



**In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.
John 1:1**

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Adelaide
Carols Service
24 December 9 pm
Christmas Eve**

PRELUDE

HYMN LH 34 O Come, all ye faithful

**O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him,
Born the King of angels:**

Refrain:

*O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!*

**God of God,
Light of light,
Lo, He abhors not the virgin's womb;
Very God,
Begotten, not created:**

Refrain

**Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above
Glory to God
In the highest:**

Refrain

*C. Fredrick Oakley, John Francis Wade
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OPENING RESPONSES

- M: Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:
- C: To you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord.**
- M: This will be a sign for you:
- C: You will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.**

INVOCATION

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

HYMN LH 33 Hark! The herald angels sing

**Hark! The herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn 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.**

Refrain:

***Hark! The herald angels sing,
Glory to the newborn king.***

**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,
Please as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel.**

Refrain

**Hail, the heaven born Prince of peace!
Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Risen with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth,**

Refrain

*Charles Wesley (1707-1788)
Revised George Whitfield (1714-1770)
Martin Madan (1726-1790) and others
Public Domain*

GREETING

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

PRAYER

M: O God, since You have made this most holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light: grant that as we have known on earth the mysteries of that Light, we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9: 2-7

A Son is given to us

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God**

HYMN LH 632 Once in royal David's city

**Once in royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for His bed;
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.**

**He came down to earth from heaven
Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable,
And His cradle was a stall;
With the poor and mean and lowly
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.**

**And our eyes at last shall see Him,
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 has gone.**

**Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see Him; but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high:
Where like stars His children crowned
All in white shall wait around.**

*Cecil Frances Alexander (1832-1895)
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SECOND READING

Titus 2:11-14

The grace of God has appeared

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God

HYMN LH 630 O thou holiest

**O thou holiest, O thou happiest,
Grace-bestowing Christmastide!
Christ in a manger
Saves from all danger:
O rejoice, ye Christians far and wide!**

**O thou holiest, O thou happiest,
Peace proclaiming Christmastide!
Christ's light is beaming,
Mankind redeeming:
O rejoice, ye Christians far and wide!**

**O thou holiest, O thou happiest,
Life-imparting Christmastide!
Angels from glory
Chant the great story:
O rejoice, ye Christians far and wide!**

*O du fröhliche, o du selige
Johannes Daniel Falk (1768-1826)*

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20

Today the Saviour is born

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to be You, O Christ.**

HYMN LH 624 While shepherds watched their flocks by night

**While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
All seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around.**

**'Fear not', said he, (for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled mind);
'Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind.**

**'To you in David's town this day
Is born of David's line
A Saviour, who is Christ the Lord
And this shall be the sign:**

**'The heavenly babe you there shall find
To human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands
And in a manger laid.'**

**'All glory be to God on high,
And to the earth be peace;
Good-will henceforth from heaven to men
Begin and never cease.'**

*Nahum Tate (1652-1715)
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MESSAGE

HYMN LH 629 Silent 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!
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glory streams from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing: Hallelujah!
Christ the Saviour is born,
Christ the Saviour 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,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.**

*Josef Mohr (1792-1848)
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OFFERING PRAYER

M: Lord, help us to take the angel's message to heart, and to realize that the birth of Jesus our Saviour is good news for us and for all people. Lead us to give glory to You by a life of joyful service to You and to other people.

C: **Hear our prayer.**

M: Lord, in Your mercy.

C: **Hear our prayer.**

LORD'S PRAYER

All: **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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours, now and forever. Amen.**

BLESSING

M: The Christ is born for us!

C: **God's Son is given for us!**

M: May joy and peace come to you as you celebrate the birth of Christ. The blessing of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be and remain with you, now and forever. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **Amen.**

HYMN LH 627 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 Saviour reigns:

Let men their songs employ,

While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains

Repeat the sounding joy.

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.

He rules the world with truth and grace,

And makes the nations prove

The glories of His righteousness,

And wonders of His love.

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

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POSTLUDE

Pastor: Fraser Pearce
Organist: Andrew Ampt