

Christmas Eve Festival Worship



“Echoing Joy”

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

December 24, 2019 7:00 p.m.

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

December 24, 2019

FESTIVAL WORSHIP

WELCOME TO CALVARY

Good evening and Merry Christmas to you! We extend a warm welcome to all our members, guests, and visitors to Christmas Eve Festival Worship this evening.

“Glory to God in the highest!” The expression of praise by the heavenly host on the night when Jesus was born into our world has echoed through the ages. As we gather for this most special eve, we find joy in repeating the words of God’s heavenly messengers. The angels proclaimed a message of peace and good will, a word from God that was appearing in the Word made flesh – the baby Jesus born to bring the light of redemption to a people on earth lost in darkness. **“Gloria in excelsis Deo!”** Whether we are singing in English or Latin or some other language, the message of the words is what matters. We worship our Lord and rejoice in the glory of Christmas! **“Joy to the world, the Lord is come!”**

We now spend twelve days praising God the Father for the gift of his Incarnate Son. The festival of Christmas culminates with the Epiphany of our Lord on Monday, January 6, 2020.

LARGE PRINT SERVICE FOLDERS

Large print service folders of this evening’s worship are available in the entry area. If you need assistance locating one, please ask an usher for help.

OUR FACILITIES

Our restrooms are in the narthex toward the back right as you exit the sanctuary. The members of Calvary believe that families should be encouraged to worship together. If your young child needs to be quieted, we have audio/video available in the narthex and audio in the restrooms. If you need anything during the service, please feel free to ask an usher.

Christmas Eve 2019

“Echoing Joy”

OPENING HYMN

62 – Joy to the World



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let
3 No more let sins, and sor - rows grow Nor
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And



earth re - ceive her King; Let ev - 'ry
all their songs em - ploy, While fields and
thorns in - fest the ground; He comes to
makes the na - tions prove The glo - ries



heart pre - pare him room And heav'n and
floods, rocks, hills, and plains Re - peat the
make his bless - ings flow Far as the
of his right - eous - ness And won - ders



na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture sing, And
sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re -
curse is found, Far as the curse is found, Far
of his love, And won - ders of his love, And



heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
as, far as the curse is found.
won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.

Tune: ANTIOCH (CM with Repeat) George F. Handel, 1685–1759, adapt.

INVOCATION

Stand

M In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

A DIALOGUE FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

M Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord, let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

C **O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth. You have set your glory above the heavens.**

M Give thanks to the Lord of lords, to him who alone does great wonders, who by his understanding made the heavens, who spread out the earth upon the waters, who made the great lights—the sun to govern the day, the moon and stars to govern the night. He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name.

C **Great is the Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit.**

M But our iniquities have separated us from our God; our sins have hidden his face from us, so that he will not hear. We look for light, but all is darkness; for brightness, but we walk in deep shadows. We look for deliverance, but it is far away.

C **For our offenses are many in his sight, and we acknowledge our sins.**

M The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.

C **From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

M “The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. This is the name by which he will be called: The Lord our Righteousness.”

C **Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.**

M “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.”

C **Let us praise the name of the Lord forever and ever!**

HYMN OF PRAISE

63 – Angels We Have Heard on High



1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the



o'er the plains, And the moun - tains in re -
 strains pro - long? What the glad - some ti - dings
 an - gels sing; Come, a - dore on bend - ed



ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain



Glo - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; Glo -



- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M Let us pray. Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true light. Grant that as we have known on earth the wonder of that light, we may also behold him in all his glory in the life to come; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Be seated

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior

ISAIAH 9:2²The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.
For those living in the land of the shadow of death, the light has dawned.
³You have multiplied the nation. You have increased the joy for it.
They rejoice before you like the joy at harvest time,
like the celebration when people divide the plunder.
⁴For you have shattered the yoke that burdened them.
You have broken the bar on their shoulders and the rod of their oppressor,
as you did in the day of Midian.
⁵Every boot that marched in battle
and the garments rolled in blood will be burned.
They will be fuel for the fire.
⁶For to us a child is born.
To us a son is given.
The authority to rule will rest on his shoulders.
He will be named:
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.
⁷There will be no limit to his authority
and no end to the peace he brings.
He will rule on David's throne and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness
from now on, into eternity.
The zeal of the LORD of Armies will accomplish this.

RESPONSORY

M The Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God!**

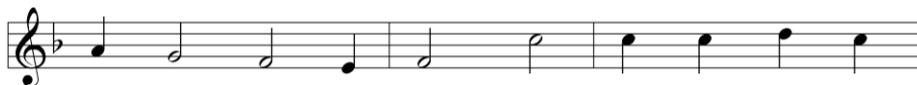
PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 96

Words: Scott Soper © 2005 World Library Publications



1 Sing to the Lord a new song; sing
 2 Let earth and heav - en glo - ry; let



to God, all you lands. Sing of sal - va - tion
 o - cean depths re - joice. Let hills and plains and



al - ways; God's glo - ry now at hand.
 for - ests sing prais - es with one voice.

Refrain



God's love shall ne - ver cease. God comes to rule with



jus - tice; God comes to rule with peace.

SECOND LESSON

1 John 4:7-16

God showed His love among us in a most wonderful way

¹JOHN 4:7 Dear friends, let us love one another, because love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸The one who does not love has not known God, because God is love. 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. ¹⁵If anyone confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God remains in him and he in God.

¹⁶We also have come to know and trust the love that God has for us.

RESPONSORY

M The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

HYMN

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,
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Stand for the Gospel Lesson

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 1:18-25

The angel emphasizes the role Mary's child would serve; God came here to be our Savior from sin.

MATTHEW 1:18 This is how the birth of Jesus Christ took place. His mother, Mary, was pledged in

marriage to Joseph. Before they came together, she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Joseph, her husband, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her. So he decided to divorce her privately. ²⁰But as he was considering these things, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

²²All this happened to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³“Look, the virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son. And they will name him Immanuel,” which means, “God with us.” ²⁴When Joseph woke up from his sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him. He took Mary home as his wife, ²⁵but he was not intimate with her until she gave birth to her firstborn son. And he named him Jesus.

RESPONSORY

M The Gospel of the Lord!

C Thanks be to God!

CONFESSION OF FAITH

The Explanation of the 2nd Article
of the Apostles' Creed

Dr. Martin Luther

C 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, purchased 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.

Be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY

38 (1-7) – From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

vs. 1-2 – All

vs. 3 – Women

vs. 4 – Men

vs. 5-7 - All



1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come To bear good
 2 "To you this night is born a child Of Mar - y,
 3 "This is the Christ, our God most high, Who hears your
 4 "He will on you the gifts be - stow Pre - pared by
 5 "These are the signs which you shall mark: The swad-dling



news to ev - 'ry home; Glad ti - dings of great joy
 cho - sen vir - gin mild; This lit - tle child of low -
 sad and bit - ter cry; He will him - self your Sav -
 God for all be - low, That in his king - dom, bright
 clothes and man - ger dark. There you will find the in -



I bring, Where - of I now will say and sing:
 ly birth Shall be the joy of all the earth.
 ior be From all your sins to set you free.
 and fair, You may with us his glo - ry share.
 fant laid By whom the heav'ns and earth were made."

6 How glad we'll be to find it so!
 Then with the shepherds let us go
 To see what God for us has done
 In sending us his own dear Son.

7 Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes,
 And see what in the manger lies.
 Who is this child, so young and fair?
 It is the Christchild lying there.

SERMON

1 John 4:7-16

The Perfect Christmas Gift

Please stand

RESPONSE

38 (8-15) – From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

vs. 8-9 – All
 vs. 10-11 – Women
 vs. 12-13 – Men
 vs. 14-15 – All

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>8 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.</p> | <p>9 Ah, Lord, though you created all, How weak you are, so poor and small, That you should choose to lay your head Where lowly cattle lately fed!</p> |
| <p>10 Were earth a thousand times as fair And set with gold and jewels rare, It would be far too poor and small A cradle for the Lord of all.</p> | <p>11 Instead of soft and silken stuff You have but hay and straw so rough On which as King, so rich and great, To be enthroned in royal state.</p> |
| <p>12 And so it pleases you to see This simple truth revealed to me: That all the world's wealth, honor, might Are weak and worthless in your sight.</p> | <p>13 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child, Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled Within my heart, made clean and new, A quiet chamber kept for you.</p> |
| <p>14 My heart for very joy must leap; My lips no more can silence keep. I, too, must sing with joyful tongue That sweetest ancient cradle song:</p> | <p>15 Glory to God in highest heaven, Who unto us his Son has given! While angels sing with pious mirth A glad new year to all the earth.</p> |

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Tune: VOM HIMMEL HOCH (LM) Schumann, *Geistliche Lieder aufs new gebessert*, Leipzig, 1539.

OFFERING and FRIENDSHIP REGISTER

Please take a moment during the collection of the offering to sign the Friendship Register.



Remain seated for the Christmas Litany

CHRISTMAS LITANY

compiled by Rev. Johnold J. Strey

The Christmas story in Luke's Gospel contains four canticles, or songs—the Song of Mary (Luke 1:46-55), the Song of Zechariah (Luke 1:68-79), the Song of the Angels (Luke 2:14), and the Song of Simeon (Luke 2:29-32). The following Christmas litany includes

excerpts from these four songs, spoken by the presiding minister, and responses from Christmas hymns for each excerpt, sung by the congregation, that echo and amplify the Scripture texts.

M My soul praises the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant.
From now on all generations will call me blessed,
for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name.

Luke 1:46-49

C **Gentle Mary laid her child Lowly in a manger;
There he lay, the undefiled, To the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place—Can he be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race Who have found his favor.**

**Gentle Mary laid her child Lowly in a manger;
He is still the undefiled, But no more a stranger.
Son of God, of humble birth, Beautiful the story;
Praise his name in all the earth, Hail the King of glory!**

Christian Worship 56:1,3

M His mercy extends to those who fear him from generation to generation.
He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful
to Abraham and his descendants forever, even as he said to our fathers.

Luke 1:50,54,55

C **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 Christians, 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!**

Christian Worship 67:1-2

M Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel,
because he has come and has redeemed his people.
He has raised up a horn of salvation for us
in the house of his servant David.

Luke 1:68-69

C **Once in royal David's city**

He came down to earth from heaven

**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.**

**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.**

Christian Worship 50:1-2

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

Luke 2:14

C 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!”

**Hail, the heav’nly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, Ris’n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth, Born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”**

Christian Worship 61:1-2



M Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace.
For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.

Luke 2:29-32

C Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.

**The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

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

Christian Worship 68:1,3

Stand

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

BLESSING

**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.**

RECESSIONAL HYMN

60 – Silent Night! Holy Night

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.

After worship, please feel free to stay and greet your neighbors.

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