

Christmas Eve 2024

Service of light

L Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,
C the light no darkness can overcome.

L Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,
C and the day is almost over.

L Let Your light scatter the darkness
C and illumine Your Church.

Hymn: #379, O Come, All Ye Faithful

sts. 1, ref, 2-4

Invocation

Opening Sentences

P The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
C those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

P You have multiplied the nation;
C You have increased its joy;

P they rejoice before You as with joy at the harvest,
C as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

P For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor,
C You have broken as on the day of Midian.

P For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood
C will be burned as fuel for the fire.

P For to us a child is born,
C to us a son is given;

P and the government shall be upon His shoulder,
C and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

P Of the increase of His government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over His kingdom,
C to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Reading

Micah 5:2-5a

Reading

Isaiah 7:10-14

Hymn: #361, O Little Town of Bethlehem

361 O Little Town of Bethlehem

Reading

Luke 1:26-38

Reading

Matthew 1:18-25

Hymn: #366, It Came upon the Midnight Clear

Reading

Luke 2:1-7

Hymn: #365, Away in a Manger

Reading

Luke 2:8-14

Hymn: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Reading

Luke 2:15-20

Hymn: #388, Go Tell It on the Mountain

Sermon "Fear Not"

Christmas Eve 2024

Hymn: #387, Joy to the World

Lighting of the Candles

The pastor takes the light from the Christ candle to the acolytes and assisting ministers. They pass the light on to the congregation.

P As the light of these candles illumines our faces, it symbolizes the light of Christ, the Child in the manger at Bethlehem, the Savior suffering our death on the cross and soon to come from His throne on high as Judge of all. He is our light here on earth and the eternal light who enlightens heaven, where there is no need of candle or sun. Rejoice, for the Light of the world has come, who transforms us with the brightness of His glory.

This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all.

C **If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.**

P But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another,

C **and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.**

P You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

O God, as You make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, grant that we, who joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord's Prayer

LSB 251

Hymn: #363, Silent Night, Holy Night

Benediction

LSB 252

Postlude: #376, Once in Royal David's City

sts. 1–2

Acknowledgments

Evening Prayer from Lutheran Service Book

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