

# PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH and ACADEMY

Sussex, Wisconsin

January 6, 2021 – 6:45 p.m.

## Epiphany Choral Divine Service

Featuring the Senior Choir  
of Peace Lutheran Church

**CAROL** CHOIR

*Still, Still, Still*

Text: Austrian Carol, tr. Meg Peacocke, b. 1930; Setting: Philip Ledger, 1937-2012

Still, still, still, let all the world be still,  
For Mary lays her son to rest,  
Sings to him softly at her breast,  
Still, still, still, let all the world be still.

Sleep, sleep, sleep my dearest baby sleep.  
The angels all rejoice and sing,  
Heav'n for your delight shall ring,  
Sleep, sleep, sleep my dearest baby sleep.

Joy, joy, joy, my heart is filled with joy!  
The God of love has left his throne,  
Made this humble world his own,  
Joy, joy, joy, my heart is filled with joy!

**CAROL** CONGREGATION

*O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is*

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-76; Translation: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941; Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598-1662

**All:**

1. O Jesus Christ, Thy manger is  
My paradise at which my soul reclineth.  
For there, O Lord, doth lie the Word  
Made flesh for us;  
Herein Thy grace forth shineth.

**Choir:**

2. He whom the sea and wind obey  
Doth come to serve the sinner in great meekness.  
Thou, God's own Son, with us art one,  
Dost join us  
And our children in our weakness.

**All:**

3. Thy light and grace our guilt efface,  
Thy heav'nly riches all our loss retrieving.  
Immanuel, Thy birth doth quell  
The power of hell  
And Satan's bold deceiving.

**Choir:**

4. Thou Christian heart, whoe'er thou art,  
Be of good cheer and let no sorrow move thee!  
For God's own Child, in mercy mild,  
Joins thee to Him;  
How greatly God must love thee!

**All:**

5. Remember thou what glory now  
The Lord prepared thee for all earthly sadness.  
The angel host can never boast  
Of greater glory,  
Greater bliss or gladness.

**All:**

6. The world may hold her wealth and gold;  
But thou, my heart, keep Christ as thy true Treasure.  
To Him hold fast until at last  
A crown be thine  
And honor in full measure.

## INVOCATION, SALUTATION AND COLLECT FOR THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

**P:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** **Amen.**

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** **And also with you.**

**P:** Let us pray.

O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, who know you by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** **Amen.**

## FIRST READING

**Numbers 24:15-17a**

*The Prophecy of the Star that Announces the Birth of the King of the Nations*

## CAROL CHOIR

***What Is This Fragrance***

Text and Tune: Traditional French; Translation: Werner P. Grams, alt.; Arrangement: William Averitt, b. 1948

What is this fragrance sweet and tender,  
Lovelier than the flow'rs of spring?  
Shepherds, now hearken to the splendor  
Of which angelic choirs do sing.  
What is this fragrance sweet and tender,  
Lovelier than the flow'rs of spring?

What is this radiance soft and gentle,  
Shining with love upon our eyes?  
Star of the East was ne'er so glorious,  
Tracing its path through distant skies.  
What is this radiance soft and gentle,  
Shining with love upon our eyes?

Hasten, then, shepherds, quickly journey  
To see the Savior from above,  
Bring unto Him your dearest treasure,  
Fervent devotion, endless love.  
Hasten, then, shepherds, quickly journey  
To see the Savior from above.

## SECOND READING

**Micah 5:2-5**

*The Prophecy of the Birth of Christ in Bethlehem of Judah*

**CAROL CHOIR**

***O Bethlehem***

Text: Carl Schalk, b. 1929; Tune: Traditional Basque Carol; Composer: Carl Schalk b. 1929

- 1. O Bethlehem! See your glory shines  
so brightly, O Bethlehem.  
You are raised up with favor divine,  
You are chosen, yours the favor,  
Chosen of God to cradle the Savior,  
O Bethlehem!
- 2. O Bethlehem! Here at last we see  
the Promised One, O Bethlehem.  
Let us give praise with joyful hearts.  
He has opened heav'n before us,  
Come let us join the heav'nly chorus,  
O Bethlehem!
- 3. O Bethlehem! Soon comes the cross,  
the nails, the piercing, O Bethlehem.  
Then the glorious Easter morn,  
Conquering death, its bondage breaking,  
Christ victorious, new life awaking,  
O Bethlehem!
- 4. O Bethlehem! Now with the shepherds  
We, too, worship, O Bethlehem.  
He who made the heav'n and earth,  
O wondrous birth, the Lord of all,  
Born a child in manger stall,  
O Bethlehem!

**THIRD READING**

**Luke 1:26-38**

*The Angel Gabriel Announces the Conception of the Son of God to the Blessed Virgin Mary*

**CAROL CHOIR**

***Blessed Be That Maid, Marie***

Text: 15<sup>th</sup> cent. English; Tune: William Ballet's Lute Book

<p>Blessed be that Maid Marie, Born He was of her body Very God ere time began. Born in time the Son of Man. Eya! Jesus hodie natus est de Virgine. (Jesus is born today of the virgin.)</p>	<p>Sweet and blissful was the song Chanted of the angel throng. Peace on earth, Alleluia. In excelsis Gloria! Eya! Jesus hodie natus est de Virgine.</p>
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Fare three kings from far off land,  
Incense, gold and myrrh in hand;  
In Bethl'em the Babe they see,  
Stelle ducti lumine (led by the star).  
Eya! Jesus hodie natus est de Virgine.

**FOURTH READING**

**Luke 2:1-16**

*St. Luke Records the Birth of the Son of God as the Savior of All People*

**CAROL CONGREGATION AND CHOIR**

***All My Heart Again Rejoices LSB360***

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-1676; Translation: Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878  
Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598-1662; Setting: Kevin Hildebrand, b. 1973

***Congregation:***

1. All my heart again rejoices  
As I hear far and near  
Sweetest angel voices.  
“Christ is born,” their choirs are singing  
Till the air ev’rywhere  
Now with joy is ringing.

***All Men:***

2. Hear! The Conqueror has spoken:  
“Now the foe, sin and woe,  
Death and hell are broken!”  
God is man, man to deliver,  
And the Son now is one  
With our blood forever.

***Choir:***

3. Should we fear our God’s displeasure,  
Who, to save, freely gave  
His most precious treasure?  
To redeem us He has given  
His own Son from the throne  
Of His might in heaven.

***All Women and Treble Voices:***

4. See the Lamb, our sin once taking  
To the cross, suffering loss,  
Full atonement making.  
For our life His own He tenders,  
And His grace all our race  
Fit for glory renders.

***Choir:***

5. Softly from His lowly manger  
Jesus calls one and all,  
“You are safe from danger.  
Children, from the sins that grieve you  
You are freed; all you need  
I will surely give you.”

***All:***

6. Come, then, banish all your sadness!  
One and all, great and small,  
Come with songs of gladness.  
We shall live with Him forever  
There on high in that joy  
Which will vanish never.

**FIFTH READING**

**Matthew 2:1-12**

*The Wisemen are Led by the Star to Jesus*

**CAROL CHOIR**

***Manger Carol***

Text and Tune: Traditional Polish; Translation and Setting: Mark Sedio, b. 1954

In a manger lowly  
Lies the babe so holy;  
Born a child, the infant Savior,  
Angels sing His glory;  
Born a child, the infant Savior,  
Shepherds tell the story.

Joyous light of heaven,  
God’s own Son is given;  
Word of God in flesh, Emmanuel,  
Brings the world salvation,  
Clothed in flesh, God’s Word, Emmanuel,  
Light to ev’ry nation.

**Congregation:**

1. On Christmas night all Christians sing  
To hear the news the angels bring,  
On Christmas night all Christians sing  
To hear the news the angels bring,  
News of great joy, news of great mirth,  
News of our merciful King's birth.

**Congregation:**

2. Then why should men on earth be so sad,  
Since our Redeemer made us glad,  
Then why should men on earth be so sad,  
Since our Redeemer made us glad,  
When from our sin He set us free,  
All for to gain our liberty?

**Choir:**

3. When sin departs before His grace,  
Then life and health come in its place;  
When sin departs before His grace,  
Then life and health come in its place;  
Angels and men with joy may sing,  
All for to see the newborn King.

**Congregation:**

4. All out of darkness we have light  
Which made the angels sing this night:  
All out of darkness we have light  
Which made the angels sing this night:  
"Glory to God and peace to men  
Now and forevermore. Amen."

**SERMON**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

**P:** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**P:** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C:** **who made heaven and earth.**

**P:** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C:** **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

**P:** O almighty God, merciful Father,

**C:** **I a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

**P:** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## **PRAYER**

### **PREFACE, PROPER PREFACE, AND SANCTUS**

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

**P:** Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

**P:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

**P:** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, ever more praising You and saying saying:

**SANCTUS** *sung from Setting 3*

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sab - a - oth;**

**Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory;**

**Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is He, Blessed is He,**

**Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.**

### **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND LORD'S PRAYER**

**C: Our Father...**

## THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

### THE PEACE AND AGNUS DEI *sung from Setting 3*

**P:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C:** Amen.

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,  
have mercy upon us.**

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,  
have mercy upon us.**

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,  
grant us Thy peace. Amen.**

### DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“Angels, We Have Heard on High”                      LSB 368

“Away in a Manger”    LSB 365

“What Child Is This?”    LSB 370

“Once in Royal David’s City”                              LSB 376

*Choir sings stanza 2*

### THANKS-GIVING AND POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

**P:** O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,

**C:** **and His mercy endures forever.**

*Following the Collect*

**C:** Amen.

**P:** Let us bless the Lord.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**

### BENEDICTION

*Following the Benediction*

**C:** Amen.

**CAROL** CONGREGATION AND CHOIR

*See in Yonder Manger Low*

Text: Edward Caswall; Tune: John Goss, 1800-80; Setting: John A. Behnke; Arrangement: Keith L. Vieregge

**All:**

1. See in yonder manger low,  
Born for us on earth below,  
See, the gentle Lamb appears,  
Promised from eternal years.  
Hail, O ever blessed morn!  
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!  
Sing through all Jerusalem:  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

**Men:**

2. Lo, within a stable lies  
He who built the starry skies,  
He who, throned in height sublime,  
Sits amid the cherubim.  
**All:** Hail, O ever blessed morn!  
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!  
Sing through all Jerusalem:  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

**Women and Children:**

3. Sacred Infant, all divine,  
What a tender love was Thine,  
Thus to come from highest bliss  
Down to such a world as this.  
**Men:** Hail, O ever blessed morn!  
**Women:** Hail, redemption's happy dawn!  
**All:** Sing through all Jerusalem:  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

**All:**

4. Teach, O teach us, holy Child,  
By Thy face so meek and mild,  
Teach us to resemble Thee  
In Thy sweet humility.  
Hail, O ever blessed morn!  
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!  
Sing through all Jerusalem:  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"