

Christmas Eve 2020
Highland Prairie/Elstad Lutheran Parish

Choral Prelude

"The Hills are Bare at Bethlehem"

The hills are bare at Bethlehem,
no future for the world they show;
yet here new life begins to grow,
from earth's old dust a greenwood stem.

The stars are cold at Bethlehem,
no warmth for those beneath the sky;
yet here the radiant angels fly,
and joy burns new, a fiery gem.

The heart is tired at Bethlehem,
no human dream unbroken stands;
yet here God comes to mortal hands,
and hope renewed cries out: "Amen!"

Dialog

P: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

C: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

P: Those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

C: We have seen Christ's glory, the glory of a Father's only Son.

P: For a child has been born for us, a Son given to us.

C: In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

Opening Hymn

"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 you nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

(Refrain) Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"

Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel! (Refrain)

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth,
born to give us second birth. (Refrain)

Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and
the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray:

**C: Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with
the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here
on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus'
presence and in the last day wake to the brightness
of his glory; through your only Son, Jesus Christ
our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the
Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

First Lesson

Isaiah 52.7-10

Psalm 96

Second Lesson

Titus 2.11-14

Though wise men who found him
laid rich gifts around him,
yet oxen they gave him their hay;
and Jesus in beauty
accepted their duty;
contented in manger he lay.

Then haste we to show him
the praises we owe him;
our service he ne'er can despise:
Whose love is still able
to show us that stable
where softly in manger he lies.

Nicene Creed

**C: We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of the Church

Offertory Prayer

Great Thanksgiving (spoken)

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 indeed right, our duty, and our joy...

Sanctus (spoken)

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might: Heaven and
earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

P: Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your
mercy and eternal your reign. You have filled (cont.).....

Lord's Prayer

Distribution

(Communion will be in one kind (bread) this evening. Please stay in your seat. Pr. Luther
will come to you. Hold out your hand to receive the host.
Carols will be played during the distribution.)

Post-Communion Prayer

Lighting of Individual Candles

(Ushers will be light to the end of your church pew. Please receive the flame while holding
your candle horizontally. After the hymn, please wait until the wax hardens before you tip
the candle.)

Closing Hymn "Night of Silence/Silent Night"

Cold are the people, winter of life.
We tremble in shadows this cold, endless night.
Frozen in the snow lie roses sleeping,
flowers that will echo the sunrise,
fire of hope is our only warmth,
weary its flame will be dying soon.

Voice in the distance, calls in the night,
on wind you enfold us, you speak of the light.
Gentle on the ear you whisper softly,
rumors of a dawn so embracing,
breathless love awaits darkened souls,
soon will we know of the morning.

Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from your holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

Benediction

Dismissal

P: Go in the joy and peace of God made manifest.

C: Thanks be to God!

Merry Christmas!!!