

A vertical illustration on the left side of the page depicts a night sky with a starry background and a dark, rocky horizon at the bottom. The title 'NATIVITY OF OUR LORD' is written vertically in gold, serif capital letters across the sky.

GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together
as the people of God.*

PRELUDES

INTRODUCTION

As on the very first day of creation,
on this Christmas night
the Word illumines the world,
shining forth to bring all things into being.

Tonight, we celebrate the incarnate Word,
God becoming flesh to live among us
in the person of Jesus Christ then and now.

Emboldened by the good news of Christ's birth,
along with the shepherds, Mary and Joseph,
and all witnesses to the light of Christ,
we declare to the world that we have indeed
seen and been transformed by the arrival of
"the salvation of God."

O come, let us adore!

PROCESSIONAL CAROL

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

**O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him
Born the king of angels.**

**O COME, LET US ADORE HIM, O COME LET US ADORE HIM,
O COME, LET US ADORE HIM, CHRIST THE LORD!**

**The highest, most holy,
light of light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father now
in flesh appearing! *Refrain.***

**Sing choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
in the highest. *Refrain.***

**Yea, Lord we greet thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing. *Refrain.***

THE GREETING

**Tonight, Christ is born!
Glory to God in the Highest!**

The grace of our Savior Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

CAROL OF PRAISE

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

**Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.**

**GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO;
GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO.**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heav'nly song?** *Refrain*

**Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn king.** *Refrain*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.....

Almighty God,
you made this holy night shine
with the brightness of the true Light.

Grant that here on earth
we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence
and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory;
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.

CAROL

"O Holy Night"

**O holy night! the stars are brightly shining;
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth.**

**Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.**

**A thrill of hope- the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!**

**Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!
O night, O holy night, O night divine!**

WORD OF GOD

God speaks to us in Scripture Reading, Preaching & Song.

I*N* winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice.

Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

LIGHT SHINES: A CHILD IS BORN FOR US

This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

³You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne and dominion of David,
to establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Word of God,
Word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

CAROL

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
Yet in the dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

**For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to all the earth!**

**How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.**

**O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!**

THE PSALM

Psalm 96

¹Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.

**²Sing to the Lord,
bless the name of the Lord;
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**

³Declare God's glory among the nations
and God's wonders among all peoples.

**⁴For great is the Lord –
and greatly to be praised,
more to be feared than all gods.**

⁵As for all the gods of the nations,
they are but idols;
but you, O Lord, have made the heavens.

**⁶Majesty and magnificence –
are in your presence;
power and splendor –
are in your sanctuary.**

⁷Ascribe to the Lord,
you families of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord honor and power.

**⁸Ascribe to the Lord –
the honor due the holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts
of the Lord.**

⁹Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the Lord, all the earth.

**¹⁰Tell it out among the nations: –
“The Lord is king!
The one who made the world so firm –
that it cannot be moved
will judge the peoples with equity.”**

¹¹Let the heavens rejoice,
and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it;
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

**¹²Then shall all the trees of the wood –
shout for joy at your coming, O LORD,
for you come to judge the earth.**

¹³You will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with your truth.



CAROL

"What Child is This?"

**What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!**

**Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
the cross be borne for me, for you;
hail, hail the Word made flesh,
the babe, the son of Mary!**

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
the virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary!**

THE SECOND READING

Titus 2:11-14

THE GRACE OF GOD HAS APPEARED

The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity. Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior's final appearance.

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴It is Jesus Christ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all iniquity and

purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Word of God, Word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

"It Came Upon A Midnight Clear"

**It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold;
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.**

**Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains, they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.**

The Holy Gospel according to
St. Luke, the 2nd chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20

GOD WITH US

God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.

In 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.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child

wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

*¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those
whom God favors!"*

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

GOSPEL CONCLUSION

"It Came Upon A Midnight Clear"

**And ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,
look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing.
O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing!**

**For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophet seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

**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! *Refrain***

**Hail the heav'n born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
Born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth. *Refrain***

THE NICENE CREED

In the presence of God and one another,
let us confirm our faith:

**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 INTERCESSION

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.

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.

Your mercy is great.

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.

Your mercy is great.

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.

Your mercy is great.

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.

We pray especially for those on our prayer list, and for those who remain in our hearts forever.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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.

Your mercy is great.

Glory to you, God, for the multitude of the heavenly host. We rejoice in the zeal of all your saints (*especially*) who have witnessed the appearing of your grace, and who reveal to us your salvation for all.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Abide with us, O God of mercy, and receive our prayers according to your abundant grace. **Amen.**

THE PEACE & OFFERING

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

Let us pray...

God of abundance,
receive and bless these gifts we have offered.
Join our hearts with the song of the angels,
and gather us at your table of celebration.
Strengthen us to share with all the world
the abundance of your grace upon grace,
poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.
Amen.

CAROL

"The First Noel"

(Individual candles are lit during the carol)

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

**NOEL, NOEL, NOEL, NOEL!
BORN IS THE KING OF ISRAEL.**

**They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night. Refrain.**

**And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went. Refrain.**

**The star drew near to the north west,
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
And there it did both stop and stay
right over the place where Jesus lay. Refrain.**

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

O God of justice and love,
we give thanks to you
that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son.

Give us the light we need,
awaken us to the needs of others,
and at the end bring all the world to your feast;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom,
with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.
Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit on this glorious night,
let us pray as our Savior Christ has 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.**

CANDLELIGHT CAROL

"Silent Night"

**Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright.
Round yon virgin mother and child,
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!**

**Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from your holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.**

DISMISSAL

Glory to God in the highest heaven
and peace to God's people on earth!

Christ the Savior is born!
Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.
Thanks be to God.

RECESSIONAL CAROL

"Joy to the World"

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive its King;
Let ev'ry heart
prepare Him room
And heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
While field and floods,
rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sin and sorrow grow
nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make
his blessing flow
Far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace
and makes the nations prove
The glories of
his righteousness
And wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.**

PRAYER CONCERNS

Pray for our families and friends

Name	Date Added	Name	Date Added
Rosann Allocco	∞	Muriel Lance.....	3/25
Corena Bowling	12/5	Johnny Manna	10/25
Katelyn Brown	10/25	Dee Marszalek	∞
John Coppola	∞	Marion Marusak	∞
Shannon Martin Duh.....	∞	Pastor McKinley	∞
Bertie Fowler	∞	Dante Palmieri.....	∞
Ingie Gilluly	∞	Margaret Poss	∞
June Gribbon	∞	Linda Racut.....	12/25
John Gumina.....	12/5	Patrick Racut	∞
Tom Hansen	8/25	Shari Racut	12/25
Stella Hassler	10/25	Monica Rebscher	3/25
Nathan Hendricks	∞	David Lee Ritchie.....	∞
Janice Jones	?	Joedy Sheets	∞
DeAnna Kelsey-Galvan.....	10/25	Mary Shirey.....	3/25
Alex Kavoleff	6/25	Debbie Watson.....	∞
Jamie Kormos.....	10/25	Ray Wilson	∞

All names on this list will be kept for one year or until we are informed otherwise.

*To have a name added or removed, please contact the church office via phone or email,
or visit our website at www.ilutheran.net/pray.*

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