## **CHRISTMAS EVE**

# BIRTHOR

# JESUS

Sunday, December 24, 2023 • 7:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.

## WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Please turn off all cell phones.

If you are visiting with us today, we extend to you a particular welcome and invite your questions and comments.

Our entire worship service is printed in this worship folder for your convenience.

Hearing assistance devices are available in the Narthex.

Child care is available for children ages 5 years and under in the Child Care Area, across from the Life Together Hall.

In the order of service, the words that are spoken by a leader are in regular type.

Words spoken by the assembly are in boldface type.

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## **PRELUDE**

7:00 p.m. • MVLC Orchestra 10:00 p.m. • flute and organ duet, "Joseph, Dearest, Joseph Mine"

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Stand.

## CHRISTMAS EVE LITANY

When the world was dark and the city was quiet, you came.

You crept in beside us.

And no one knew. Only the few who dared believe that God might do something different.

Will you do the same this Christmas, Lord.

Will you come into the darkness of tonight's world; not the friendly darkness as when sleep rescues us from tiredness, but the fearful darkness, in which people have stopped believing that war will end or that food will come or that a government will change or that the Church cares?

Will you come into the darkness and do something different to save your people from death and despair?

Will you come into the quietness of this city, not the friendly quietness as when lovers hold hands, but the fearful silence

when the phone has not rung,

the letter has not come, the friendly voice no longer speaks, the doctor's face says it all?

Will you come into the darkness and do something different, not to distract, but to embrace your people?

And will you come into the dark corners and the quiet places of our lives?

We ask this not because we are guilt-ridden or want to be, but because the fullness our lives long for depends on us being as open and vulnerable to you as you were to us,

when you came,

wearing no more than a diaper, and trusting human hands to hold their maker.

Will you come into our lives, if we open them to you and do something different?

When the world was dark and the city was quiet, you came.

You crept in beside us.

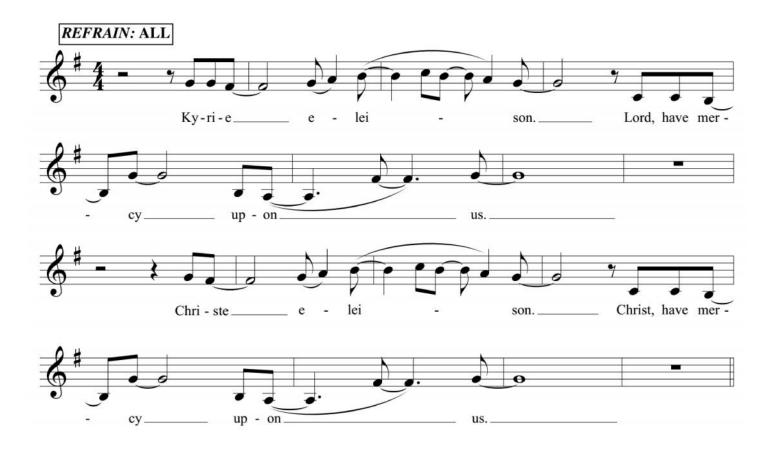
Do the same this Christmas, Lord.

Do the same this Christmas. Amen.

## **KYRIE** • "KYRIE" Behold, I Make All Things New

## Cantor sings verses; congregation sings refrain.

In peace, in peace let us pray to the Lord. *Refrain*.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. *Refrain*.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. *Refrain*.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise. *Refrain*.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. To Amen.



#### **GREETING**

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

And also with you.

## **HYMN OF PRAISE** • "ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH"

Evangelical Lutheran Church 289



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Emmanuel, today we celebrate your coming and rejoice in your promises.

We joyfully welcome you to this world and celebrate your presence in our lives.

Amen.

Sit.

## ACCLAMATION OF SCRIPTURE

Behold, I Make All Things New



## READING

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Luke 2:1-20

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph 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. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And 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. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11 to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And 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 he 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." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But 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.

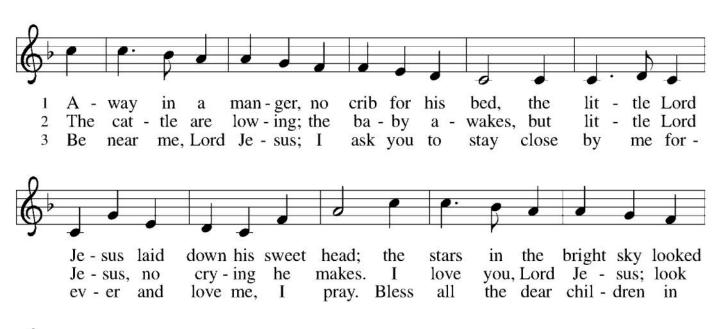
## CHILDREN'S SERMON + SERMON

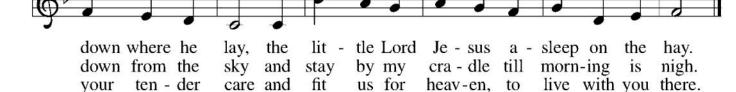
Pastor Briana Merkle.

Stand.

## **HYMN OF THE DAY •** "AWAY IN A MANGER"

Evangelical Lutheran Worship 277





## CREED

Together, let us confess 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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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.

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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

At the conclusion of each petition:

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.

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Sit.

## **OFFERING**

Great God, our Redeemer, we sing your praises. Your glorious love shines in the face of Jesus, born a babe in this dark world. We marvel that he generously humbled himself to bring salvation. How precious is your gift of love! Let the light in our sanctuary and our songs of praise spill through the windows to neighbors dwelling in darkness. May our gifts and offerings reflect the light of Christ and, as beacons in the night, draw people far and near closer to you.

You can participate in the Offering electronically by scanning the QR code and filling out the online form.



## **OFFERTORY**

7:00 p.m. • MVLC Orchestra 10:00 p.m. • piano and keyboard duet, "On This Day"

Stand.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

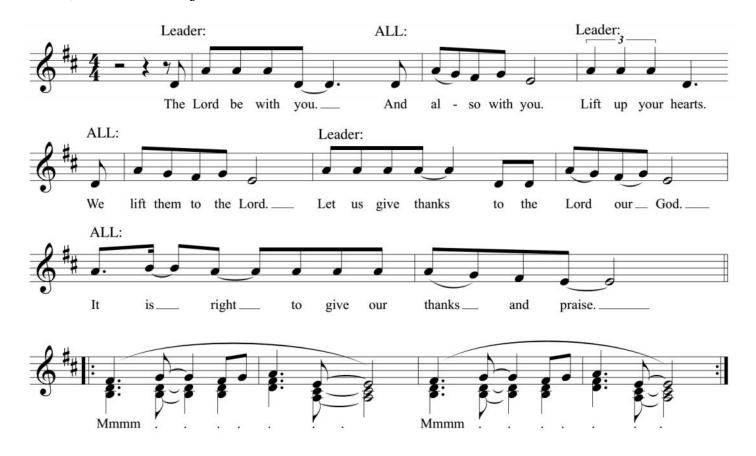
God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration.

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.

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Behold, I Make All Things New



It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, Almighty God, through our Savior, Jesus Christ,

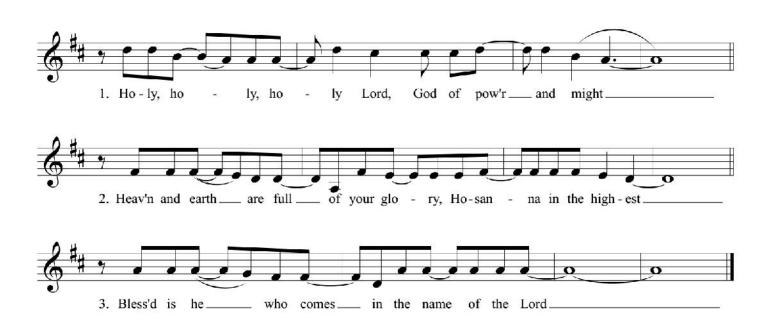
who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

So, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## **SANCTUS** • "HOLY, HOLY, HOLY"

Behold, I Make All Things New

Sing each line once.



To conclude, we will sing all three lines at the same time; doing such twice.

You choose which line (1, 2, or 3) you want to sing each time. (So you will sing line 1, line 2, line 3, line 1/2/3, line 1/2/3.)

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as 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.

## COMMUNION

Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.

Sit.

## DISTRIBUTION

At Mountain View Lutheran Church we practice an open communion table, which means that everyone is welcome to receive the body and blood of Jesus Christ. (You don't have to be a member of MVLC.)

If you need an alcohol-free element or a gluten-free element, then please let your server know.

If you are unable to come forward for communion, then please let an usher know and you will be served where you are seated.

This is the table, not of the Church, but of Jesus Christ. It is made ready for those who are loved by God, whether you feel loved or not.

It is for those who desire to grow in love with God.

So come, you who have much faith and you who have little.

You who have been here often and you who have not been for a long time or ever before.

Come, you who have tried to follow and you who live with a sense of failure in your following.

Come, not because the Church invites you; it is Christ who invites you to be known and fed and loved here.

Please come. Receive the gifts of God for all the people of God.

After you receive communion, please pick up a candle from the center aisle as you return to your seat.

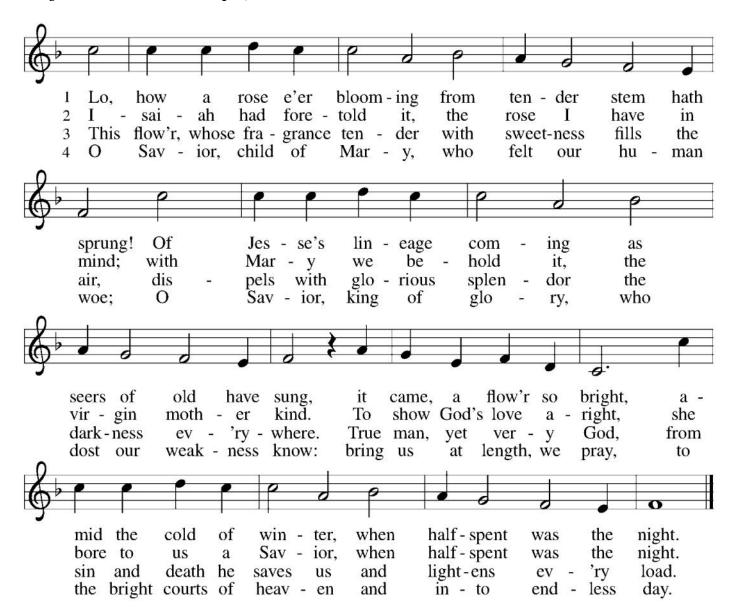
## **LAMB OF GOD • "LAMB OF GOD"**

Behold, I Make All Things New



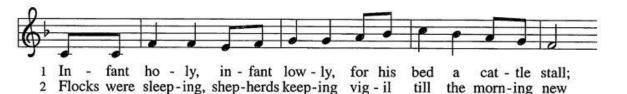
## **COMMUNION HYMN** • "LO, HOW A ROSE E'ER BLOOMING"

Evangelical Lutheran Worship 272



## **COMMUNION HYMN • "INFANT LOWLY, INFANT HOLY"**

Evangelical Lutheran Worship 276

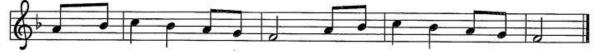




ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know-ing Christ the child is Lord of all. saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.



Swift-ly wing-ing, an - gels sing-ing, bells are ring-ing, tid - ings bring-ing: Thus re-joic-ing, free from sor-row, prais-es voic-ing, greet the mor-row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

# **COMMUNION HYMN** • "I AM SO GLAD EACH CHRISTMAS EVE" Evangelical Lutheran Worship 271



- 1 I am so glad each Christ-mas Eve, the night of Je sus' birth!
- 2 The lit tle child in Beth le hem, he was a king in deed!
- 3 He dwells a gain in heav en's realm, the Son of God to day;
- 4 I am so glad each Christ-mas Eve! His prais es then I sing;
- 5 And so I love each Christ-mas Eve, and I love Je sus too;



Then like the sun the star shone forth, and an - gels sang on earth. he came down from heav'n a - bove to help a world in need. still he loves his lit - tle ones and hears them when they and pray. ev - 'ry child the pal - ace of he o - pens now for king. and that he loves me ev - 'ry day I know so well true.

## **COMMUNION HYMN •** "O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL"

Evangelical Lutheran Worship 283



Stand.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God our redeemer,

you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life.

Send us forth as a community following the newborn Christ, to LOVE with an open heart, GROW with a curious mind, and SHARE with a generous spirit.

Amen.

## LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

At the 7:00 p.m. service, a musical prelude will precede the singing of "Silent Night, Holy Night!"

At the 10:00 p.m. service, the choir will sing a piece that leads into the singing of "Silent Night, Holy Night!"

## **CANDLELIGHT HYMN** • "SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT!"

Evangelical Lutheran Worship 281

Everyone is asked to make the sign of the cross with their candles, during each verse, following the lead of the pastor, as a remembrance of our baptisms.



## **BLESSING**

God bless you and keep you, + Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever.

Amen.

## **SENDING**

Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

Thanks be to God.

Extinguish candles.

Please continue to hold onto your candle once it is extinguished, in order that wax doesn't get onto the chairs or floor.

Place your candle in the provided boxes when you exit the worship space at the conclusion of the service.

## **POSTLUDE**

7:00 p.m. • MVLC Orchestra

As a community following Christ, we **LOVE** with an open heart **GROW** with a curious mind and **SHARE** with a generous spirit.

#### WORSHIP NOTES

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#### Songs printed include:

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- "Kyrie," "Acclamation of Scripture," "Great Thanksgiving," "Preface," "Sanctus," and "Lamb of God" are from "Behold, I Make All Things New" liturgy. Setting by Benjamin Splichal Larson. Transcribed, music engraved, and arranged by Cory Clay / BMI. 2011 transcriptions, and piano arrangements of "Kyrie" by Elizabeth Carson McHan and Erin Coleman. Copyright © 2015 Renee Splichal Larson.

#### Worship leaders include:

#### Both services

- PREACHER: Pastor Briana Merkle.
- PRESIDERS: Pastor Eric Bostrom.
- DIRECTOR of MUSIC MINISTRIES: Brenna Sage.
- VIDEOGRAPHER: David Burch.
- ALTAR GUILD: Flora Larson, Diane Nelson, Karen Slavens.

- ASSISTING MINISTER: Karin Weberg.
- USHERS: Eileen Newton, Karen Slavens, Betsy Tunstall, Tony Williamson.
- GREETER: Karyn Williamson.
- LECTOR: Chris Schaefer.
- ACOLYTES: Gretchen Schaefer, Nate Schaefer.
- COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: Lori Neptun, Anne Roff.

- ASSISTING MINISTER: Soren Bostrom.
- USHERS: Mark Cantrell, Diane Nelson, Lindy Nelson, Michelle Schweikl, Emily Thompson.
- LECTOR: Ken Edmonds.
- ACOLYTE: Murphey Thompson, Teagan Thompson.
- COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: Jeanne Anderson, Terry Jensen.

#### **MOUNTAIN VIEW LUTHERAN CHURCH**

3505 - 122nd Avenue East, Edgewood WA 98372 www.mtviewlutheran.org • 253-863-5171

## LIFE TOGETHER AT MVLC • UPCOMING EVENTS

BUNCO NIGHT • Friday, January 5, 2024

Let the good times roll! You're invited to a night of fun in support of the MVLC Children and Youth Retreat Fund. The cost is \$25 per ticket which includes Bunco, hors d'oeuvres, and prizes. You can purchase tickets online at https://mtviewlutheran.shelbynextchms.com/external/form/d169b4da-c744-46c9-9d2e-eb3b1e8e8b28

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**WOMEN'S RETREAT • February 23-25, 2024 at Camp Indianola** 

The purpose of this retreat is to gather the generations of MVLC women to reflect on and share our stories of lived faith and to pause together for laughter, prayer, holy conversations, and fellowship.

**Cost:** \$75/person for the weekend payable through the registration website.

**Register online** at https://mtviewlutheran.shelbynextchms.com/external/form/df51efao-e7a1-44de-bfdf-322c0a344f72

**Meals:** We will be making our own meals. You will be placed in a small group which will be responsible for bringing the needed supplies and cooking 1 meal. The planning team will provide recommendations of easy large group meals. We have a full industrial kitchen to use in our lodging space and will provide more information closer to the retreat.

**What time do we arrive/depart:** The arrival window of Friday will be from approximately 3:30pm to after dinner. We recognize some will be arriving after work. The retreat will begin following dinner Friday evening. On Sunday, we will end around 11am.

I am not able to spend the night. Can I come out just for the day Saturday? This year, we are close enough that you can drive out for the day. Please do not use the registration link though. You can communicate your desire to come for the day directly to Pastor Bri.

**Is there anything I need to do to prepare for the retreat?** You do not have to do any sort of preparation, however we will provide the small group conversation prompts ahead of time so that you can reflect on them as you are able. We are drawing inspiration for this Faith Stories retreat from Barbara Brown Taylor's book *An Altar in the World*, so here are so ways you can prepare as you are able/choose to: (1) Read *An Altar in the World*; and (2) listen to this On Being podcast episode: https://onbeing.org/programs/barbara-brown-taylor-this-hunger-for-holiness/

**Can I invite friends who don't attend MVLC?** Yes! If they are interested in reflecting on faith and life within community, please invite friends.

**Activities:** The camp is on the Puget Sound so beach front walks are possible weather-permitting. We will also have some planned activities including games at night, an art-based activity, and free-time Saturday afternoon to rest or explore the Peninsula.

Camp Address: 10635 NE Shore Dr, Indianola, WA 98342

Further questions? Contact Pastor Bri at bmerkle@mtviewlutheran.org

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Rock Ministry and Adult Education return at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, January 7, 2024. Wednesdays at the Well (W@W) returns at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 10, 2024.