



# **Our Saviour Lutheran Church**

**Lake Havasu City, Arizona + Evangelical Lutheran Synod**



# Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



## Ringing of the Bell

## Prelude

## Opening Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful

CW 354, vv.1–3

*THE CONGREGATION STANDS TO SING VERSE 3*

## Call to Worship

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ + and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

### **And also with you.**

Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord, let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

**O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth. You have set your glory above the heavens.**

Give thanks to the Lord of lords, to Him Who alone does great wonders, Who by His understanding made the heavens, Who spread out the earth upon the waters, Who made the great lights—the sun to govern the day, the moon and stars to govern the night. He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name.

**Great is our Lord and mighty in power; His understanding has no limit.**

But our iniquities have separated us from our God; our sins have hidden His face from us, so that He will not hear. We look for light, but all is darkness; for brightness, but we walk in deep shadows. We look for deliverance, but it is far away.

**For our offenses are many in His sight, and our sins testify against us. Our offenses are ever with us, and we acknowledge our sins.**

The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will He harbor His anger forever; He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.

**From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

“The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in

the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The Lord our Righteousness.”

**Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.**

“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.”

**Let the name of the Lord be praised forever and ever.**

♪ **Come, your hearts and voices raising  
Christ the Lord, with gladness praising;  
Loudly sing His love amazing, Worthy folk of Christendom.  
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.**

Let us pray. Almighty God, You made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known on earth the wonder of that Light, we may also behold Him in all His glory in the life to come; through Your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

♪ **Gracious Child, we pray you, hear us;  
From your lowly manger cheer us.  
Gently lead us and be near us  
Till we join the angelic choir.**



*BE SEATED*

## The Word

**Old Testament Lesson**

**Isaiah 9:2–7**

**Hymn Response** How Lovely Shines the Morning Star

CW 370, v.1

♪ **How lovely shines the Morning Star!  
The nations see and hail afar  
the light in Judah shining.  
O David’s son of Jacob’s race,  
my Bridegroom and my King of grace,  
for you my heart is pining.  
Lowly, holy, great and glorious,  
O victorious Prince of graces,  
filling all the heav’nly places.**

## Hymn Response

Oh, Come, Little Children

German Carol

♪ **O, come, little children, oh, come, one and all,  
 To Bethlehem haste, to the manger so small;  
 God's Son for a gift has been sent you this night  
 To be your Redeemer, your joy, and delight  
 He's born in a stable for you and for me,  
 Draw near by the bright gleaming starlight to see,  
 In swaddling clothes lying so meek and so mild  
 And purer than angels, the heavenly Child,  
 Kneel down and adore Him with shepherds today,  
 Lift up little hands, now, and praise Him as they;  
 Rejoice that a Savior from sin you can boast,  
 And join in the song of the heavenly host.**

**The Christmas Gospel** *Sung by the Choir***Luke 2:1–20**

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. <sup>2</sup> (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup> And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. <sup>4</sup> 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:); <sup>5</sup> To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. <sup>6</sup> And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. <sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, (King James Version)

Glory to God in the highest,  
 And on earth peace,  
 Good will toward men.

<sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup>And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup>And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup>And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. <sup>19</sup>But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

## Sermon

### ***A Te Deum Laudamus* for Christmas Eve**

*PLEASE REMAIN SEATED*

We praise You, O God, we acclaim You as Lord; all creation worships You, Father everlasting.

♪ **Let the heights of heaven adore Him,                      CW 358: 4–5**  
**Angel hosts His praises sing,**  
**Powers, dominions bow before Him**  
**And extol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth be silent,**  
**Every voice in concert ring Evermore and evermore.**  
**Christ, to thee, with God the Father,**  
**And, O Holy Ghost to thee**  
**Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving**  
**And unending praises be, Honor, glory, and dominion**  
**And eternal victory Evermore and evermore.**

To You all angels, all the pow'rs of heav'n, cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of heav'nly hosts, heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

♪ **The Word becomes incarnate And yet remains on high,**  
**And cherubim sing anthems To shepherds from the sky.**  
**Proclaim the Savior's birth:**  
**"To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth."**  
**While thus they sing your monarch, Those bright angelic bands,**  
**Rejoice, O vales and mountains, And oceans, clap your hands.**  
**Proclaim the Savior's birth:**  
**"To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth."                      CW 349:2–3**

The glorious company of apostles praise You. The noble fellowship of prophets praise You. The white robed army of martyrs praise You. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim You: Father of majesty unbounded, Your glorious, true, and only Son, and the Holy Spirit, Advocate and Guide.

♪ **Now through His Son doth shine The Father's grace divine.  
Death o'er us had reign-ed Through sin and vanity;  
He for us obtain-ed Eternal joy on high.  
May we praise Him there! May we praise Him there!**  
**Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heavenly ground?  
Where the angels singing With all His saints unite,  
Sweetest praises bringing In heavenly joy and light.  
Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!** CW 363:3-4

You, Christ, are the King of glory, the eternal Son of the Father.

♪ **Christ, by highest heaven adored, CW 350:2-3  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see, Hail th' incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel!  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"  
Hail, the heavenly Prince of Peace!  
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays his glory by, Born that we no more may die,  
Born to raise us from the earth, Born to give us second birth.  
Hark! The Herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the new-born King!"**

When you became man to set us free, You humbled Yourself to be born of a virgin. You overcame the sting of death and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.

♪ **What child is this who, laid to rest, CW 344:1-2  
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!**

You sit at the right hand of God in the glory of the Father. We believe that You will come to be our judge. Come then, Lord, and help Your people, bought with the price of Your own blood, and bring us with Your saints to glory everlasting.

♪ **And our eyes at last shall see Him** CW 343:3-4  
**Through His own redeeming love,**  
**For that child, so dear and gentle,**  
**Is our Lord in heaven above,**  
**And He leads His children on to the place where He is gone.**  
**Not in that poor, lowly stable with the oxen standing by**  
**Shall we see Him, but in heaven,**  
**Set at God's right hand on high.**  
**Then like stars His children crowned,**  
**All in white, His praise will sound.**

*STAND*

## **Prayer**

Eternal God, on a night such as this You sent Your only-begotten Son into the world to be Savior and Lord. He offered you His perfect life of love and His innocent death on the cross to free us from the debt we owed and the punishment we deserved. You raised Him from the grave, accepted His sacrifice, and forgave the sins of all people forever.

Father in heaven, pour out Your Holy Spirit into our hearts that we may rejoice in Jesus' coming with confident faith and unshakable expectation. Strengthen us in faith as we hear His promises in Your Word and in the holy Sacrament of His body and blood. Protect us from the power of Satan, and when we are tempted, focus our eyes on Jesus who gives us true and eternal pleasures and everlasting joy.

On this holy night we pray that you would keep in Your care all whom we love, especially those who live far from us and those who have become separated from us because of misunderstanding or bitterness. Help those who are sick or troubled in body or mind, those who are fighting temptation, those who are alone, and those who do not know You by faith. Let the message of the Savior's birth bring joy where there is sadness, courage where there is fear, and hope where there is doubt. From hearts of faith, may every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord and may every soul finally come to share in His eternal reign, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

*BE SEATED*

## Candle Lighting

The white candle in the middle of the Advent wreath symbolizes Jesus Christ, the Light of the world. From Him the light is spread.

As the flame is passed to you, tip your unlit candle to light it, **then hold it straight to keep the hot wax from spilling.**

During the lighting, we hear the Swedish Hymn:  
**“Now Light the Candles, One by One.”**

*AFTER ALL THE CANDLES ARE LIT, WE WILL SING **SILENT NIGHT***

♪ **Silent night! Holy night!** CW 337  
**All is calm, all is bright,  
Round yon virgin mother and Child.  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild. 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!”**  
**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.**

**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.**

## Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

**Amen.**

## Silent Prayer

Candles should be *gently* blown out after the silent prayer.