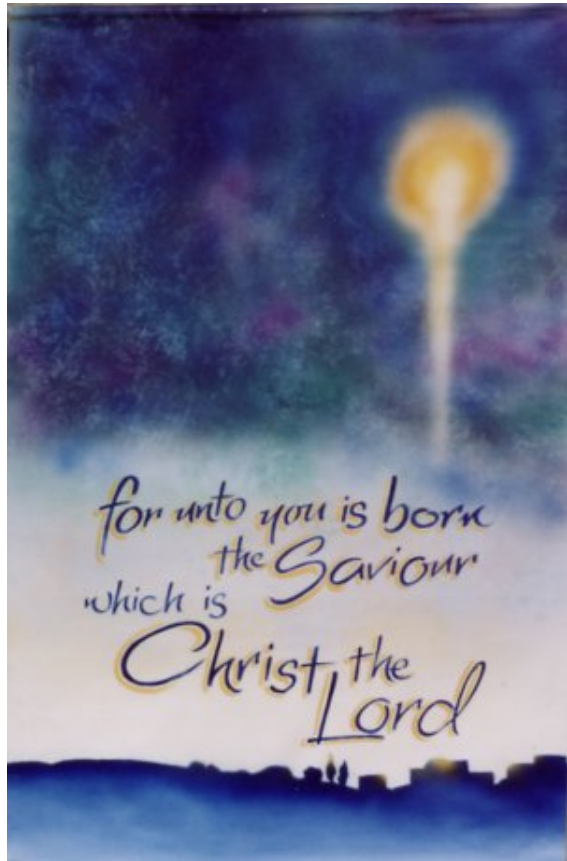


Christmas Eve  
at  
Christ Our Redeemer

Christ  
the  
Savior  
is  
Born

December 24, 2006



***Opening***

P: A very merry Christmas to all who come to worship the Christ child. Our worship this evening tells the story of Christmas in lessons, readings, and carols. It tells us: *The Word became flesh and lived for a while among us.*

**C: We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

***Musical Selection – Teen Choir***

*“Minuet Noel”*

Arranged by Jean Anne Shafferman © 2000 by Alfred Publishing Co., Inc.

***Prayer***

P: Almighty God, you gave your only-begotten Son to take our nature and to be born of a virgin. Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

# 1. The Savior's Person

## True God and True Man ~ Luke 1:26-38



In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He 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, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end." "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "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. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God." "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

### *Response*

P: Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign:

**C: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son,**

P: And will call him Immanuel,

**C: Which means, God with us.**

### *Prayer*

P: Almighty God, in choosing the virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son, you made known your gracious regard for the sinful and lowly. Grant us grace to receive your Word in repentance and humility, and so to be made one with your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**



**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!**

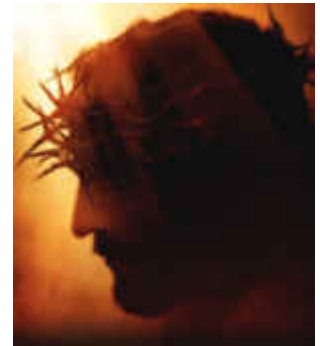
**Why lies he in such mean estate Where oxen now are feeding?  
Good Christians, fear; For sinners here The silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through; The cross he'll bear for me, for you.  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the Son of Mary!**

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peasant, king, to own him.  
The King of kings Salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high; The virgin sings her lullaby.  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the Son of Mary!**

## 2. The Savior's Work

### Servant and King – Isaiah 52:13-53

See, my servant will act wisely; he will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted. Just as there were many who were appalled at him -- his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any man and his form marred beyond human likeness--so will he sprinkle many nations, and kings will shut their mouths because of him. For what they were not told, they will see, and what they have not heard, they will understand.



Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. By oppression and judgment he was taken away. And who can speak of his descendants? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was stricken. He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.

Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life a guilt offering, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand. After the suffering of his soul, he will see the light [of life] and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities. Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

***Response***

P: The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.

**C: But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

P: Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.



***Carol – “Let All Together Praise Our God”***

CW41 Text, Tune, Setting: public domain.

**Let all together praise our God Before his highest throne;  
Today he opens heav'n again And gives us his own Son, And gives us his own Son.**

**He leaves his heav'nly Father's throne, Is born an infant small,  
And in a manger, poor and lone, Lies in a humble stall, Lies in a humble stall.**

**He veils in flesh his pow'r divine A servant's form to take;  
In want and lowliness must die Who heav'n and earth did make,  
Who heav'n and earth did make.**

**A wondrous change which he does make:  
He takes our flesh and blood,  
And he conceals for sinners' sake His majesty as God, His majesty as God.**

**He serves that I a lord may be -- A great exchange indeed!  
Could Jesus' love do more for me To help me in my need? To help me in my need?**

**For us he opens wide the door Of paradise today.  
The angel guards the gate no more; To God our thanks we pay,  
To God our thanks we pay.**

### 3. The Savior's Attitude – Willing Obedience A Heart of Love – Confidence in Death – Philippians 2:6-8

Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross!

#### *Response*

P: For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

**C: When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.**

#### *Carol - "O Little Town of Bethlehem"*

CW66 Text and Tune: public domain. Setting: Harmonized by Ralph Vaughan Williams.  
From the English Hymnal by permission of Oxford University Press.

**O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep And dreamless sleep The silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears Of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight.**

**For Christ is born of Mary, And, gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, The angels keep  
Their watch of wond'ring love.**

**O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing To God the King  
And peace to all the earth.**

**How silently, how silently The wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts To human hearts  
The blessings of his heav'n.**

**No ear may hear 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;  
Oh, come to us, Abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!**



## 4. The Blessings of Our Savior's Work Peace With God – Luke 2:1-14

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register. 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. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 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. And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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. Today in the town of

David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."



### Purpose in Living – Luke 2:15-20

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." So they hurried off and found Mary

and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. 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*

P: You who bring good tidings to Zion, go up on a high mountain.

**C: You who bring good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout.**

P: Lift it up; do not be afraid;

**C: Say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!"**

## Hope in Dying – Luke 23:39-43

One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."

*Musical Selection – Sr. Choir*

*“Far Distant Stable”*

Arranged by Melvin Rotermund © 2000 Northwestern Publishing House

*Offering and Prayer*

*Candlelighting Do not tip a lit candle! Tip only an unlit candle to receive the flame.*

*Theme Carol – “Silent Night! Holy Night”*

CW 60 Text, Tune, Setting: 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 thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**



*All extinguish their candles. Please cup the flame with your hand as you blow the flame out. You are invited to keep the candle, or hand it to one of the ushers as you are ushered out.*

## Closing

### *Prayer*

P: Almighty God, you have made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and on the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; 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**

### *Blessing*

P: May the Almighty and Incarnate God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen**

P: Christ the Savior is Born.

**C: Christ the Savior is Born.**



### *Carol – Christ Our Redeemer Choirs*

*“Before the Marvel of This Night”*

Words of Jaroslav J. Vajda, Setting by Carl Shalk, Text © 1981 Jaroslav J. Vajda, Tune © Setting © 1979 GIA Publication

Thank you for the opportunity to share the message that Christ the Savior is Born.

God's gift of a Savior – Jesus Christ, born in a humble manger  
to live a perfect life for us is the true picture of Christmas.

Jesus' loving sacrifice on the cross for our sins  
gives us the hope of joining him in heaven.

That loving gift is what moves us, during this special season and always,  
to give gifts of loving service to God and to all we meet.

Like the shepherds, we can't wait to spread the Word about that amazing gift.

**CHRIST OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL**

PreK – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Sunday Worship 8a & 10:30a – Thursday, Casual Worship at 7p

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