



Calvary Lutheran Church
December 24, 2023
5:00 p.m.

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Jeanne Elmuccio, Music Director

Susan Lachance, Parish Manager

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Phone (908) 272-3962 E-mail: calvarynsc@verizon.net

Stacy Nick-Casey, Director

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Calvary Lutheran Church

is a member congregation of the

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

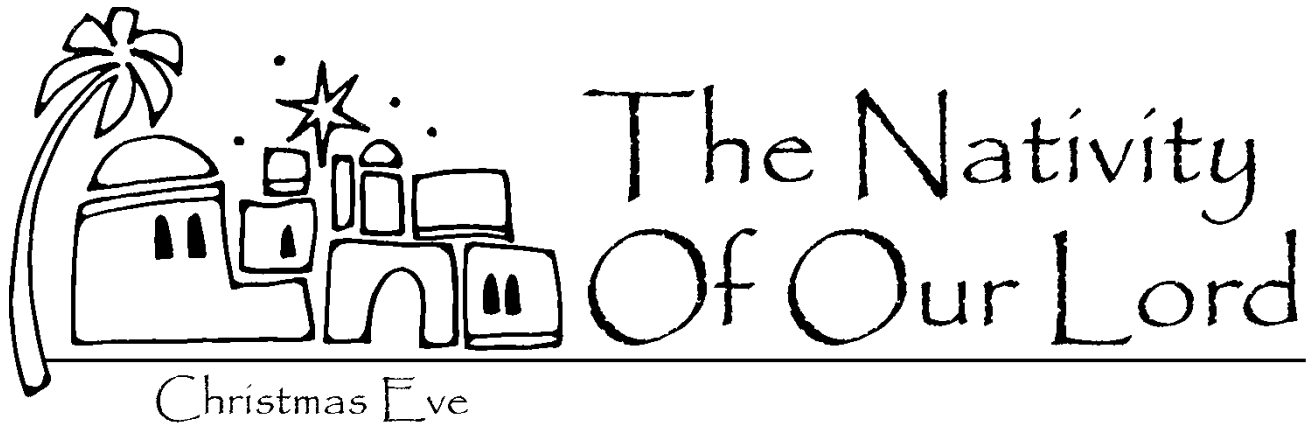
Serving Cranford and the surrounding area for more than 90 years

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Calvary Lutheran
Cranford, New Jersey





December 24, 2023
Family Service with Holy Communion
5:00 p.m.

INTRODUCTION

On a long winter evening we gather to proclaim the coming of the light. Isaiah announces that the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Paul reminds us that the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. In the familiar account of Christ's birth, the evening sky is bright with the heavenly host singing, "Glory to God in the highest." Amid our broken world we proclaim that the prince of peace is born among us. God comes to us in human flesh--in Christ's body and blood--so that we may be bearers of divine light to all the world.

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE

Organ/Piano Selections

Flute Prelude - Myka Spatz

GREETING

P On this Holy Night, may the love of God, the blessing of the Christ Child and the presence of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

PROCESSIONAL CAROL

“On Christmas Night”

ELW #274

RESPONSIVE READING

P Glory to God in the highest,

C and peace to all the earth.

P For to us a child is born,

C to us a son is given.

P His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

C Christ is born! God is with us!

P Mary gave birth to a baby,

C and you will name him Jesus because he will save his people from Sin!

P Good News! Christ is born! Alleluia!

C O, come, let us adore Him, Alleluia!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P This is the most holy of nights, O Lord. Gather us around our newborn Savior, in awe and wonder at what you have done and continue to do for us. In the Name of Jesus Christ, we pray,

C Amen.

↑ GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-7

P THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. LUKE THE 2nd CHAPTER

C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

P THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Cool Carols for Kids

Music arranged by Dan Mark and Script by Lorie Marsh

Presented by Calvary's Breakfast Bunch

Directed by Ms. Christine Riley and Ms. Meg Spatz

CAROL

"Joy to the World"

(Children sing)

Scene #1:

CAROL

"O Come, O Come! Emmanuel"

(Children sing)

Scene #2:

CAROL

"Oh Little Town of Bethlehem"

ELW #279

(Congregation sings)

Scene #3:

CAROL

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

ELW #289

(Congregation sings)

Scene #4:

CAROL

“Silent Night with Away in a Manger” *(Children sing)*

Scene #5:

CAROL

“We Three Kings”

(Congregation sings)

1. *We three kings of Orient are,
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, more and mountain, Following yonder star.
Oh, Star of Wonder, Star of Night, Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light.*
2. *Born a king on Bethlehem’s plain,
Gold, I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never Over us all to rein.
Oh, Star of Wonder, Star of Night, Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light.*
3. *Frankincense to offer have I,
Incense owns a Deity nigh,
Prayer and praising gladly raising, Worshiping God Most High.
Oh, Star of Wonder, Star of Night, Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light.*

Scene #6:

CAROL

“What Child is This?”

(Children sing)

THE PRAYERS

A Trusting in God’s good news of great joy for all people, we offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and the world God loves.

A brief silence.

A Glory to you, God, for the song of the angels, proclaiming to the world Christ’s holy birth. Give your church a joyful song to sing, that we bring the good news of peace and salvation to all people. Hear us, O God,

C Your mercy is great.

A Glory to you, God, for the stars that shine in the depth of the night. Provoke awe in our hearts at the expansive mystery of the cosmos. Open us to find beauty in the clear darkness of night and in the first glimmers of dawn. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Glory to you, God, for the child born to us who establishes a kingdom of justice and righteousness. Break bonds of oppression, bring reconciliation to warring lands, and establish peace from this time onward and forevermore. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Glory to you, God, for Mary’s loving care. Lead us to tend to one another in time of need. Share the comfort of your presence with all people tonight who are alone or separated from loved ones due to estrangement, incarceration, or illness (*especially*) **Mary Anderson, Aronson Family, Norm Bauer, Sue Bird (Wisconsin), Barbara Birger, Linda Hartney, Beth Juntilla, Sharon Peterson, Mabel Rapp, Brenda Richardson, Bud Sorenson, Heather Viscito** and those we name aloud, and in our hearts (*pause*). We also pray today, Lord for our homebound members and our military personnel, persons facing abuse and those struggling with mental health issues. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

[A] Glory to you, God, for the faithfulness of the shepherds in their vocation. Grant rest to any who feel exhausted from their work during this season: retail and restaurant workers, church musicians, administrative staff, and clergy, organizers of charitable-giving events, and service workers doing essential tasks. Hear us, O God.

[C] Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

[P] Lord, we thank you for Pastor Anderson, and his ministry to Calvary during this time of transition. We ask your guiding presence in the call process, providing wisdom, and discernment for the council and call committee to find a candidate that will shepherd Calvary to grow in love and to serve our community. Hear us, O God.

[C] Your mercy is great.

[P] Glory to you, God, for the multitude of the heavenly host. We rejoice in the zeal of all your saints who have witnessed the appearing of your grace, and who reveal to us your salvation for all. Hear us, O God.

[C] Your mercy is great.

[P] Abide with us, O God of mercy, and receive our prayers according to your abundant grace.

[C] Amen.

PEACE

[P] At the birth of Christ the angels sang a song of peace and goodwill. May the peace of the Lord be with you always.

[C] And also with you.

[P] Please share the Lord's peace.

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A As Mary lovingly placed her baby in a makeshift bed, so we place before you, O Lord, these gifts of your generosity toward us, to be used for your holy purpose. Bless us to be the blessings this world so dearly needs. In Jesus' name, we pray,

C Amen.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

P The manger and the cross are made out of the same wood. So, we come forward tonight to receive Christ's body and blood, given and shed for the forgiveness of our Sin.

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread,
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.
Amen**

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION



COMMUNION BLESSING

[P] May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, born this night, strengthen you and keep you always in God's Grace.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

[A] We give you thanks, O God, that in this bread and cup of Christ's very life, and at this Family Service, that a little Child shall lead us. Guide us, Lord, as our way unfolds that our lives may proclaim the Good News of Great Joy in Jesus Christ, our savior born.

[C] Amen.

BLESSING

[P] And now, on this wonderful Holy Night, may God look always upon you with favor, and give you peace.

[C] Amen.

SENDING CAROL

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

ELW#270

DISMISSAL

[A] Go in peace. Christ is with you.

[C] Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



S i l e n t N i g h t , H o l y N i g h t

Prayers for the homebound

✝ Pray for our elderly members who are unable to attend worship and help us to minister to them faithfully especially Meta Brockmann, June Kaiser, Jean Kissack, Eddie Leicht, Rocky Metroka, Fred Miller, and Chuck Sherrick.

Prayers for the military

✝ Protect and comfort our servicemen and women as they stand in harm's way (*especially*), Steven Bobrowski, Ian Hay, Jeff Hill and Phillip Spatz. We pray for families and countries in conflict throughout the world.

Joyful
MERRY & BLESSED

Thank You

Thank you to our young people for sharing the Good News of Jesus' Birth

Children with Speaking Parts:

*Skylee Reynolds
Cassidy Reynolds
Myka Spatz
Scarlett Oberhamer
Natalie Oberhamer
Clara Berman
Austin Freely
Ben Freely
Aiden Lahr
Emily Walsh
Noah Pfeifer
Ryder Nordstrom*

Special Thanks to our Directors: Meg Sorensen Spatz & Christine Riley

Merry Christmas

