

The Festival of the Nativity of Our Lord

+ Christmas Eve +



**Calvary Lutheran Church
9807 Church Road + Dallas, TX + 75238
214-348-5567**

December 24, 2016 7:00 p.m.

HYMN

Still, Still, Still

Translation of German original: John Vieths, 2002



1. Still, still, still, Your heart with joy I'd fill. I'd
2. Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'mid the ox - en and the sheep. The
3. Deep, deep, deep, his love for us runs deep! His
4. Kneel, kneel, kneel, let A - dam's child - ren kneel. For
5. Peace, peace, peace, where joy will ne - ver cease! To



sing you a song and watch by your man - ger,
shep - herds come to see your glo - ry;
own throne in heav - en Je - sus is leav - ing.
Je - sus has come to earth as our Sav - ior
us Christ un - locks his king - dom im - mor - tal



Guard you from harm and keep you from dan - ger.
An - gels bend low to tell the sto - ry.
God's lov - ing pres - ence earth is re - ceiv - ing.
Bear - ing our sins to win us God's fa - vor.
Heav - en a - waits be - yond death's dark port - al.



Still, still, still, Your heart with joy I'd fill.
Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'mid the ox - en and the sheep.
Deep, deep, deep, his love for us runs deep!
Kneel, kneel, kneel, let A - dam's child - ren kneel.
Peace, peace, peace, where joy will ne - ver cease!



THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

M The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

C Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.

M To us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

C Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.

The candles in the Advent wreath are lit while the following hymn is sung:



1 Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! All is
 2 Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Shep - herds
 3 Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Son of

calm, all is bright, Round yon vir - gin
 quake at the sight, Glo - ries stream from
 God, love's pure light Ra - diant beams from

moth - er and child, Ho - ly In - fant, so
 heav - en a - far; Heav'n - ly hosts sing,
 thy ho - ly face With the dawn of re -

ten - der and mild, Sleep in heav - en - ly
 Al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sav - ior, is
 deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy

peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

Text: Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792–1848, abr.; tr. John F. Young, 1820–85.
 Tune: STILLE NACHT (Irregular) Franz X. Gruber, 1787–1863, alt.

BIDDING PRAYER

M Dear people of God, in this Christmas season, it is our duty and delight to hear again the message of the angels and, in heart and mind, to go to Bethlehem and see this thing which has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us—the Christ Child lying in a manger.

Let us read and learn in Holy Scripture the story of the loving purposes of God from the first days after our fall into sin to the glorious redemption brought to us by this holy child.

But first, let us pray for people all over the world who would delight with us to know the good news of Jesus Christ and who would join with us in singing his praises. Let us pray for the people of this city and for all those in our own congregation.

And, because this would please our Lord, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who are sad, the lonely and the unloved, and the elderly and the little children. We especially remember all those who do not know the Lord Jesus, those who do not love him, and those who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Finally, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us in heaven, who live in greater light than we, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, who died in faith, and who live before the throne of God and praise him each day in his temple. We confess that we are united with them as we are united with one another.

To sum up all these petitions, let us pray as Christ himself taught us.

C **Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

M The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life, and to the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of angels bring us all.

C **Amen.**

FIRST READING and COMMENTARY

Matthew 1:18-25

Christmas through the eyes of Joseph

MATTHEW 1:18 This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ “The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”--which means, “God with us.”

²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.





1 A great and might - y won - der, A
 2 The Word be - comes in - car - nate And
 3 While thus they sing your mon - arch, Those
 4 Since all he comes to ran - som, By
 5 All i - dols then shall per - ish And



glo - rious mys - ter - y; A vir - gin bears an
 yet re - mains on high, And cher - u - bim sing
 bright an - gel - ic bands, Re - joice, O vales and
 all be he a - dored, The in - fant born in
 Sa - tan's ly - ing cease, And Christ shall raise his

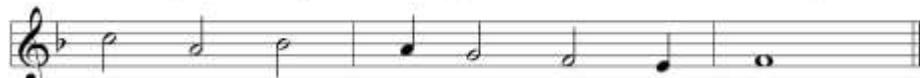


in - fant Who veils his de - i - ty.
 an - them To shep - herds from the sky.
 moun - tains, And o - ceans, clap your hands.
 Beth - l'em, The Sav - ior and the Lord.
 scep - ter, De - cree - ing end - less peace.

Refrain



Re - peat the hymn a - gain: "To God on high be



glo - ry And peace on earth to men."

Text: Germanus, c. 634-734; tr. John M. Nesle, 1818-66, alt.
 Tune: ES 181 EIN ROS (76 76 676) *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng*, Köln, 1599.



SECOND READING

Luke 2:1-7

Christmas through the eyes of Mary – to Bethlehem

LUKE 2:1 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to his own town to register.

⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

RESPONSE

46 – Your Little Ones, Dear Lord, Are We



The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of three staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff has four lines of lyrics. The second staff has three lines of lyrics. The third staff has three lines of lyrics. The music is written in a simple, accessible style suitable for congregational singing.

1 Your lit - tle ones, dear Lord, are we And come your
2 With songs we has - ten you to greet And hum - bly
3 Oh, draw us whol - ly to you, Lord, And to us
4 Un - til at last we, too, pro - claim, With all your

low - ly bed to see; En - light - en ev - 'ry
fall be - fore your feet. Oh, bless - ed hour, oh,
all your grace ac - cord; True faith and love to
saints, your glo - rious name; In par - a - dise our

soul and mind That we the way to you may find.
sweet - est night That gave you birth, our souls' de - light.
us im - part That we may hold you in our heart,
songs re - new And praise you as the an - gels do.

Text: Hans A. Brorson, 1694-1764; tr. Harriet R. K. Spaeth, 1845-1925, alt.
Tune: HER KOMMER DNE ARME SMAA (LM) Johann A. P. Schulz, 1747-1800.

THIRD READING

Luke 2:8-15

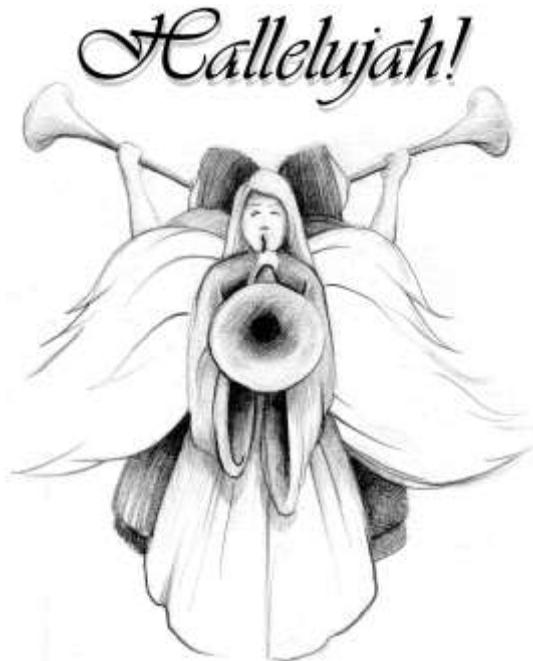
Christmas through the eyes of Mary – the Angels

LUKE 2:8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to men on
whom his favor rests.”

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”



RESPONSE

Before the Marvel of this Night



1. Be - fore the mar - vel of this night A - dor - ing,
2. A - wake the sleep - ing world with song, This is the
3. The love that we have al - ways known, Our con - stant



fold your wings and bow, Then tear the sky a - part with
day the Lord has made. As - sem - ble here, ce - les - tial
joy and end - less light, Now to the love - less world be



light And with your news the world en - dow,
throng, In roy - al splen - dor come ar - rayed.
shown, Now break up - on its death - ly night.



Pro - claim the birth of Christ and peace, That fear and
Give earth a glimpse of heav'n - ly bliss. A teas - ing
In - to one song com - press the love That rules our



death and sor - row cease: Sing peace, sing peace, sing
taste of what they miss: Sing bliss, sing bliss, sing
u - ni - verse a - bove: Sing love, sing love, sing



gift of peace, Sing peace, sing gift of peace!
end - less bliss, Sing bliss, sing end - less bliss!
God is love, Sing love, sing God is love!

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b.1919, © 1981

Tune: MARVEL, 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 6; Carl F. Schalk, b.1929, © 1981, GIA Publications, Inc.

FOURTH READING and COMMENTARY

Luke 2:16-20

Christmas through the eyes of Mary – the Shepherds

LUKE 2:16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

RESPONSE

54 – Where Shepherds Lately Knelt



1 Where shep - herds late - ly knelt and kept the an - gel's word,
2 In that un - like - ly place I find him as they said:
3 How should I not have known I - sa - iah would be there,
4 Can I, will I for - get how Love was born, and burned



I come in half - be - lief, a pil - grim strange - ly stirred;
Sweet new - born Babe, how frail! and in a man - ger bed,
His proph - e - cies ful - filled? With pound - ing heart I stare:
Its way in - to my heart un - asked, un - forced, un - earned,



But there is room and wel - come there for me,
A still, small voice to cry one day for me,
A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me,
To die, to live, and not a - lone for me,



But there is room and wel - come there for me.
A still, small voice to cry one day for me.
A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me.
To die, to live, and not a - lone for me?

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008. © 1987 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
Tune: MANGER SONG (12 12 10 10) Carl. F. Schalk, b. 1929. © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, IL, www.giamusic.com. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

FRIENDSHIP REGISTER and OFFERTORY

FIFTH READING and COMMENTARY

John 1:1-18

Christmas as profound theology

¹JOHN 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning.

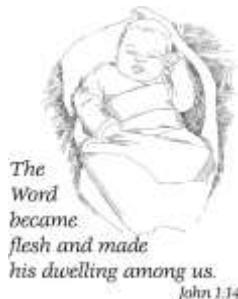
³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

⁶ There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. ⁹ The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God-- ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

¹⁵ John testifies concerning him. He cries out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'" ¹⁶ From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known.



RESPONSE

40 – O Jesus Christ, Your Manger Is



1 O Je - sus Christ, Your man - ger is
 2 He whom the sea And wind o - bey
 3 Dear Chris - tian friend, On him de - pend;
 4 Pon - der a - gain What glo - ry then
 5 The world may hold Her wealth and gold;



My par - a - disc where my soul is re -
 Comes down to serve the sin - ner in great
 Be of good cheer and let no sor - row
 The Lord will give you for your earth - ly
 But you, my heart, keep Christ as your true



clin - ing. For there, O Lord, We find the Word
 meek - ness. Now God's own Son With us is one
 move you. For God's own child In mer - cy mild
 sad - ness. The an - gel host Can nev - er boast
 treas - ure. To him hold fast Un - til at last



Made flesh for us— your grace is bright - ly shin - ing.
 And joins us and our chil - dren in our weak - ness.
 Joins you to him—how great - ly God must love you!
 Of great - er glo - ry, great - er bliss or glad - ness.
 A crown is yours and hon - or in full meas - ure.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76, abr.; tr. *The Lutheran Hymnal*, St. Louis, 1941, alt.
 Tune: O JESU CHRIST, DEIN KRIPPLEIN IST (44 11 D) Johann Crüger, 1598–1662.

SIXTH READING and COMMENTARY

Revelation 12:1-6

Christmas from God's perspective

REVELATION 12:1 A great and wondrous sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head. ² She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth. ³ Then another sign appeared in
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heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his heads. ⁴ His tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that he might devour her child the moment it was born. ⁵ She gave birth to a son, a male child, who will rule all the nations with an iron scepter. And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne. ⁶ The woman fled into the desert to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days.

RESPONSE

28 – Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord

1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has
 2 What the fathers most de-sired, What the
 3 A-bram's prom-ised great re-ward, Zi-on's
 4 Wel-come, O my Sav-ior, now! Joy-ful,
 5 Crush for me the ser-pent's head That, set

tru-ly kept his word And at last to
 proph-ets' heart in-spired, What they longed for
 help-er, Ja-cob's Lord— Him of two-fold
 Lord, to you I bow, Come in-to my
 free from doubt and dread, I may cling to

us did send Christ, the sin-ner's help and friend,
 man-ya year Stands ful-filled in glo-ry here.
 race be-hold— Tru-ly came, as long fore-told.
 heart, I pray; Oh, pre-pare your-self a way,
 you in faith, Safe-ly kept through life and death,

6 And, when you shall come again
 As a glorious king to reign,
 I with joy may see your face,
 Freely ransomed by your grace.

Text: Heinrich Held, 1620–59, abc.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
 Tune: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND (77 77) *Geistliche gesangk Buchleyn*, Wittenberg, 1524.

CLOSING RESPONSES and BLESSING

M The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

M Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true light.

Grant, that as we have known on earth the mysteries of that true light, we may also come to the fullness of its joys in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

M May he who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

C **Amen.**



CLOSING HYMN

65 – O Little Town of Bethlehem



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And,
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The
 4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De -



still we see thee lie! A - bove thy deep And
 gath - ered all a - bove, While mor - tals sleep, The
 won - drous gift is giv'n! So God im - parts To
 scend to us, we pray; Cast out our sin And



dream - less sleep The si - lent stars go by,
 an - gels keep Their watch of won - d'ring love.
 hu - man hearts The bless - ings of his heav'n.
 en - ter in; Be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro -
 No ear may hear his com - ing, But
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The



ev - er - last - ing light. The hopes and fears Of
 claim the ho - ly birth, And prais - es sing To
 in this world of sin Where meek souls will Re -
 great glad ti - dings tell; Oh, come to us, A -



all the years Are met in thee to - night.
 God the King And peace to all the earth.
 ceive him still, The dear Christ en - ters in.
 bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–93, abr., alt.
 Tune: ST. LOUIS (86 446 76 446) Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908.

It has been our joy to have you here this evening to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. As we go our separate ways, traveling toward our traditions, may we remember that the greatest gift came wrapped in swaddling clothes with a tag saying "From: God the Father – To: The World – With Love!" Have a blessed Christmas Eve. The poem below is meant to focus our hearts in the proper direction as we exchange gifts this Christmas season.

We also invite you to join us for Christmas Eve Compline this evening at 11:00 p.m. or Christmas Day Worship tomorrow at 9:30 a.m.

Die Bescherung

(German: "the sharing," or the distribution of Christmas gifts)

A poem to read before the opening of gifts

So now it's Christmas once again, the time of Jesus' birth,
When angels scurry round about to every home on earth
To watch the goings on this eve around each Christmas tree
And with rejoicing celebrate when in a place they see
Hearts aglow with faith and love because of God's great gift,
Homes that sparkle in the snow, not aimlessly adrift
With loud and boisterous unconcern for the great mystery
That on this eve in Bethlehem's barn occurred for you and me:
The Son of God exchanged His robes -- that's what the angels saw --
For swadd'ling bands and mother's care, while shepherds stood in awe;
He came, the Lord, to share our lives and save from misery;
He came, our Lord, to make us lords with Him eternally!
Now angels, as God's messengers, again rejoice to see
Families gathered in His name around the Christmas tree.
God's gift is not forgotten as they give gifts to share,
In fact, His gift gives to each gift that very special flair
Of love that flows from God's own love; it binds all hearts in one.
That family shares, which truly shares the gift of God's own Son!
So come now family, each in turn, your special tribute bring,
To the delight of each of us, in honor of your King.
Say your fine piece, or sing a tune, or speak but just a word;
We listen, cheered and cheering, to things we just now heard.
Then snug up in a settled spot and wait your turn to get
The gifts marked with your name; they'll be just right, I'll bet --
"Just what you need," for each of us has taken special care
To see to it that each of us get gifts that are as rare
As mother's love and apple pie, and in their own say
"I love you much!" And so let's get The Sharing underway.

AJK

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