



*A Service of Carols For Christmas
Christ Our Redeemer
Lutheran Church*

*Pastor Mark S. Voss
December 25, 2006*

Good Morning to everyone and welcome as we celebrate Jesus' birthday. We wake up this Christmas morning to a great light. A light that brings peace to this life and the promise of everlasting life.

Opening Music – Treble Choir

“Gloria, Gloria, Hodie”

by Douglas E. Wagner © 2005 Lorenz Publishing Company

Old Testament Lesson – Isaiah 9:2-7

“Isaiah Foretells God’s Amazing Light”

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. You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as men rejoice when dividing the plunder. For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. For 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. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

Opening Carol

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

CW 55 vv 1 & 2 Text, Tune, Setting: public domain. Reprinted by permission of Oxford University Press.

**Oh, come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant,
Oh, come ye, oh, 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.**

**God from true God, and Light from Light eternal,
Born of a virgin, to earth he comes,
Only begotten Son of God the Father.
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

Invocation

He was light	<i>coming into a world of darkness.</i>
He was love	<i>coming into a world of hate.</i>
He was life	<i>coming into a world of death.</i>
He was peace	<i>coming into a world of strife.</i>
He was righteousness	<i>coming into a world of sin.</i>
He was hope	<i>coming into a world of defeat.</i>
He was God	<i>coming into a world of humanity.</i>
He is our Savior	<i>and we begin in his name.</i>

Prayer of the Day

Confession of Sins

P: Jesus, our Immanuel, you dwell with us, but how can we abide your dwelling?

C: For we are sinful people, unworthy of your presence, unready for your coming, undeserving of your mercy.

P: We are guilty by thought, word, and action, and deserve only death and misery.

C: Confessing our sin and our unworthiness, we ask your mercy and forgiveness, for the sake of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh to dwell among us, full of grace and truth.



All Sing: Your little ones, dear Lord, are we and come your lowly bed to see;
(CW46 v1) Enlighten every soul and mind that we the way to you may find.

P: God has forgiven your sin for Jesus' sake. Jesus has redeemed you from death and sin. An eternity in God's presence is yours. Peace be with you. Amen.

All Sing: Oh, draw us wholly to you, Lord, And to us all your grace accord;
(CW46 v3) True faith and love to us impart That we may hold you in our heart.

Confession of Faith – Based on the Old Testament Lesson from Isaiah

P: When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, to redeem those who were under the Law, so that we might receive adoption as children.

C: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who live in a land of deep darkness - on them the light has shined.

All: For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given. And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Carol - 90 vv 1-3

“The People That In Darkness Sat”

Epistle Lesson – Titus 2:11-14 “God Gives Us His Grace” For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope--the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

Carol - 42 vv 1 & 2

“Come, Your Hearts & Voices Raising”

The Christmas Story from Luke

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

Carol - 54

“Where Shepherd’s Lately Kneelt”

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. 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, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.



Carol – 2

“Savior of the Nations Come”

The Apostle John’s Song . . . “God’s Amazing Light”

John 1:1-14

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴In him was life, and that life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. ⁶There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. ⁸He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. ⁹The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹²Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—¹³children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God. ¹⁴The 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.

Offerings and Music

Musical Selection – Sr. Choir

“O Jesus Christ Your Manger Is”

Tune Johann Cruger; Setting Bruce R. Becker; Text Paul Gerhardt © 2000 Bruce R. Backer

Christmas Prayer

Blessing

P: Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.

C: Alleluia!

P: To us a child is born.

C: To us a Son is given.

P: Sing to the Lord a new song,

C: Sing to the Lord for he has done marvelous things.

P: Go forth in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Closing Carol 40 vv 4 & 5

“O Jesus Christ Your Manger Is”

A Silent Prayer of Thanksgiving for Our Savior



May God’s amazing light shine in your hearts and shine out in your lives.

Merry Christmas

The Staff of Christ Our Redeemer