

WELCOME TO  
✠ OUR SAVIOR EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL ✠  
HARTLAND, MICHIGAN  
CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVENING PRAYER  
16 DECEMBER A.D. 2015

TUESDAY, 15 DECEMBER A.D. 2015 AT 9:00 AM

WEDNESDAY, 16 DECEMBER A.D. 2015 AT 7:00 PM



## WELCOME

We are so pleased to have you with us in holy worship this night to receive the Word of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Christmas Savior born to rescue the world!

We are so blessed here at Our Savior to understand by the Holy Scriptures that worship is the gracious action of our loving God to gather us here and to serve us with just what it is that we truly need – the forgiveness of sins! We are then strengthened to respond to His great love through word and song.

Tonight, you will notice that the children will be somewhat out-of-sight during portions of the service. This happens for two reasons. First and foremost, God is to get all of the attention in worship, and those who lead worship are to be passive servants delivering what our active God desires to give. If we draw too much attention to ourselves, we are missing a primary purpose and thrust of holy worship. Tonight we are blessed to have the children as those passive servants leading us to hear and see what our wonderful God has done and continues to do through the giving of His Son, Jesus!

Second, this happens for practical reasons. Because our church musician (Kantor) is also our choirmaster, it is necessary for the children as they sing to be with him in the choir loft in order that he can direct them accordingly. Together, *they are passive instruments in the hands of our active Lord* to give you the Good News of salvation!

What a joyful opportunity it is to be served by our Lord this night through the Office of Evening Prayer, in faithfulness to Him and according to His Word! To Him alone be all glory!

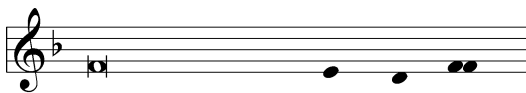
✠ Amen ✠

*Please note:* The Word of God declares: “Guard your steps when you go into the house of God. Draw near to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools...” (Ecclesiastes 5:1-2). In other words, *we are to maintain reverence in the midst of worship in the holy places*. We humbly ask that you respect our practice of refraining from taking photos during the service.

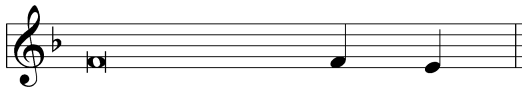
*(Please stand as the bells peal.)*

## SERVICE OF LIGHT

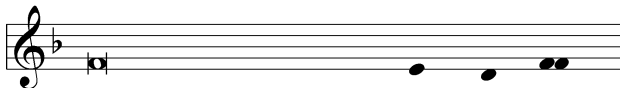
## Opening Versicles



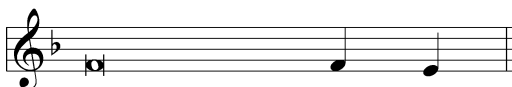
**(L)** The Spirit and the Church cry out:



**(C)** Come, Lord Je - sus.



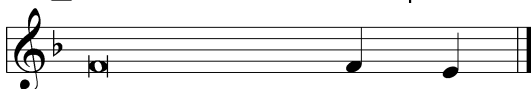
**(L)** All those who await His ap - pear - ance pray:



**(C)** Come, Lord Je - sus.



**(L)** The whole cre - a - tion pleads:



**(C)** Come, Lord Je - sus.

## Processional Acclamation

“Blessed Is He Who Comes” Art Swett  
(All Students)

## Phos Hilaron

LSB 244

## Thanksgiving for Light

LSB 245

*Sit*

## SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

*(Texts of choral anthems can be found on pages 7 and 8.)*

## First Reading

Zechariah 9:9-12

### Carol

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” J. Wayne Kerr  
(Middle School Handbells)

*Stand*

### Hymn

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” LSB 357  
(Stanza 1: All Students; Stanzas 3 & 7: Congregation)

*Sit*

## Second Reading

Luke 1:26-38

**Carol**

“Sing a Song of Advent” Hal Hopson  
(*Choristers, Middle School Handbells*)

*Stand*

**Hymn**

“The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came” (Stanzas 1 & 4) LSB 356

*Sit*

## Third Reading

Luke 2:1-7

**Carol**

“Unto Us a Child Is Born” Laura Farnell  
(*All Preschool through 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Students*)

*Stand*

**Hymn**

“Gentle Mary Laid Her Child” LSB 374  
(Stanzas 1 & 3: Congregation; *Stanza 2: All Students*)

*Sit*

## Fourth Reading

Luke 2:8-20

(*During the reading, the Choristers and Junior Choristers will sing an excerpt  
from Richard Rohlfing’s “Christmas Cantata”.)*

**Carol**

“Torches” John Joubert  
(*Choristers*)

*Stand*

**Hymn**

“Angels We Have Heard on High” LSB 368

*Sit*

## Fifth Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

**Carol**

“Mary Rocking, Gently Rocking” Hal Hopson  
(*Choristers, Junior Choristers*)

*Stand*

**Hymn**

“What Child is This” LSB 370

*Sit*

## Sixth Reading

Hebrews 1:1-4

**Carol**

“Light of Hope, Light of Peace” Mark Patterson  
(*Kind.-1<sup>st</sup> Grade Choir, Junior Choristers, Middle School Handbells*)

*Stand*

**Hymn**

“Joy to the World” LSB 387

Sit

## Offering

“He Whom Shepherds Once Came Praising” P. Manz

## Carol

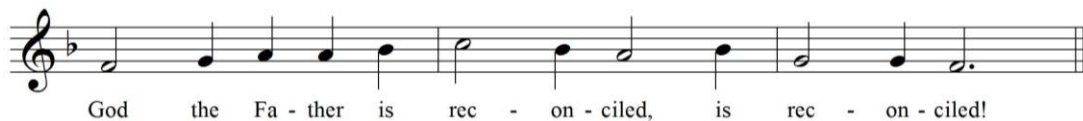
“The Quemapas Carol” German, 14<sup>th</sup> century

*(Students grades 3-8, assembled in the four corners of the nave, symbolize the Gospel message of Christ’s birth and mankind’s redemption from sin, death and the devil extending to the four corners of the world.)*

*Choir: He whom shepherds once came praising, Awed by heav’nly light ablazing,  
Cheered by angel news amazing: “King of glory, Christ is born!”*

*Cantor: The glorious angels came today, aglow with light into the night of darkness deep,  
To shepherds who by moon’s bright ray did in the field o’er sheep their silent vigil keep.  
“Joy, great joy and tidings glad we bring from heav’n resounding,  
for you, for you and all the world abounding.”*

### Congregation: Refrain



*German carols, 14<sup>th</sup> cent.*

*Choir: He whom sages, westward faring, myrrh and gold and incense bearing,  
Humbly worshipped, off'rings sharing, Judah's lion reigns this morn!*

*Cantor: “God’s majesty has come to earth and sent His only Son to you in humankind;  
A chosen virgin gave Him birth. In David’s town the holy infant you will find,  
Lying helpless in a manger, poor and bare and lowly,  
To set you free from all your sorrow wholly.”*

### Congregation: Refrain

*Choir: Sing with Mary, virgin mother; praise her Son, our newborn brother;  
Angel ranks, lead one another, hailing Him in holy joy!*

*Cantor: Then sang the angels this refrain: “To God on high alone give praise and glory,  
And peace on earth again shall reign. Let all the earth with gladness heed this story  
And rejoice in His goodwill.” The Savior came in meekness  
For you, for you, to bear your flesh in weakness.*

### Congregation: Refrain

*Choir: To our king, God ever reigning, yet of Mary manhood gaining,*

*Heav'nly gifts for us obtaining, raise your hymns of homage high!*  
*Cantor: The wond'ring shepherds said: "Behold! Let us now go with all good speed to Bethlehem*  
*To see this thing the Lord has told; the sheep are safe, He will indeed take care of them."*  
*There they found the wonder child, in lowly swaddling clothes lying,*  
*Yet all the world with His free grace supplying.*

## **Congregation: Refrain**

## **PRAYER**

*Stand*

**Collect & Lord's Prayer**

LSB 251

**Reading**

John 1:1-5, 9-14

**Hymn**

"Peace, Peace / Silent Night, Holy Night" Rick & Sylvia Powell / LSB 363  
*(Stanza 1: Grades 4-8 in German; Stanzas 2 & 3: Congregation in English)*

**Benedicamus and Benediction**

LSB 252

**Hymn at the Retiring Procession**

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" LSB 379

**Postlude**

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" Evan Copley

## **PARTICIPANTS**

**Officiant**

Reverend Christopher I. Thoma

**Organist / Music Director**

Kantor Jonathan Swett

**Lectors**

Austin Combs, Matthew Zaremba (Zechariah 9:9-12, Luke 2:1-7)  
 Dillon Mrozek, Logan Edmonds, Dominic Ripke (Luke 1:26-38, Matthew 2:1-12)  
 Brendan Pfenning (Hebrews 1:1-4)

**Choirs**

Choristers (*all students in grades 4 & 5, elective choir for grades 6-8*)  
 Middle School Handbells (*elective ensemble for grades 6-8*)  
 Junior Choristers (*all students in grades 2 & 3*)  
 Preschool through 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Choir

**Instrumentalists**

Joshua Thoma, flute; Brendan Pfenning, trumpet

**Faculty**

Mrs. Andrea Johnson (*Principal*), Mr. Larry Arnold, Mrs. Emily Helmreich,  
 Miss Danielle Katner, Mrs. Susan Hausch, Mrs. Mary Tougas, Mrs. Amy Kurth

## **TEXTS OF CHORAL ANTHEMS**

**Blessed Is He Who Comes**

Hosanna, hosanna; Blessed is He who comes!  
 Blessed is He who comes!  
 Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

### **Sing a Song of Advent**

Refrain: Sing a song of Advent, sing a song of joy.  
God soon comes to live among us—  
God Emmanuel.

Long ago the prophets spoke, they told us signs  
to see: bright flowers blooming by the road, a  
star to lead the way. Refrain

John the Baptist preached the word, his voice  
was loud and clear: "Get ready for the Lord to  
come, the day of God draws near." Refrain

How can we prepare the way, the way for God to  
come? We'll watch and wait, we'll sing and pray,  
Lord Jesus, come, come soon! Refrain

### **Unto Us A Child Is Born**

For unto us a child is born; unto us a Son is giv'n.  
God is with us, Emanuel.  
For unto us a child is born; unto us a Son is giv'n.  
Alleluia! A Savior has come!

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

### **Torches**

Torches, torches, run with torches  
all the way to Bethlehem!  
Christ is born and now lies sleeping;  
Come and sing your song to Him!

Ah, Roro, Roro, my baby,  
Ah, Roro, my love, Roro;  
sleep You well, my heart's own darling,  
while we sing You our Roro.

Sing, my friends, and make You merry,  
joy and mirth and joy again:  
Lo, He lives, the King of heaven,  
now and evermore, Amen.

### **Mary Rocking, Gently Rocking**

Mary rocking, gently rocking, rocking Jesus,  
Holy Child. Angels singing, sweetly singing:  
Glory be to God on high.  
Holy Jesus, born to save us, in your mother's  
arms now rest. Mary rocking, gently rocking,  
rocking Jesus, Holy Child.

Shepherds running, swiftly running, running on  
to Bethl'em town. Bright star shining, brightly  
shining, shining forth to show the way.  
Holy Jesus, born to save us, in your mother's  
arms now rest. Shepherds running, swiftly  
running, running on to Bethl'em town.

Wise men trav'ling, stately trav'ling, trav'ling on

to find the Child. Bright star shining, brightly shining,  
shining forth to guide the way.  
Holy Jesus, born to save us, in your mother's  
arms now rest. Wise men trav'ling, stately trav'ling,  
trav'ling on to find the Child.

### **Light of Hope, Light of Peace**

Light of hope, light of peace,  
You are just the light we need.  
Shine for all the world to see:  
Christ is coming soon.

Light of hope, light of peace,  
Promise of the love He brings,  
Shine for all the world to see:  
Christ is coming soon.

Light of hope, light of peace,  
Gift of joy that gladly rings,  
Shine for all the world to see:  
Christ is coming soon.

### **Peace, Peace / Silent Night, Holy Night**

Peace, peace, peace on earth and goodwill to all.  
This is a time for joy, this is a time for love.  
Now let us all sing together of peace, peace, peace on earth.



### **Families and Friends of Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church and School,**

Thank you so very much for giving us the honor of teaching your little ones. We are humbled to serve and we give thanks to the Lord each and every day that He has called us to do it here in this place among such wonderfully supportive people like you. God

bles and keep you this Christmas Season, and may the joy of the Christ Child be yours now and always.

In Jesus' name,  
The Teaching Staff of Our Savior



“The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us...” John 1:14

**Dear Visiting Friends from our Community,**

Even though the stores are saying it's Christmas, the Christian Church is actually in the season of Advent. The Christmas Season begins on the Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord, or, Christmas Eve (December 24). On that night, Christians all over the world will be



lighting candles, singing hymns, and joining together to worship the one true God who made the night so special. But Advent is really more than preparing for Christmas. It is also a time in the Church Year when God's people consider the fruits of the Christ child's work by His life, death, and resurrection which earn for all believers a divine future in heaven. Advent also considers the culmination of the ages and the great and glorious day when the Lord returns again to take all believers to be with Him forever. On Christmas Eve, we celebrate and remember His first arrival! But the season just before Christmas, the season of Advent, considers both His first and His second coming at the same time!

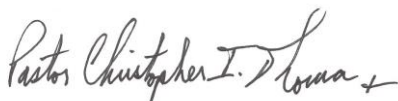
Tonight we will hear readings that really do speak of both, although the emphasis is set upon the night in Bethlehem that our God, born of the virgin Mary, became a human being in order that He might die on a cross to pay for our sins and then rise from the dead on the third day to prove it!

It is the prayer of this congregation that you would find comfort in the wonderful Gospel message of deliverance declared tonight, and that you would believe and cling to the Lord Jesus Christ, the Savior born in Bethlehem. He loves you. He wants you to know that you were worth every drop of blood in His veins.

If you have any questions about anything you see or hear tonight, please don't hesitate to ask me. I am your servant.

God bless and keep you by His grace!

In Him,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Pastor Christopher I. Thomas".

**COME AND CELEBRATE THE BLESSED CHRISTMAS SEASON!**

***WE CONSIDER IT A PRIVILEGE TO SERVE YOU IN AND WITH THE HOLY AND BLESSED GOSPEL OF CHRIST.***



## The Fourth Week of Advent

**Divine Services:** Sunday, 22 December @ 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.



## The First Week of Christmas

**Christmas Eve Divine Services:** Thursday, 24 December @ 4:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m.

4:30 p.m. including special music by the Choristers and Middle School Handbells

10:30 p.m. including special music by the Cantate, Adult Handbell Ensemble, and instrumentalists

**Christmas Day Divine Service:** Friday, 25 December @ 10:00 a.m.

Including special music by the Cantate and Brass Ensemble

**Regular Divine Service:** Sunday, 27 December @ 10:00 a.m.



## The Second Week of Christmas

**Eve of the Name of Jesus, New Year's Eve:** Thursday, 31 December @ 4:30 p.m.

**Circumcision and Name of Jesus, New Year's Day:** Friday, 1 January 2016 @ 10:00 a.m.

**Divine Services:** Sunday, 3 January 2016 @ 8:30 and 11 a.m.

## The Week of The Epiphany



**Festival of the Epiphany Divine Service:** Wednesday, 6 January A.D. 2016 @ 7 p.m.



## OUR SAVIOR EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

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The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Reverend Christopher I. Thoma, Pastor; Reverend Dr. Jakob K. Heckert, Assistant Pastor

Reverend Dr. Frank J. Pies, Pastor Emeritus; Mr. Jonathan A. Swett, Kantor

Mrs. Andrea Johnson, Pre-School – 8th Grade School Principal

### Acknowledgments

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