be afraid. For behold, I bring you good news of great joy, which will be for all people.

M: Today in the town of David, a Savior was born for you.
He is Christ the Lord.

C: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward mankind.

♪ **Oh come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;
Oh come ye, O 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! (CW 55)**

M: Beloved people of God, at Christmas it is our duty and our joy to listen again to the message of the angels and go in mind and heart

to Bethlehem and see what has happened that the Lord has told us about this child, Jesus Christ who is lying in a manger. Today we read and learn anew in the Holy Scriptures the story of God's enduring love for his people. We see his promises made and his promises kept from the time immediately after the fall into sin until the act of redemption on the cross of Calvary. We rejoice that God's grace has appeared through this holy child born in Bethlehem—our Savior. But first, we pray for all the people of the world that they would rejoice with us in the knowledge of the good news of Jesus Christ, and that they would join with us in our songs of praise and worship. We pray for all the people of our community and the members of our congregation. And because it pleases God our Savior, we remember in his name the poor and the defenseless, those who lack adequate food, those who are oppressed and feel the sadness of this world, those who feel alone and unloved. We especially remember those who do not know their Lord Jesus, those who do not love him, those who do not welcome him this Christmas because of their lack of faith. We lay these and all like requests in the hands of our gracious God as we pray together the prayer that Jesus taught us to pray:

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.

♪ **Hark, hark, to the angels all singing in heaven,
“To God in the highest all glory be given!”
To Bethlehem hasten with joyful accord;
Oh, come, let us adore him, O, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord! (CW 55)**

FIRST LESSON - Genesis 3:8-15

⁸They heard the voice of the LORD God, who was walking around in the garden during the cooler part of the day, and the man and

his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹The LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?”

¹⁰The man said, “I heard your voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, so I hid myself.”

¹¹God said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree from which I commanded you not to eat?”

¹²The man said, “The woman you gave to be with me—she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

¹³The LORD God said to the woman, “What have you done?”

The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

¹⁴The LORD God said to the serpent: Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all the livestock, and more than every wild animal. You shall crawl on your belly, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life. ¹⁵I will put hostility between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He will crush your head, and you will crush his heel.

♪ Song: From Heav’n Above (CW 38)

Welcome to earth, O noble Guest,
Through whom the sinful world is blest!
You came to share my misery
That you might share your joy with me.

Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled
Within my heart, made clean and new,
A quiet chamber kept for you.

SECOND LESSON - Genesis 22:15-18

¹⁵The Angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven ¹⁶and said, “I have sworn by myself, declares the LORD, because you have done this thing and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷I will bless you greatly, and I will multiply your descendants greatly, like the stars of the sky and like the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the city gates of their enemies. ¹⁸In your seed all the nations of the earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”

♪ Song: What Child is This (CW 67)

**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?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring him laud, The Babe, the Son of Mary!**

**Why lies he in such mean estate Where oxen now are feeding?
Good Christian, fear for sinners here, the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through;
The cross he'll bear for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The Babe, the Son of Mary!**

THIRD LESSON - Isaiah 7:10-14

¹⁰The LORD spoke to Ahaz again. He said, ¹¹“Ask for a sign from the LORD your God. Ask for it either in the depths below or in the heights above.”

¹²But Ahaz responded, “I will not ask. I will not test the LORD.”

¹³So Isaiah said: Listen now, you house of David. Is it not enough for you to test the patience of men? Will you test the patience of my God as well? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give a sign for all of you. Look! The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and name him Immanuel.

♪ Song: Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel (CW 23)

**Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel!**

**Oh, come, O Root of Jesse, free
Your own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell your people save,
And bring them vict'ry o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel!**

FOURTH LESSON - Isaiah 11:1-5

A shoot will spring up from the stump of Jesse, and a Branch from his roots will bear fruit. ²The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him: the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. ³He will be delighted with the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, nor will he render decisions based on what he hears with his ears, ⁴but with righteousness he will judge the poor, and he will render fair decisions in favor of the oppressed on the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath from his lips he will put the wicked to death. ⁵Righteousness will be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his hips.

♪ Song: Where Shepherds Lately Knelt (CW 54)

**Where shepherds lately knelt and kept the angel's word,
I come in half-belief, a pilgrim strangely stirred;
But there is room and welcome there for me,
But there is room and welcome there for me.**

**In that unlikely place I find him as they said;
Sweet new-born Babe, how frail! and in a manger bed,
A still, small voice to cry one day for me,
A still, small voice to cry one day for me.**

**How should I not have known Isaiah would be there,
His prophecies fulfilled? With pounding heart I stare:
A child, a Son, the Prince of Peace for me,
A child, a Son, the Prince of Peace for me.**

FIFTH LESSON - Luke 1:26-37

²⁶In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin pledged in marriage to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women."

²⁹But she was greatly troubled by the statement and was won-

dering what kind of greeting this could be. ³⁰The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, because you have found favor with God. ³¹Listen, you will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will never end.”

³⁴Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

³⁵The angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶Listen, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age even though she was called barren, and this is her sixth month. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible for God.”

♪ Song: Once in Royal David’s City (CW 50)

Once in royal David’s city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for his bed;
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven
Who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable,
And his cradle was a stall;
With the poor and mean and lowly
Lived on earth our Savior holy.

SIXTH LESSON - Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governing Syria. ³And everyone went to register, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the town of Nazareth, into Judea, to the town of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was from the house and family line of

David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, his wife, who was pledged to him in marriage and was expecting a child.

⁶And so it was that while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son, wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

♪ Song: A Great and Mighty Wonder (CW 36)

A great and mighty wonder, A glorious mystery:

A virgin bears an infant Who veils his deity.

Repeat the hymn again:

“To God on high be glory And peace on earth to men.”

The Word becomes incarnate And yet remains on high,
And cherubim sing anthems To shepherds from the sky.

Repeat the hymn again:

“To God on high be glory And peace on earth to men.”

Since all he comes to ransom, By all be he adored,
The infant born in Bethl’em, The Savior and the Lord.

Repeat the hymn again:

“To God on high be glory And peace on earth to men.”

SEVENTH LESSON - Luke 2:8-20

⁸There were in the same country shepherds staying out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock at night. ⁹An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified! ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. For behold, I bring you good news of great joy, which will be for all people: ¹¹Today in the town of David, a Savior was born for you. He is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³Suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude from the heavenly army, praising God and saying, ¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward mankind.”

¹⁵When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Now let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.”

¹⁶So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they had seen him, they told others the message they had been told about this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it were amazed by what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

♪ Song: O Little Town of Bethlehem (CW 65)

How silently, how silently The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts The blessings of His heaven.
No ear may his coming, But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him still,
The dear Christ enters in.

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 Emmanuel

EIGHTH LESSON - Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, when Herod was king, Wise Men from the east came to Jerusalem. They asked, ²“Where is he who has been born King of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” ³When King Herod heard this, he was alarmed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴He gathered together all the people’s chief priests and experts in the law. He asked them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, because this was written through the prophet: ⁶You, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are certainly not least among the rulers of Judah: because out of you will come a ruler, who will shepherd my people, Israel.”

⁷Then Herod secretly summoned the Wise Men and found out from them exactly when the star had appeared. ⁸He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. When you find him, report to me, so that I may also go and worship him.”

⁹After listening to the king, they went on their way. Then the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them, until it stood still over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced with overwhelming joy. ¹¹After they went into the house and saw the child with Mary, his mother, they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²Since they had been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

♪ Song: As with Gladness Men of Old (*CW 83*)

As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold,
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward, beaming bright,
So, most gracious Lord, may we
Evermore your followers be.

As with joyful steps they sped,
Savior, to your lowly bed,
There to bend the knee before
You whom heav'n and earth adore,
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek your mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare
At your cradle, rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy,
Pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to you, our heav'nly King.

NINTH LESSON - Titus 2:11-14

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all people. ¹²It trains us to reject ungodliness and worldly lusts and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in this present age, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope, that is, the glorious appearance of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He gave himself for us, to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people who are his own chosen people, eager to do good works.

♪ Song: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (CW 61)

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 th' angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail th' incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

MESSAGE: 1 John 4:9-14

⁹This is how God's love for us was revealed: God has sent his only-begotten Son into the world so that we may live through him. ¹⁰This is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Dear friends, if God loved us so much, we also should love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God. If we love one another, God remains in us and his love has been brought to its goal in us. ¹³This is how we know that we remain in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴We have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.

THE SECOND ARTICLE

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, pur-

chased and won me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death. All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally. This is most certainly true.

Offering

A PRAYER AT CHRISTMAS

M: On this holy day, dear Father, we rejoice to hear the good news of great joy that a Savior has been born for us. For fulfilling your prophecies and in the fullness of time sending your Son to be our Savior, we give you our heartfelt thanks and praise.

C: Unto us a child is born! Unto us a Son is given!

M: What a great mystery of our faith this is: that God has become fully human for our salvation! Even though he is the all-powerful Lord of all, he is wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.

C: Help us always believe that this precious child was born as our substitute to be our Savior.

M: In the midst of our joy, we grieve for the many people in our world who do not know that Jesus has come to bring them forgiveness and healing. As the shepherds spread abroad the good news of the birth of the Savior born for all the world, may we also make use of the unique opportunities this holiday presents to tell others of what we have seen and heard concerning the child.

C: Grant that the true peace between God and fallen mankind may comfort all people.

M: As the angels sang out their praise, move us also to sing out our praise to you, today and every day, as the joy of our Savior's birth remains in our hearts.

C: Glory to God in the highest! Amen.

(Tune of "Away in a Manger" CW #68)

♪ **Our Father in heaven, all praise to Your name!
Your kingdom among us, Your will done the same
By mortals and angels, Come, Lord, reign alone;
Oh, hear us and bless us from heaven's high throne.**

**The bread that we yearn for, provide us each day;
As we forgive others, our sins take away;
In time of temptation, to lead us, be near;
From evil deliver Your children most dear.**

**For Yours is the kingdom, o'er all things You reign.
And Yours is the power; all things You maintain.
To You be the glory, resounding again
From all of creation, forever! Amen.**

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

(The pastor will light his candle from the Christ candle. As you pass the light on, never tip a lighted candle. Always tip the unlighted candle toward the one that is burning.)

♪ **Song: Silent Night** (CW 60)

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht, Alles schläft; einsam wacht
/shteelay nahkt highlikkay nahkt/ /alles shlayft ine sum vahkt/

Nur das traute hochheilige Paar.
/noor dass troutay hoke highlikkay par/

Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
/ holder k-nobbay im lokigen hahr/

Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh! Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!
/shlaaf in himmlish ayr roo-oo shlaaf in himmlish ayr roo-oo/

**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.**

M: The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make his face shine on you
And be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor, and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Extinguish your candles.

♪ **Song: Joy to the World (CW 62)**

**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.**

**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.**





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