

# Gloria Dei Lutheran Church Royal Family

*(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)*



## "Worship the King" Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

**Joint Order of Worship December 24, 2025 | 5 PM**  
**Rev. Dr. Matthew Cephus**

**3014 McKinley Street NE, Minneapolis, MN 55418**

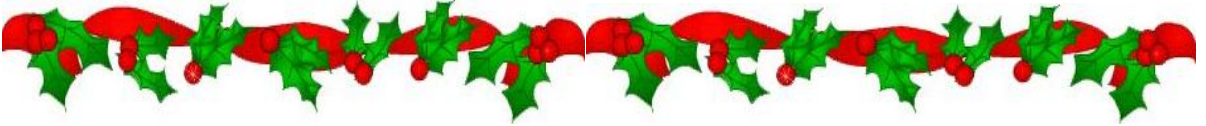
**[www.gloriadeilcms.org](http://www.gloriadeilcms.org)**

**email: [info@gloriadeilcms.org](mailto:info@gloriadeilcms.org)**

**Pianist: Karrie Kikeh**

# Welcome to God's House!

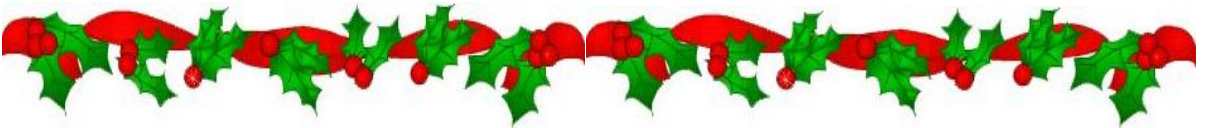
*A special welcome to visitors and guests; we are pleased that you have joined us today! If you have no church family, and if we can be of any assistance to you, please speak with the Pastor after the service or via the church office. We pray you will feel God's love for you and be empowered to live as God's child this week. We look forward to seeing you again.*



Gloria Dei Invites You to Join Our Christmas Day Service

**Christmas Day Service:**

December 25 at 10 am with Holy Communion



## **Christmas Facts**

- Each year, 25 million to 30 million real Christmas trees are sold in the United States alone. There are about 15,000 Christmas tree farms in the United States, and it usually takes between four and 15 years for trees to grow tall enough for sale.
- In the Middle Ages, Christmas celebrations were rowdy and raucous—a lot like today's Mardi Gras parties.
- When Christmas was cancelled: From 1659 to 1681, the celebration of Christmas was outlawed in Boston, and lawbreakers were fined 5 shillings.
- Christmas was declared a federal holiday in the United States on June 26, 1870.
- Poinsettia plants are named after Joel R. Poinsett, an American minister to Mexico, who brought the red-and-green plant from Mexico to America in 1828.
- The Salvation Army has been sending Santa Claus-clad donation collectors into the streets since the 1890s.
- Rudolph, “the most famous reindeer of all,” was the product of Robert L. May's imagination in 1939. The copywriter wrote a poem about the reindeer to help lure customers into the Montgomery Ward department store. The retailer gave away 2.4 million copies that year.
- Construction workers started the Rockefeller Center Christmas tree tradition in 1931.

# "WORSHIP THE KING"

## CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

**AS WE GATHER:** Jesus is the reason for the season, and you are the reason why he came. Merry Christmas!

+ *CONNECT* +

**WELCOME**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**VIDEO**

**"The King is Born"**

**CAROL**

**"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"**

**LSB 380**

*Text & music: Public Domain*

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"

Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;  
With the 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, the incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel!  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Hail, the heav'n-born 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 man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

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 sins and sorrows 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.

**FIRST READING****ISAIAH 9:2,6-7**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

## SECOND READING

LUKE 2:1-7

### *The Birth of Jesus Christ*

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

### CAROL "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

LSB 366

*Text & music: Public Domain*

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old  
From angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all gracious King"  
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heavenly music floats, o'er all the weary world;  
Above its sad and lowly plains, they bend on hov'ring wing,  
And ever o'er its babel sounds, the blessed angles sing.

All you, beneath your heavy load, by care and guilt bent low,  
Who toil along a dreary way with painful steps and slow:  
Look up, for golden is the hour, come swiftly on the wing,  
The Prince was born to bring you peace; of Him the angels sing.

For lo, the days have come to pass by prophets seen of old,  
When down into the circling years came Christ as was foretold.  
His word of peace shall to the earth God's ancient promise bring,  
And all who take this gift will hear the song the angels sing.

**CAROL**

**"Angels We Have Heard on High"**

**LSB 368**

*Text & Tune: Public Domain*

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!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be; Which inspire your heav'nly song?  
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!

**CAROL**

**"Away in a Manger"**

**LSB 364**

*Text & Tune: Public domain*

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.

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 side until morning is nigh.

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.

**THIRD READING**

**Luke 2:8-12**

***The Shepherds and the Angels***

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them,

"Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

## **CAROL**

### **"O Come, All Ye Faithful"**

**LSB 379**

*Text & Tune: Public Domain*

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:

**Refrain:**                **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**

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n!  
Word of the Father now in flesh appearing!

**Refrain**

## **CAROL**

### **"The First Noel"**

The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star shining in the east, beyond them far;  
And to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

And by the light of that same star three Wise Men came from country far;  
To seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

This star drew nigh to the northwest, O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
And there it did both stop and stay Right over the place where Jesus lay.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

#### **FOURTH READING**

**Luke 2:13-14**

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

**L:** The Word of the Lord.

**C:** **Thanks be to God!**

**CAROL (TRIO)**

**"O Holy Night"**

**Matthew, Patience & Faith**

(Candles Should be Switched On)

**CAROL**

**"Silent Night, Holy Night"**

**LSB 363**

*Text & Tune: Public Domain*

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.



## CLOSING CAROL

## "Go Tell It on The Mountain"

LSB 388

*Text & music: Public domain*

**Refrain:** Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and every-where;  
Go tell it on the mountain, That Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching, O'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold, throughout the heavens, There shone a holy light. **Refrain**

The shepherds feared and trembled, When, lo, above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. **Refrain**

Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born;  
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. **Refrain**

*+ Silent Prayer +*

## POSTLUDE

*+ WE DEPART TO SERVE +*

+ + +

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## SERVING TODAY

**Elder:** Karmon Christopherson

**Readers:** Julie Cross

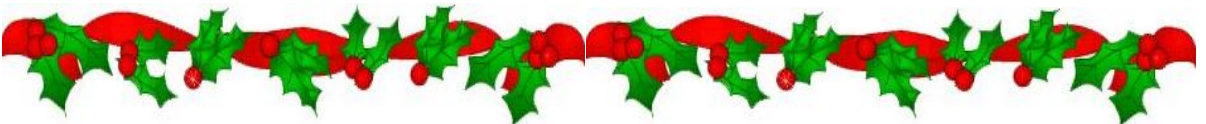
**Altar Care:** Tom and Patty Lyrenmann

**Ushers:** Tom and Patty Lyrenmann

**Counters:** Tom and Patty Lyrenmann

**ETERNAL CANDLE:** OPEN

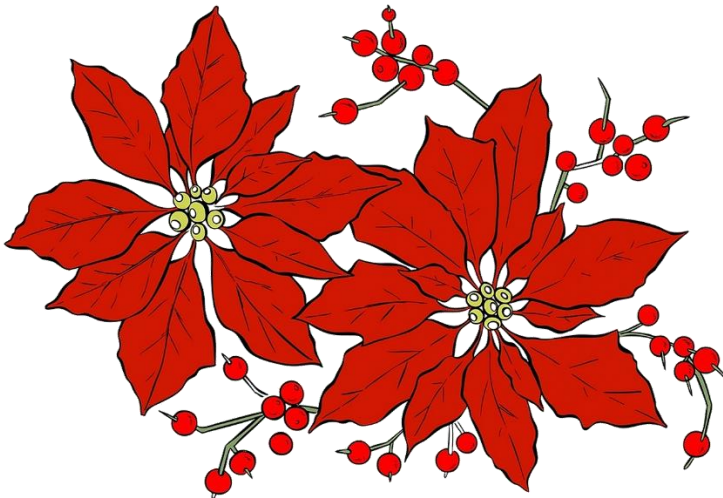
**FLOWERS:** Christmas Poinsettias





***The beautiful poinsettias throughout the church were donated by:***

Wade Billmeyer, Pastor Matthew & Patience and Family; Karmon & Meridel Christopherson; Julie Cross; Derald & Chris Hadrath (Loved Ones), Shirley Holzinger (Mom and Dad, Husband Rudy and Brother-in-law Greg); Gwen Johnson (My Friends and Loved Ones); Tom & Patty Lyrenmann; Barb McDonald; The Morelli's; Roselyn Norman, Verlayne Sather (Jim Sather); Shirley Slagle (Loved Ones); Sandy Westling (Loved ones)





# Christmas Eve Service