

# Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

4900 Kinsey Drive, Tyler, TX 75703



## Candlelight, Carols and Communion Service

Christmas Eve • 2023 • 7:00 pm



### **To Our Guests and Visitors**

Welcome to our Christmas Eve worship service. On this holy night and in this holy place we are blessed to join the angels and the archangels and all the company of heaven in the gracious presence of the Lord God Almighty and to rejoice in the Incarnation of Our Savior. Worship such as this is taking place throughout the world tonight—just as it did a little over 2,000 years ago when a little congregation assembled around a manger's guest in the little town of Bethlehem.

Thank you for joining with us on this very special evening! We're glad you are here and we hope that you will feel a warm sense of welcome. If you are without a church home, we invite you to become a part of the family of God here at Our Saviour's. Please complete a Communications Card (Yellow card in the pew) and place it in the collection tray.

### **PRELUDE - DR. JAEYONG LEE**

*Please stand*

### **PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

**"HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING" (LBW #60) vs. 1&2**

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 hosts proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
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!  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn king!"

### **GREETING**

P: For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulders, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.   **C: Amen**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: O God, you have made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light, Jesus Christ, our Lord. 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. (*Gelasian Sacramentary, 7th Century*)

**C: Amen**

*Please be Seated*

## BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH/LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

P: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. With Mary and Joseph, with the angels and shepherds, and with the animals in the stable we gather around your Son, born for us. Bless us, and fill us with joy and wonder as we light these candles. May Jesus be born in our lives, that we might share His light and love with all the world, for He is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.

**C: Amen**

## KYRIE

A: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.     **C: Lord, have mercy.**

A: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

A: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.     **C: Lord, have mercy.**

A: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.     **C: Lord, have mercy.**

A: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.     **C: Amen**

## HYMN OF PRAISE

*Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.*

Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father: We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God:

You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.

## The Service of The Word

### OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: ISAIAH 7:10-14

- R: <sup>10</sup>Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz: <sup>11</sup>"Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." <sup>13</sup>And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the LORD himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."
- R: This is the Word of the Lord.   **C: Thanks be to God.**

### PSALMODY

#### PSALM 110:1-4

- R: <sup>1</sup>The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool."
- C: <sup>2</sup>The LORD will send the scepter of your power out of Zion, saying, "Rule over your enemies round about you.**
- R: <sup>3</sup>Princely state has been yours from the day of your birth; in the beauty of holiness have I begotten you, like dew from the womb of the morning."
- C: <sup>4</sup>The LORD has sworn and he will not recant: "You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek."**

### EPISTLE READING

#### 1 JOHN 4:7-16

- R: <sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup>In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. <sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.
- R: This is the Word of the Lord.   **C: Thanks be to God.**

**CHILDREN'S HYMN ~ "THE FIRST NOEL" (LBW #56) vs 1**

The first Noel the angel did say	On a cold winter's night that was so
Was to certain poor shepherds in	deep.
fields as they lay;	Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
In fields where they lay, keeping	Born is the King of Israel.
their sheep,	

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

*Please stand*

**GRADUAL ~ "O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL" (LBW #45) vs. 1**

**GOSPEL CANTICLE~ "ALLELUIA" (LBW, p. 83)**

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

**THE HOLY GOSPEL**

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 1st Chapter.

**C:** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

St. Matthew 1:18-25

**P:** <sup>18</sup>The birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: <sup>23</sup>"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). <sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup>but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

**P:** The Christmas Gospel.

**C:** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**GRADUAL ~ "O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL" (LBW #45) vs. 2**

*Please be Seated*

## HOMILY FOR THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD ~ PASTOR MARTIN MOORE

“Once in our world, a stable had something in it  
that was bigger than our whole world.” – C.S. Lewis

*Please stand*

Hymn of The Day ~ “Before the Marvel of This Night” (WOV #636)

Before the marvel of this night  
Adoring fold your wings and bow,  
Then tear the sky apart with light  
And with your news the world endow.  
Proclaim the birth of Christ and peace  
That fear and death and sorrow cease.  
Sing peace! Sing peace! Sing gift of peace!

Awake the sleeping world with song.  
This is the day the Lord has made.  
Assemble here, celestial throng,  
In royal splendor come arrayed.

Give earth a glimpse of heavenly bliss,  
A teasing taste of what they miss.  
Sing bliss, sing bliss, sing endless bliss.

The love that we have always known  
Our constant joy and endless light  
Now to the loveless world be shown,  
Now break upon its deathly night.  
Into one song compress the love  
That rules our universe above.  
Sing love! Sing love! Sing God is love!  
Sing love! Sing God is Love!

### THE NICENE CREED

**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 death 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 worshiped 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**

## THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs. For the increase of peace among all the nations of the world in the reign of Christ, let us pray to the Lord,

**C: Christ the Lord, bring peace on earth.**

P: For the spread of the good news of great joy that the Savior has come, let us pray to the Lord,

**C: Christ the Lord, bring peace on earth.**

P: For the poor and those who find no room made for them, let us pray to the Lord,

**C: Christ the Lord, bring peace on earth.**

P: For the renewal of the whole church in unity and joy, let us pray to the Lord,

**C: Christ the Lord, bring peace on earth.**

P: For the light of Christmas to shine on all, let us pray to the Lord,

**C: Christ the Lord, bring peace on earth.**

P: Rejoicing in your birth and trusting in your mercy, we commend to you, O Lord, all for whom we pray. **C: Amen**

*Please be Seated*

## THE OFFERING

### OFFERTORY MUSIC

*Please stand and remain standing for Communion*

**THE OFFERTORY ~ "THE DOXOLOGY" (LBW #565)**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise Him all creatures here below.

Praise Him above ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, ✠ Son and Holy Ghost. Amen

## The Holy Meal

### THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

We come to the Table at the gracious invitation of our Lord, receiving the body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of our sins. So come to this Table—you who have much faith and you who would like to have more; you who have been to the Sacraments often, and you who have not been in a long time; you who have tried to follow Jesus in the world, and you who have failed—come. It is Christ who invites us to meet Him here. Adults and children not receiving communion are welcome to come forward for a blessing.

## GREAT THANKSGIVING ~ P. 88 LBW

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up 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 good, right, and salutary that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory; that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### SANCTUS

C: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power 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!**

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: In the night in which He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying: *Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.*

P: Again, after supper, He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: *This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.*

P: Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

### LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen**



*Please be Seated*

### **DISTRIBUTION**

*Kneel at the altar rail as a group when the ushers call you forward. For those who prefer, the center circle of glasses contains grape juice. Please return your cup to the baskets on either side of the aisle.*

### **COMMUNION HYMNS:**

*"ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY" (WOV #64) vs 1&2*

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 meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

*"JOY TO THE WORLD" (LBW #39) Vss. 1,2,&4*

*"WHAT CHILD IS THIS" (LBW #40) (ON SCREAM)*

**POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE ~ "NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD" (LBW #534) vs 3**

All praise and thanks to God	The one eternal God,
The Father now be given,	Whom earth and heav'n adore;
The Son, and him who reigns	For thus it was, is now,
With them in highest heaven,	And shall be evermore.

### **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

**P:** Let us pray. We give you thanks, Almighty God, that you refreshed us through the healing power of the gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us through this gift in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen**

### **THE CANDLELIGHTING**

*The ushers dim the sanctuary and go forward to light their candles from the pastor's candle.  
The ushers bring their candles to the first person in each pew.  
Please dip the unlit candle into the lit candle to avoid wax spilling out.*

**CANDLELIGHTING HYMN ~ "SILENT NIGHT" (LBW #65)**

Silent night, holy night!	Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
All is calm, all is bright	Christ, the Savior is born!
Round yon virgin mother and child,	Christ, the Savior is born!
Holy infant so tender and mild,	Silent night, holy night!
Sleep in heavenly peace.	Son of God, love's pure light
Sleep in heavenly peace.	Radiant beams from your holy face.
Silent night, holy night!	With the dawn of redeeming grace.
Shepherds quake at the sight;	Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
Glories stream from heaven afar,	Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

*The candles are extinguished and the ushers turn the lights on.*

**BENEDICTION**

P: May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen**

LITURGY: LBW, © 1978, AUGSBURG FORTRESS; AND/OR WITH ONE VOICE, © 1995, AUGSBURG FORTRESS. LICENSE #14824-LIT.

**WORSHIP SERVERS**

Greeters:	Bob & Launa Tardiff
Acolyte:	Penelope & Annabelle Davis
Ushers:	Cliff & Sally Dengerud
Cantor:	Blaine Davis
Reader:	Bailey Storkson
Communion Assistant:	Dee Miles, Blaine & Karin Davis
Projectionist:	Toby Fite

## Advent 2023 Poinsettias

Given By:	In Memory of:	In Honor of:
Dee Miles	Milo Marvin Miles	
Susan Walker	Brian William Walker	
Todd & Carmen Nazario	Todd's Mother & Father	Our Grandparents
Jan Moch	Granddaughter, Ava Faith Knight	Grandchildren
Colten, Heather, Clara, & Elias Watkins	Peggy Lee Westberry, Jerry Jerome Schmig, and Peggy Joyce Foshee	
A.J. & Tammy Noecker	Our Parents: Mel & Myrt Noecker and Cliff & Betty Harshman	
Bill & Jenny Videtto		Our 4 Grandsons
Theresa Ford	Marvin Ford	Family
Travis & Jana Snyder	Connie & Robert Wilkerson and Ronald W. Snyder	
Bill Thomas	Sheila Jurena	
Joni Leblanc	Frank Leblanc	
Carol Lattier	Edward Lattier, Jr.	Our life together
Ron & Turi Nixon		Jesus
Jim & Donna Skaar		Our Parents
Chris Miller		Miller Family
Limuel & Amy Norris	Rev. & Mrs. Oscar Norris and Robert Giltinan	
Bob & Launa Tardiff		
Ryan & Katrice Gibbs & Family	Terry Gibbs and Bud & Betty Rath	
Jim & Janet Anthony	Our Parents	Our Children, Grandchildren, and Great-Grandchildren

## Christmas by John Betjeman

The bells of waiting Advent ring,  
The Tortoise stove is lit again  
And lamp-oil light across the night  
Has caught the streaks of winter rain  
In many a stained-glass window sheen  
From Crimson Lake to Hookers Green.

The holly in the windy hedge  
And round the Manor House the yew  
Will soon be stripped to deck the ledge,  
The altar, font and arch and pew,  
So that the villagers can say  
'The church looks nice' on Christmas Day.

Provincial Public Houses blaze,  
Corporation tramcars clang,  
On lighted tenements I gaze,  
Where paper decorations hang,  
And bunting in the red Town Hall  
Says 'Merry Christmas to you all'.

And London shops on Christmas Eve  
Are strung with silver bells and flowers  
As hurrying clerks the City leave  
To pigeon-haunted classic towers,  
And marbled clouds go scudding by  
The many-steepled London sky.

And girls in slacks remember Dad,  
And oafish louts remember Mum,  
And sleepless children's hearts are glad.  
And Christmas-morning bells say 'Come!'  
Even to shining ones who dwell  
Safe in the Dorchester Hotel.

And is it true,  
This most tremendous tale of all,  
Seen in a stained-glass window's hue,  
A Baby in an ox's stall ?  
The Maker of the stars and sea  
Become a Child on earth for me ?

And is it true ? For if it is,  
No loving fingers tying strings  
Around those tissue fripperies,  
The sweet and silly Christmas things,  
Bath salts and inexpensive scent  
And hideous tie so kindly meant,

No love that in a family dwells,  
No caroling in frosty air,  
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells  
Can with this single Truth compare -  
That God was man in Palestine  
And lives today in Bread and Wine.

## Consider A Year-End Gift

As part of your year-end tax planning, take advantage of the charitable tax deduction for gifts made before December 31st and consider the variety of gift options available to you. Your gift to Our Saviour's Lutheran Church can make a great difference as we plan for and move into God's mission in 2024.

As always, work closely with your tax and legal advisors to determine how any particular strategy will affect your overall tax situation. Contact **Amanda Taylor at the church office by December 31** if you need help updating or creating an account for online giving or to advise her of any stock offering so that it will qualify as a donation in 2023. Amanda will coordinate with your financial advisor or broker to ensure the gift is properly received. If you choose to make a cash donation, please prepare your check and mail it so that your envelope is postmarked or received by the Church Office by December 31 to qualify as a gift in the year 2023. Contributions received in the offertory plate on January 1st must be treated as 2024 gifts.

Thank you! Your generosity has been a blessing to Our Saviour's throughout this past year. Your continued support allows us to help our church family and spread God's Word throughout the region and across the world.