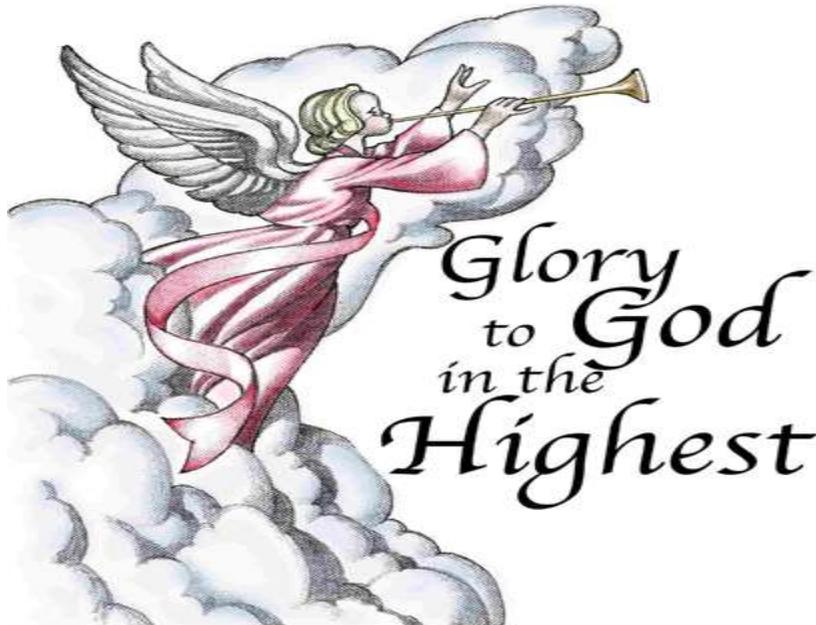


Cross of Christ Lutheran Church
204 S. Chase Street, Houston, MN
507-896-3102

Friday, December 24, 2022

Christmas Eve



Pastor: Jeffrey S. Forbes
Organists: 5 p.m. Shelley Jerviss
9 p.m. Gayle Smith

Cross of Christ Mission Statement: As a fellowship of believers, it is our mission to joyfully proclaim the gospel of Christ in word and deed; inviting people to worship together, nurturing them in the Christian faith, loving one another and serving a world in need.

PRELUDE: Lighting of the Advent Wreath

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

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!

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, In the highest:
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us
adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

CHRISTMAS DIALOG

Pastor: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Congregation: **Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 9:6-7; Micah 5:2

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

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.
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

ANGELS, FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY

Angels, from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Once you sang creation's story;
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn king.

Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
Yonder shines the infant light.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn king.

CHRISTMAS GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-7

MUSICAL OFFERING

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains, And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains. Glo—ria, in excelsis Deo; Glo—ria, in excelsis De-o.	Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing; Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the new born King. Glo—ria, in excelsis Deo; Glo—ria, in excelsis De-o.	Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heav'nly song? Glo—ria, in excelsis Deo; Glo—ria, in excelsis De-o.
--	--	--

MUSICAL OFFERING

CHRISTMAS GOSPEL: Luke 2:8-20

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and ev'ry-where; Go tell it on the mountain, That Jesus Christ is bom!	The shepherds feared and trembled When, lo, above the earth Rang out the angel chorus That hailed our Savior's birth.
While shepherds kept their watching O'er silent flocks by night, Behold, throughout the heavens There shone a holy light.	Down in a lonely manger The humble Christ was born; And God sent us salvation That blessed Christmas morn.

CHRISTMAS EVE MESSAGE

MUSICAL OFFERING

The pastor will light his candle from the Christ Candle; the ushers light their candles from the pastor's candle. The ushers then light the candle of each worshipper nearest the aisle.

Lighted candles should not be tipped, to avoid wax dripping on the floor. The unlighted candle should be dipped when lighting it from a neighbor's candle.

SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT!

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.	Heavenly hosts sing. Alleluia! Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!
Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight; Glories stream from heaven afar,	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.

PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS

Almighty God, you 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 in 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. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

BENEDICTION

RECESSIONAL CHRISTMAS CAROL

JOY TO THE WORLD

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive its King;
Let every heart prepare him room
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all 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 sin and sorrow 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.

POSTLUDE

Merry Christmas!
