

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH MARKESAN WI DECEMBER 24, 2024

HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED

+ PREPARATION +

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

OPENING SENTENCES

Isaiah 9:6, adapted

- P Tous...
- C a child is born!
- P Tous...
- C a son is given!
- P His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,
- C Mighty God,
- P Everlasting Father,
- C Prince of Peace.

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN "Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising" (TLH 90:1-4.7.8)

- 1. Come, your hearts and voices raising, Christ the Lord with gladness praising: Loudly sing His love amazing. Worthy folk of Christendom.
- 2. Sin and death may well be groaning, Satan now may well be moaning; We, our full salvation owning, Cast our every care away.
- 3. See how God, for us providing, Gave His Son and life abiding: He our weary steps is guiding From earth's woe to heavenly joy.
- 4. Christ, from heaven to us descending And in love our race befriending. In our need His help extending, Saved us from the wily Foe.
- 7. Oh, the joy beyond expressing When by faith we grasp this blessing And to Thee we come confessing. That our freedom thou hast wrought!
- 8. Gracious Child, we pray Thee, hear us, From Thy lowly manger cheer us, Gently lead us and be near us Till we join the angelic choir.

THE MESSAGE PRESENTED BY THE CHILDREN

ACTION RHYME (PreK – 2)

Joy, joy, joy, As we wait today For the baby Jesus Sleeping on the hay.

Joy, joy, joy, Jesus, God's own Son Born on Christmas morning Loves us everyone!

Joy, joy, joy, Go and spread His love; Of this baby Jesus Sent from God above.

CHILDREN'S SONG (PreK - 2) "Away in a Manger"

1 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.

2 The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes. I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky, And stay by my cradle until morning is nigh.

3 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.

+ IMMANUEL, GOD WITH US +

Mason

Creator. Heavenly Father. Good Shepherd. Lamb of God. Holy Spirit. Jesus. These are just a few of the many names of God that we read in the Bible. Each name describes our one true God and what He does for us.

Remy

At Christmastime, we hear special names of God from the prophet Isaiah: Immanuel, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. But what do these names mean, and why does Isaiah use them to describe the promised Savior? Today we will find out!

Sawyer In Old Testament times, God sent

the prophet Isaiah to unbelieving King Ahaz and God's people living in Judah. Ahaz and the people did not trust that God could save them

from their enemies.

Sophia They had turned away from God,

just as people have done since the time of Adam and Eve and the first sin in the garden. But God would

not give up on His people!

Grace He had promised Adam and Eve

that He would send a Savior to bring all people back to Him. Through the many years that followed, God continued to remind

His people about the Savior He

would send.

Ryker God sent Isaiah to King Ahaz and

the Israelites, telling them to repent of their sins and turn back to the Lord. Only the one true God could deliver them from their enemies. And one day, God would

deliver all people from our greatest

enemies: sin, death, and the

power of the devil.

Wyatt God gave them a sign to show He

would do this. Isaiah 7:14 says, "The Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel." The name Immanuel means "God with us." God Himself would come to earth and be born a human baby to save us and to bring us back to Him. What wonderful, happy news!

CHILDREN'S HYMN "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" (*LSB* 338)

1 Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free; From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in Thee. Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art, Dear desire of ev'ry nation, Joy of ev'ry longing heart.

2 Born Thy people to deliver; Born a child and yet a king! Born to reign in us forever, Now Thy gracious kingdom bring. By Thine own eternal Spirit Rule in all our hearts alone; By Thine all-sufficient merit Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

+ Wonderful Counselor +

Preston

Have you ever tried walking in the dark without a flashlight? It's hard to see where you are going! You could easily get hurt or lost.

Walking in darkness is how Isaiah describes people who don't trust and believe in God. But God doesn't leave us in the dark! Jesus came to be the light that shines in the darkness.

Lakely

Isaiah 9:2 tells us: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined." Jesus is the light of the world!

Hayden

The light of the world would come as a baby, born of a virgin. Isaiah tells about the birth of this baby, a new king who would come from David's kingly line and who would rule over an everlasting kingdom. The new king is the promised Messiah, Jesus.

Ellie D

Isaiah describes the Messiah using names that show us His power and authority: "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" (Isaiah 9:6).

Ellie D

The second name Isaiah gives Jesus the Messiah is Wonderful Counselor, A counselor is someone who gives advice, or counsel. The world often gives bad advice that leads us away from God into darkness. Jesus gives wonderful, lifegiving counsel—the Good News of salvation.

Reagan, Ellie M, and Millie

We hear this wonderful counsel from Jesus in His words recorded in John 3:16: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."

RECITATION

K-8 (LSB 412:1)

The people that in darkness sat A glorious light have seen; The light has shined on them who long In shades of death have been.

CHILDREN'S HYMN (K-8) "Savior of the Nations, Come" (TLH 95:1-3,6,7)

- 1. Savior of the nations, come, Virgin's Son, make here Thy home! Marvel now, O heaven and earth, That the Lord chose such a birth.
- Not by human flesh and blood, By the Spirit of our God, Was the Word of God made flesh--Woman's Offspring, pure and fresh.
- 3. Wondrous birth! O wondrous Child Of the Virgin undefiled! Though by all the world disowned, Still to be in heaven enthroned.
- 6. Brightly doth Thy manger shine, Glorious is its light divine. Let not sin o'ercloud this light; Ever be our faith thus bright.
- 7. Praise to God the Father sing, Praise to God the Son, our King, Praise to God the Spirit be Ever and eternally.

+ MIGHTY GOD +

Andy

The third name Isaiah gives to Jesus is *Mighty God*. The child born of a virgin would be God Himself! Jesus our Savior is true God and true man. Before Jesus was born, God sent an angel to proclaim this miraculous news to Joseph.

Preston

Matthew 1:20–23 tells us, "An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, 'Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.'

Hunter K

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: 'Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel' (which means, God with us)."

K-8 Christmas Story Part 1

Luke 2:1-7 And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. 3 So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. 4 Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, 5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife¹, who was with child. ⁶ So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. 7 And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

RECITATION

K-8 (LSB 412:3)

To us a Child of hope is born, To us a Son is given, And on His shoulder ever rests All power in earth and heaven.

CHILDREN'S SONG (K-8)
"Silent Night, Holy Night" (*TLH* 646)

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.

- 2. Silent night! Holy night!
 Shepherds quake at the sight;
 Glories stream from heaven afar,
 Heavenly hosts sing, Alleluia.
 Christ, the Savior, is born!
 Christ, the Savior, is born!
- 3. 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.

Text: Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792–1848; tr. John F. Young, 1820–85. Public domain

+ EVERLASTING FATHER +

3-8 Christmas Story Part 2

Luke 2:8-14 8 Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And behold¹, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. 10 Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. 11 "For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 "And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

6-8 Christmas Story Part 3

Luke 2:15-20 ¹⁵ So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us." 16 And they came with haste and found

Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. ¹⁷ Now when they had seen *Him*, they made widely¹ known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. ¹⁸ And all those who heard *it* marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. ¹⁹ But Mary kept all these things and pondered *them* in her heart. ²⁰ Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.

Adia

Isaiah gives the baby born in Bethlehem a fourth name: Everlasting Father. Jesus is the Son of God, but He has the heart of a father toward His people. Jesus rules over His kingdom as a loving father. He is the Everlasting Father—Jesus has no beginning and no end, and His kingdom is eternal.

Wyatt

Isaiah 9:7 says, "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."

RECITATION

3-8 (LSB 412:4)

His name shall be the Prince of Peace. The Everlasting Lord, The Wonderful, the Counselor, The God by all adored.

CHILDREN'S SONG "Go Tell It on the Mountain" (WS 706)

Refrain:

Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and ev'rywhere; 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 blessèd Christmas morn. Refrain

Text: African American spiritual, refrain: John W. Work II, 1873-1925. stanzas, alt. Public domain

+ PRINCE OF PEACE +

Ellie D

Jesus Christ came for all people, and all who believe in Jesus as Lord and Savior belong to His eternal kingdom. God showed His desire for all to be saved when He placed a star in the heavens to guide Wise Men from the East to the Savior of the world.

Remy

We read from Matthew chapter 2: "Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, 'Where is He who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him'" (Matthew 2:1–2).

Adia

That special star guided the Wise Men to the place where Jesus was. Matthew writes, "The star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house they saw the

child with Mary His mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh" (Matthew 2:9–11).

Jackson

Prince of Peace is the final name Isaiah gives the promised Messiah. We all want peace in our lives and in our world. Only Jesus gives us true peace—peace with God.

Ryker

Jesus won that peace for us when He went to the cross to pay for our sins. Jesus told His disciples, "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid" (John 14:27).

Isabella and Lizzie

The child born in Bethlehem is Jesus, the Messiah. He is our Immanuel, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace!

RECITATION

6-8 (LSB 412:5)

His righteous government and power Shall over all extend; On judgment and on justice based, His reign shall have no end.

CHILDREN'S SONG

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" (TLH 94)

- 1. Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born 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 new-born King!"
- 2. Christ, by highest heaven 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 new-born King!"

- 3. Hail, the heavenly Prince of Peace!
 Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
 Light and life to all He brings,
 Risen with healing in His wings.
 Mild He leaves His throne on high,
 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 new-born King!"
- 4. Come, Desire of nations, come, Fix in us Thy humble home;
 Oh, to all Thyself impart,
 Formed in each believing heart!
 Hark! the herald angels sing,
 "Glory to the new-born King;
 Peace on earth and mercy mild,
 God and sinners reconciled!"
 Hark! the herald angels sing,
 "Glory to the new-born King!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88, alt. Public domain.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life T everlasting. Amen.

RESPONSIVE READING

- Р To us a child is born,
- С to us a son is given.
- Jesus is our Wonderful Counselor, Р
- С our Mighty God,
- Р the Everlasting Father,
- the Prince of Peace. Thanks be to God! C

OFFERING, PRAYER, AND LORD'S PRAYER

Ρ ... in whose name we join to prayer:

all Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace. Amen

HYMN

"Jov to the World" (TLH 87)

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

- 2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy.
- 3. 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.
- 4. He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations prove The glories of His righteousness And wonders of His love.

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FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Member of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC)

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