

**"Jesus Is the Light of Our Christmas"**

A Children's Christmas Service  
December 20, 2015

TLH (hymns 1-660) is the RED book, WS (hymns 701-800) is the TAN book  
(If you have difficulty standing, please feel free to remain seated as needed)

Preservice Devotion: Psalm 98, forepart of TLH p.144

GROUP RECITATIONS  
**From the Gospel of John chapter 1**

"Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful"  
(TLH 102)

CHILDR Oh, come, all ye faithful, triumphantly sing;  
Come, see in the manger our Savior and King  
To Bethlehem hasten with joyful accord;  
Oh, come, let us adore Him,  
Oh, come, let us adore Him,  
Oh, come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

CHILDR True Son of the Father, He comes from the skies;  
To be born of a virgin He doth not despise.  
To Bethlehem hasten with joyful accord;  
Oh, come, let us adore Him,  
Oh, come, let us adore Him,  
Oh, come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

CHILDR Hark, hark, to the angels all singing in heaven,  
"To God in the highest all glory be given!"  
To Bethlehem hasten with joyful accord;  
Oh, come, let us adore Him,  
Oh, come, let us adore Him,  
Oh, come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

ALL            To Thee, then, O Jesus, this day of Thy birth  
                  Be glory and honor through heaven and earth,  
                  True Godhead incarnate, omnipotent Word!  
                  Oh, come, let us adore Him,  
                  Oh, come, let us adore Him,  
                  Oh, come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

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## 1. DARKNESS FALLS

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*Genesis chapter 3 describes man's fall into sin and the consequences of death. From Adam, death spread to all men, for all have sinned.*

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN  
"Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People"  
*The Lutheran Hymnal #61 (red hymnbook)*

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## 2. A LIGHT OF PROMISE

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*In His everlasting love, God made a promise to send a Savior. This would bring hope and stir up faith for those who waited on the salvation of the Lord throughout the Old Testament.*

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN  
"Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel"  
*The Lutheran Hymnal #62 (red hymnbook)*

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## 3. THE WORD (JESUS) BECOMES FLESH AND GIVES LIGHT TO ALL WHO SIT IN DARKNESS

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*God fulfills His promise by sending His only begotten Son into the world. Jesus faces the darkness of our sins on the cross and redeems us from the curse of sin, death, and the power of the devil. The birth of Bethlehem is the Light of our Christmas today and always.*

UPPER  
Luke 2:1–7

LOWER SONG: "Away In a Manger"

MIDDLE  
Luke 2:8–12

LOWER  
Luke 2:13–14

#### CONFESSION OF FAITH

**I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord.**

**He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sin, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and His innocent suffering and death.**

**He did this that I should be His very own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and joy; just as He is risen from death, lives and reigns in eternity.**

**This is most certainly true.**

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### 4. THE LIGHT OF OUR LIVES

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*The light of Christmas does not stay in Bethlehem. For God has visited us with His Word and Holy Spirit. He enlightens us through the good news of Jesus to live a new life, one filled with hope, joy, and the ever present longing for our Savior's return. By the way we live, talk, and serve, the light of Christ shines through us as a beacon to the world.*

#### UPPER / MIDDLE SONG

*"Your Little Ones, Dear Lord, Are We" (WS 713)*

OFFERINGS

PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

O Lord God Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, you brought life and light to us through the gift of Your Son who is our Immanuel. Hear our prayers for His sake and send us Your Holy Spirit to enlighten, comfort, and guide us all our days.

*Brief silence*

For the Church of God which is in Christ Jesus and which is united throughout heaven and earth, that God would make known the unseen unity of His Church by revealing Himself to them in His Word and bringing forth a confession of the truth in their words and actions, let us pray to the Lord, **Lord have mercy.**

For the Church's preaching and teaching of the word, that all false doctrine and every hindrance to the comforting power of the gospel would be removed and the presence of Christ unveiled in word and sacrament, let us pray to the Lord, **Lord have mercy.**

For each baptized believer in their God-given stations in life, for parents and children, employees and employers, property owners and community representatives, church leaders and church volunteers, civil servants and political representatives, as well as every other station, that they would shine as lights by keeping the commandments in love for God and their neighbor, let us pray to the Lord, **Lord have mercy.**

For our government and its representatives that they would uphold justice and promote peace according to the natural revelation of God that is known in their conscience and so distinguish what is good from what is evil, let us pray to the Lord, **Lord have mercy.**

For our nation as it speaks to issues of terrorism and national security, that we would be humble in our speech, looking not to ourselves to preserve the blessings we now enjoy, but to turn God in prayer and repentance, acknowledging Him as the keeper of our peace and maker of our destiny, let us pray to the Lord, **Lord have mercy.**

For the poor and underprivileged that they might be fed with the eternally rich promises of Christ and remembered by those who have received much, let us pray to the Lord, **Lord have mercy.**

For the suffering and dying [especially, ... ] that they would be strengthened by the blood of Christ to endure hardship, and healed according to His good will and time, let us pray to the Lord, **Lord have mercy.**

For our brethren in the BELC who are recovering from massive flooding in India, that God would comfort them in their sorrows and trouble, lifting them above the wreckage to find joy and peace in Bethlehem, and that God would further the efforts and support of relief workers to India, especially that of the CLC for our brethren, let us pray to the Lord, **Lord have mercy.**

For our reflection on our Savior's birth this Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, that God would grant a safe journey to all who travel, and that He would keep our thoughts mindful of the reason for God's Son becoming human: His humiliation, His suffering, His death, and His resurrection for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord, **Lord have mercy.**

In these petitions and in all prayer requests, let us renounce the works of darkness, putting on the armor of light, and so pray fervently against the assaults of the devil as our Lord so taught us,

**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!**

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## 5. THE LIGHT OF ETERNITY

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*The light which makes our spirit bright this Christmas season is an everlasting light. This world and all that is in it will eventually perish on the Last Day, but the kingdom of Christ and the new creation will live on forever. Let us keep ourselves focused and hopeful as we look to that light which shines on forever.*

CLOSING PRAYER

"The Nunc Dimittis"

**forepart of TLH, p.29**

BLESSING: LOWER

CLOSING HYMN

"Now Sing We, Now Rejoice"

*The Lutheran Hymnal #92 (red hymnbook)*

**UPPER (4th – 8th)**

Brynn Dvoracek 7th gr.  
 Ella Dvoracek 5th gr.

**MIDDLE (1st – 3th)**

Samuel Pfeiffer 2nd gr.  
 Joshua Pfeiffer 1st gr.  
 Evan Dvoracek 1st gr.

**LOWER (K/Pre)**

Hannah Eserhut K  
 Joel Pfeiffer Pre-4yrs

**Participating in this Service of the Word**

Music: P. Louderman Lead Usher: R. Louderman  
 Strings: B. Dvoracek  
 Minister: Pastor D. Pfeiffer

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**After the Service Today** We welcome you to our special Children's Christmas Service today and pray that the Savior born for you was also born in you again this day. We hope you will stay after to enjoy our festival meal in the fellowship hall. As we wait for the food to be prepared, the children are welcome to participate in a craft in the entry way and take home a gift bag today. A blessed Christmas to all!