

Though circled by the hosts on high,
He deign'd to cast a pitying eye
Upon His helpless creatures;
The whole creation's Head and Lord,
By highest seraphim adored,
Assumed our very nature.
Jesus, grant us, Thro' Thy merit to inherit
Thy salvation;
Hear, O hear, our supplication!

Collect for Light and Benediction

Hymn to Depart

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

All:

1. 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.

Choir:

2. Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
Alles schläft, einsam wacht
Nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh.

Choir:

3. 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.

All:

4. Silent night, holy night!
Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born.

Peace Lutheran Church and Academy

The Nativity of Our Lord
Christmas Eve, December 24, 2021
8:00 p.m.

Blessed Nativity of Our Lord! “There was no help for us until the only Son of the Father in His unfathomable goodness had come down from heaven to help us.” - Martin Luther. Welcome to the Divine Service. Guests desiring to commune are asked to speak to the Pastor. For the spiritual care and welfare of all we practice closed communion.

Order of Service

Divine Service Setting Two, Hymnal p. 167

Please follow the order of service printed in the hymnal beginning on page 167. The propers for the day (readings, hymns) are listed below.

Preservice Music

“Lullaby, Jesu” Polish Carol - setting by Bender

Stand and face processional cross

Processional Hymn

“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”
Stanzas 1-7

358

Introit *sung responsively with the choir*

Antiphon

When all was still, and it was | midnight, *
Your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from
the | royal throne.

(Liturgical Text)

Psalm

Why do the | nations rage, *

and the people plot a | vain thing?

The kings of the earth set themselves,
and the rulers take counsel to-|gether, *
against the Lord and against His A-|nointed.

He who sits in the heav-|ens shall laugh; *

the Lord shall hold them in de-|rision.

Then He shall speak to them | in His wrath, *
and distress them in His deep dis- | pleasure:

**“Yet I have | set My King *
on My holy hill of | Zion.”**

(Ps. 2:1-2, 4-6)

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son *
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning, *
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

(Antiphon is repeated.)

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

“For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given.”

Choral Response

“O Bethlehem” by Carl Shalk

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!

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!

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!

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!

Epistle

Titus 2:11-14

The grace of God has appeared to bring salvation to all.

Stand and face the processional cross.

Alleluia Verse sung by the choir

Alleluia. Oh come, let us sing to the LORD! *

(Ps. 95:1a, 6b)

Let us worship and bow down;

Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

The Birth of Christ in Bethlehem

Hymn of the Day

358

“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”

Stanzas 8-15

Choral Offertory

“Who Are These That Earnest Knock” by Walter L. Pelz

Who are these that earnest knock, Seeking some safe haven,
These in lonely streets that walk, Weak and heavy laden?
Joseph and the virgin mild, Seeking shelter for the Child
Yet unborn but near. Let me ready room for Him,
I will take the Christ Child in, Humbly pay Him welcome.

Who is this that docile lies In a lowly cradle?

Who is this that dignifies This rude common stable?

Christ, the ever-living Lord, By the angel hosts adored,

Come to meet His death. O Redeemer of my sin,

Oh, how great Thy love has been, To be born to save me!

Who are these that silent stand, Filled with holy wonder?

Proselyte and pilgrim band, Thousands without number,

Shepherds, sages, saints whose eyes see the newborn sacrifice

With discerning faith. All unworthy, yet make me

One who sees His majesty, One who kneels adoring.

Distribution Hymns

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

380

“Away in a Manger”

364

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

368

“To Shepherds as They Watched”

insert

Post-Communion Collect and Candle Ceremony

The pastors will bring the light of Christ to the first person in each pew on the center aisle. Each parishioner should light their candle by tipping the unlit candle into the lit candle of their neighbor until all the candles are lit. Do not tip lighted candles. Allow the candles to burn through the conclusion of the service and the singing of Silent Night.

Choral Meditation

“How Bright Appears the Morning Star” by J.S. Bach

How bright appears the Morning Star,

With mercy beaming from afar;

The host of heaven rejoices.

O righteous Branch, O Jesse’s Rod,

Thou Son of Man and Son of God,

We, too, will lift our voices.

Jesus, Jesus, Holy, holy, yet most lowly

Draw Thou near us,

Great Immanuel, come and hear us!

To Shepherds as They Watched by Night 103

Luke 2: 10, 11
 Vom Himmel kam der Engel Schar
 Martin Luther, 1543
 Tr., Richard Massie, 1854, alt.

L. M.

Puer nobis nascitur
 "Musae Sioniac," VI, 1609

1 To shep-herds as they watched by night Ap-peared a
 2 At Beth-le-hem, in Da-vid's town, As Mi-cah
 3 Oh, then re-joice that thro' His Son God is with
 4 What harm can sin and death then do? The true God

host of an-gels bright; Be-hold the ten-der Babe, they
 did of old make known; 'Tis Je-sus Christ, your Lord and
 sin-ners now at one; Made like your-selves of flesh and
 now a-bides with you. Let hell and Sa-tan rage and

said, In yon-der low-ly man-ger laid,
 King, Who doth to all sal-va-tion bring.
 blood, Your broth-er is th'e-ter-nal God.
 chafe, Christ is your Broth-er—ye are safe. A-men.

5 Not one He will or can forsake
 Who Him his confidence doth make.
 Let all his wiles the Tempter try,
 You may his utmost powers defy.

6 Ye shall and must at last prevail;
 God's own ye are, ye cannot fail.
 To God forever sing your praise
 With joy and patience all your days.