



Friday, December 24, 2021

# Christmas Eve

## **Our Father's Lutheran Church**

3903 Gilbert Ave SE, Rockford, MN 55373

Phone: 763-477-6300

Email: [office@ourfatherschurch.org](mailto:office@ourfatherschurch.org)

[www.ourfatherschurch.org](http://www.ourfatherschurch.org)

Rev. Aaron Fuller, Pastor  
Tammy Jarvi, Director of Music  
Melissa Ungaro, Coordinator of Internal Ministry & Administration  
Brittni Bronczyk, Coordinator of Community Outreach  
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## WELCOME TO OFLC!

We are pleased that you decided to join us in worship this morning. We hope you'll feel at home here, and God's presence! We have a few helpful notes for you on the service to do that:

All hymns are in the red hymnal in the pew in front of you, or under your pew seat. You can find them using the number next to the hymn in the order of service.

The **bold** text indicates parts of the service where the whole congregation is invited to speak together.

Communion is celebrated using small, disposable kits with a wafer and juice. You can pick one up on your way into worship, or get the attention of our service coordinator and they will be happy to bring one to you!

Offering is not required to be with us in worship today, but we greatly appreciate any contribution you wish to make! If you wish to do so, you can place it in the basket at the end of your pew, or in the plate at the back of the sanctuary. If you need assistance, a service coordinator will be happy to help you!

Here at OFLC, we don't have pre-scheduled worship assistants. We allow folks to help out as the Spirit leads them, and that includes visitors as well! If you'd like to take part in worship, please see Pastor Aaron or a service coordinator before the service and they'll be happy to involve you!

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## PRELUDE

### WELCOME & INSTRUCTIONS

#### ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING & CHRISTMAS LITANY

*All four Advent candles and the fifth candle, representing light, are lit as we prepare our hearts and minds for worship.*

L: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

**A: He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him.**

L: In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

**A: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.**

L: The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

**All: And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.**

#### OPENING SONG JOY TO THE WORLD #267

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

#### THE GOSPEL LUKE 2:1-20

The Gospel, according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 All went to their own towns to be registered.

#### HYMN: O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM #279 (Verses 1 & 2)

Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

#### HYMN: AWAY IN A MANGER #277 (Verses 1 & 3)

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#### HYMN: AWAY IN A MANGER #277 (Verses 1 & 3)

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and 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 heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

#### **HYMN: HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING #270 (Verses 1 & 3)**

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

This is the gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

#### **SERMON**

#### **MUSIC MINISTRY/GATHERING OF OFFERINGS**

*During this time, if you wish to make a contribution to today's offering, you may do so by placing it in the basket at the outside end of the pew, and passing it to the inside of the pew, closest to the center of the sanctuary. Service coordinators will collect the offering and bring to the front at the conclusion of music ministry.*

#### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Worship Assistant: Let us lift up our prayers for the world, all of creation, and all people according to their need.

Worship Assistant: *reads aloud requests made by people this week. After all written requests are read,*

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and 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 heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

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Let us offer additional prayers, spoken aloud or in silence.

Pastor: Hear us, O God, and may we rejoice that in the birth of your Son, Jesus, in the promise of your eternal grace, justice, and love. **Amen.**

### **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

#### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

*At OFLC, we practice an open table. What that means is all are welcome to participate in receiving communion, for it is the Lord's Table, and the grace given through these communion elements is given freely by God. In this time of COVID, we are using prepackaged communion elements. The Pastor will give instructions as we observe the Sacrament safely. If you need assistance, please raise your hand and one of our Worship Coordinators will assist you.*

Pastor: And now may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus strengthen you, and keep you in his grace.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **CANDLE LIGHTING**

*At this time, the sanctuary will be darkened, and service coordinators will come down the center aisle to light candles at the end of each pew. To light others, the unlit candle should tip their candle to the lit candle. Once all candles are lit, we will sing the following hymn:*

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## SONGS

### INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY #276

Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;  
oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all.  
Swiftly winging, angels singing, bells are ringing, tidings bringing:  
Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new  
Saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.  
This rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:  
Christ the child is born for you! Christ the child is born for you!

### SILENT NIGHT #281

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 sign;  
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.

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## **BLESSING AND SENDING**

P: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined.

**A: For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

P: Jesus Christ, born for all the world, is indeed a blessing! May God fill you with the hope, peace, joy, and love of Christ this evening and each day forward.

**A: Amen.**

L: Let us go in peace. **A: Thanks be to God.**

## **THIS WEEK AT OFLC:**

### **Saturday:**

Christmas Day worship 10 am

### **Sunday:**

No regular worship

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