

# THE WORD BECAME FLESH



Christmas Eve  
Living Shepherd Lutheran Church  
365 W. Grand Ave Laramie, WY  
December 24, 2017



# WELCOME TO LIVING SHEPHERD!

## A FEW NOTES BEFORE WORSHIP

- *We're so glad you joined us for worship today!*
- *Restrooms are located on your right and on your left immediately after you walk through the double doors next to the fire place.*
- *We love having children in our worship service! However, if your child becomes restless, the café (first door on the left past the restrooms) is a great place to regroup and grab a cup of coffee.*
- *You are our guest! If there is something else we can help you with, please let any one of us know!*
- *Finally, you'll find everything you need for worship printed in this service folder. Lord's blessings on your worship!*

## TODAY'S SERVICE

*The God who has no beginning and has no end — the God who created all things by simply speaking — the same God who knows all things and fills all places at all times (yes, that includes the entire universe) - was born! That's the message of Christmas in a nutshell. It's mindboggling. And yet it is such good news! "Today, in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord!" (Luke 2:11) Merry Christmas!*

## A PRAYER BEFORE WE BEGIN

*Lord, in love you gave me your perfect Word. Lead me to see the importance of your Word in my life. Through your Word, lead me to see my own imperfection, but also lead me to see your perfect love for me. Bless my time here this evening! In Jesus name I pray. Amen.*

# OPENING HYMN

## HYMN 55 — OH, COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL



1 Oh, come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant, Oh,  
2 God from true God, and Light from Light e - ter - nal,  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion;  
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, oh, come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
Born of a vir - gin, to earth he comes,  
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove.  
Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry giv'n,



Come and be - hold him, Born the King of an - gels.  
On - ly be - got - ten Son of God the Fa - ther.  
Glo - ry to God, all Glo - ry in the high - est.  
Word of the Fa - ther, Now in flesh ap - pear - ing.

### *Refrain*



Oh, come, let us a - dore him, Oh, come, let us a - dore him,



Oh, come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

Text: John F. Wade, c. 1711–86; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–80, alt.

Tune: ADESTE FIDELES (Irregular) John F. Wade, c. 1711–86, alt.



## INVOCATION

*The name of the triune God and the sign of the cross  
remind worshipers of their baptisms.*

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

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

## CONFESSION OF SINS

**P:** Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

**C:** **Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.  
For faithless worrying and selfish pride,  
For sins of habit and sins of choice,  
for the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,  
You should cast me away from your presence forever.  
O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.**

## ABSOLUTION

*The use of the keys is that special power and right which Christ gave to his church on earth:  
to forgive the sins of penitent sinners." For further information see John 20:21-23.  
Also see Luther's Small Catechism, "The Use of the Keys and Confession."*

**P:** Glory to God in the highest! In love that astounds us, the eternal God sent his one and only Son to live among us, to obey as we could not, and to suffer what we deserved. In Christ there is indeed peace on earth. In him God extends his good will to all people. He was born to save us. Because of Christ and by his authority, I say to you what God himself says: In Christ your sins are forgiven!

**C:** **Glory to God in the highest! Amen.**

# SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM



P: In obedience to the command of our Lord and trusting in his promise, you have brought \_\_\_\_\_ to be baptized. Jesus told us: “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.” It is in baptism that God grants the new life of forgiveness, joy, and peace to little children. By the power of God’s Word, this gracious water of life washes away sin, delivers from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe.

P: Receive the sign of the cross on the head and heart (+) to mark you as a redeemed child of Christ.

***The minister applies water to the person presented for baptism as he says:***

\_\_\_\_\_, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

The Almighty God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—has forgiven all your sins. By your baptism, you are born again and made a dear child of your Father in heaven. May God strengthen you to live in your baptismal grace all the days of your life. Peace be with you.

***The congregation is asked to stand***

P: Brothers and sisters in Christ: Our Lord commands that we teach his precious truths to all who are baptized. Christian love therefore urges all of us, especially parents and sponsors, to assist in whatever manner possible so that \_\_\_\_\_ may remain a child of God until death. If you are willing to carry out this responsibility then answer: Yes, as God gives me strength.

C: **Yes, as God gives me strength.**

***The minister prays on behalf of those who are baptized: both today and in the past!***

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P: Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true light. Grant that as we have known on earth the wonder of that light, we may also behold him in all his glory in the life to come; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C: **Amen.**

## GOD'S WORD

*ISAIAH 52:7-10*

*How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!"<sup>8</sup> Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices; together they shout for joy. When the LORD returns to Zion, they will see it with their own eyes.*

*<sup>9</sup> Burst into songs of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.<sup>10</sup> The LORD will lay bare his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God.*

*HYMN 61 — HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING*

# HYMN

## HYMN 61 — HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the  
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er -  
3 Hail, the heav'n - ly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of



new - born King; Peace on earth and mer - cy mild,  
last - ing Lord, Late in time be - hold him come,  
Right - eous - ness! Light and life to all he brings,



God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!" Joy - ful, all you  
Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb. Veiled in flesh the  
Ris'n with heal - ing in his wings. Mild he lays his



na - tions rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;  
God - head see, Hail th' in - car - nate De - i - ty!  
glo - ry by, Born that we no more may die,



With th' an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is  
Pleased as man - with us to dwell, Je - sus,  
Born to raise us from the earth, Born to

### *Refrain*



born in Beth - le - hem!"  
our Im - man - u - el! Hark! The her - ald  
give us sec - ond birth.



an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

## LUKE 2:1-20

*In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. <sup>2</sup> (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup> And everyone went to his own town to register.*

*<sup>4</sup> So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. <sup>5</sup> He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup> and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.*

*<sup>8</sup> And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."*

*<sup>13</sup> Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,*

*<sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."*

*<sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."*

*<sup>16</sup> So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.*



# HYMN OF THE DAY

## HYMN 62 — JOY TO THE WORLD

(The children may come forward during verse 3 for the children's devotion)



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let  
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let  
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace And



earth re - ceive her King; Let ev - 'ry  
 all their songs em - ploy, While fields and  
 thorns in - fest the ground; He comes to  
 makes the na - tions prove The glo - ries



heart pre - pare him room And heav'n and  
 floods, rocks, hills, and plains Re - peat the  
 make his bless - ings flow Far as the  
 of his right - eous - ness And won - ders



na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture sing, And  
 sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re -  
 curse is found, Far as the curse is found, Far  
 of his love, And won - ders of his love, And



heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
 peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 as, far as the curse is found.  
 won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.

Tune: ANTIOCH (CM with Repeat) George F. Handel, 1685–1759, adapt.

# GOD'S WORD IN OUR LIVES

JOHN 1:1-14

THE WORD BECAME FLESH

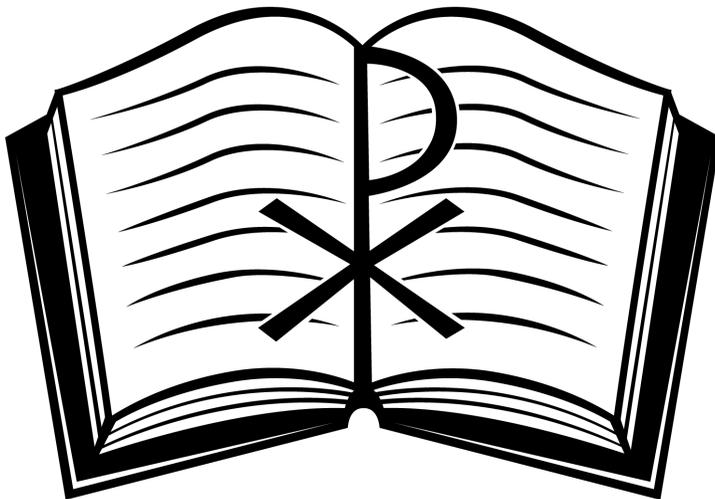
*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was with God in the beginning.*

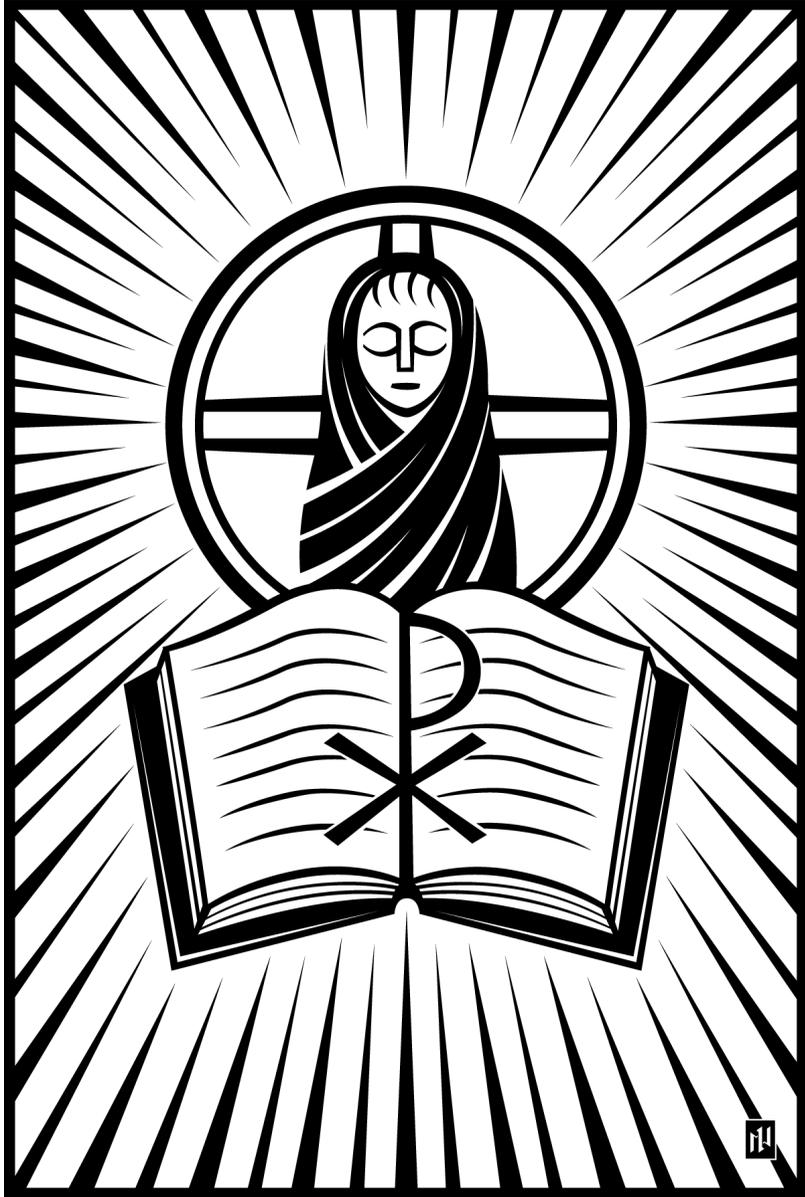
*<sup>3</sup> Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and that life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.*

*<sup>6</sup> There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.*

*<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup> He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— <sup>13</sup> children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.*

*<sup>14</sup> The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*





# WORSHIP REGISTERS

*Thanks for visiting us today! We'd love to have a record of your visit!  
Any information you'd be willing to share would be greatly appreciated!*

## OFFERING

*Moved by God's love in Christ, the people of Living Shepherd offer him our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to him. To those visiting, you are our guests. While your gifts are welcome, please do not feel obligated to give.*

*You can also support our ministry by clicking the "give" button at [www.LivingShepherd.com](http://www.LivingShepherd.com)*

## PRAYERS

- P: Oh gracious and almighty Father, we praise you that you kept your ancient promises by sending your everlasting Son in human flesh.
- C: **On this holy night, receive our thanks and devotion, our songs and prayers.**
- P: You sent Jesus as a lowly child to demonstrate your concern for all, the weak and lonely, the troubled and frightened, the timid and helpless. No one is overlooked by your ever-seeking eyes. No one is excluded from your upholding arms. No one is denied the comfort and help of your outstretched hand.
- C: **Bless us with a childlike faith in the divine assurance that you love and care for us always.**
- P: You sent Jesus as the Savior of the world to deliver all from the curse of sin, the power of death, and the torment of hell. He took our place. He was born under the law to set us free. He became the innocent lamb of sacrifice. He came to die and rise again in order that we might live eternally. Firmly implant this good news in our hearts, and fill us with an eager desire to spread the Word concerning what we have heard tonight.
- C: **May all who hear the message, in every nation under heaven, be amazed and believe what is told them about the child.**

P: You sent Jesus as the Light of the world to drive out all darkness that would rob us of the full life that you intend for us. May the “joy that will be for all people” be our joy. May the “peace on earth to all on whom his favor rests” be our peace. May the treasure that Mary pondered in her heart be our treasure.

**C: For today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to us. He is Christ, the Lord. Amen.**

P: Hear us now, O Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer*

P: Father, we bring these prayers before you this Christmas and always, confident that you will hear and answer them. For it was your only Son who taught us to pray:

**C: 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.**

*At this time, the ushers will distribute the candles for the candlelight portion of our service. Please do not tip lit candles to avoid spilling wax. Please tip only unlit candles to receive the flame.*

*Thanks!*



# THE CANDLE LIGHTING CEREMONY

P: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

C: **In Him was life, and that life was the light of men.**

P: Jesus is the Light of the World!

C: **He is light; in Him there is no darkness at all.**

P: As we walk in the light we have fellowship with one another, and fellowship with Jesus, our King!

C: **The blood of Jesus has purified us from all sin.**

P: Once we were darkness, but now we are light in the Lord!

C: **We will walk as children of Light!**

## PRAYER

P: O Holy Spirit, as the light of these candles drives away the darkness, so use the good news that Jesus has come to drive sin and doubt out of our hearts. Rule in us with Your grace and Your goodness, that we might be Your grateful servants all through this life, until that day when we join the angel hosts in singing eternal praises to our King. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## THE BLESSING

P: The Lord bless you and keep you!  
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you!  
The Lord look upon you with favor, and give you peace!

C: **Amen**

# CLOSING HYMN

## HYMN 60 — SILENT NIGHT! HOLY NIGHT!



1 Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! All is  
2 Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Shep - herds  
3 Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Son of



calm, all is bright, Round yon vir - gin  
quake at the sight, Glo - ries stream from  
God, love's pure light Ra - diant beams from



moth - er and child. Ho - ly In - fant, so  
heav - en a - far; Heav'n - ly hosts sing,  
thy ho - ly face With the dawn of re -



ten - der and mild, Sleep in heav - en - ly  
Al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sav - ior, is  
deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy



peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

Text: Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792–1848, abr.; tr. John F. Young, 1820–85.

Tune: STILLE NACHT (Irregular) Franz X. Gruber, 1787–1863, alt.

Scripture taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. NIV®.

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Artwork by Ian Welch — 2010 Graduate of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary

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Living Shepherd Logo by Rachel Westra — Westra Design

## THANKS FOR JOINING US TODAY!

We're so glad you were able to join us to worship our newborn Savior! We hope you enjoyed your time with us and we hope you'll join us again soon!

## BUILDING PROJECT VOTERS MEETING

Plan on a voters meeting after worship next Sunday, December 31st, to discuss the building project.



Pastor Pete Zaferos

E-mail address: [pastorzaf@gmail.com](mailto:pastorzaf@gmail.com)

[www.LivingShepherd.com](http://www.LivingShepherd.com)

Pastor's Phone: (307) 399-9288

*Call or Text Anytime!!*

