



Prelude

Welcome

Christmas Gospel



LAKE OF THE ISLES LUTHERAN CHURCH

✠ Family Christmas Eve Devotional ✠

December 24, 2020

On a long winter evening we gather to proclaim the coming light of the Christ Child in Bethlehem. May this service and devotional bring your family together to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Traditions of Christmas

Chip Davis

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 the dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.*

St. Luke's Gospel

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

*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;
O, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!*

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

Away in a Manger

*Away in a manger, No crib for his bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay;
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.*

*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 till morning is nigh.*



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. And 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!”

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.
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

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.

*Shepherd, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heav’nly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; 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.



Go Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain: *Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and ev’ry where;
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*

There is another portion of the Christmas story that is found in St. Matthew’s Gospel. It is the story of the visitors from the East who came to see Jesus and brought him wonderful gifts.



We Three Kings

*We three kings of Orient are Bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain, moor and mountain Following yonder star.
Oh, star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding. Guide us to thy perfect light!*

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea for so it is has been written by the prophet.”

They set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

*Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice:
Heav’ns sings alleluia: alleluia the earth replies.
Oh, star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding. Guide us to thy perfect light!*



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.*

*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.*

Prayer

Loving God, thank you for the gift of your son, Jesus. Thank you for the light that the Savior’s love shines into the dark corners of our hearts and lives. As we have been touched and changed by your light and love, may your Holy Spirit give us the power and courage to carry your light to others. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Lord’s Prayer

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.

Christmas Blessing



May he who by his Incarnation gathered into one, things earthly and heavenly, fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. Amen.

Joy to the World

Joy to the world! The Lord is come;

Let earth receive her King;

Let every heart prepare him room,

:/: And heaven, and nature sing.:/:

Joy to the world! The Savior reigns;

Let men their songs employ,

While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,

/: Repeat the sounding joy:/:

He rules the world with truth and grace,

And makes the nations prove

The glories of his righteousness,

:/: And wonders of his love.:/:

On behalf of Lake of the Isles Lutheran Church, we would like to thank the Sunday School parents and their children for participating in this year's Christmas Eve Family Service. Each of the families came in separately to be recorded for a small portion of a program that they could not see whole. They waited in their costumes and saw little more than a green screen, but they were inspired by Diane LaMere to believe that they were playing a role in telling the story of Jesus' birth. Thank you to Dr. Kris Rizzotto and the Corona Chorus for their music.

Finally, thanks to our Director of Children's Ministry Diane LaMere and her son Joseph LaMere for their organizational and technical skills, their steady patience, as well as their creative vision to put all of these separate images together into a meaningful collage and a virtual, living Christmas nativity. The 2020 pandemic has brought many challenges to our congregational life, but it has also forced us to rethink the pieces of our Christian faith that are most important. Merry Christmas!

Pastor Arden Haug and the LOTI Church Council

