

The people walking in

darkness

have seen a great

light

ISAIAH 9:2



ST. PAUL'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
— HOWARDS GROVE, WI —

The people walking in *darkness*
have seen a great *light*

Welcome

Pastor: The Light shines in the darkness,

Congregation: and the darkness has not overcome it.

Anthem

Come, Emmanuel

Sung by Festival Choir

O come, O come, Emmanuel,

Let all mortal flesh keep silence.

and ransom captive Israel,

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,

and with fear and trembling stand.

that mourns in lonely exile here,

until the Son of God appear.

Ponder nothing earthly minded,

for with blessing in his hand

Christ our God to earth descending,

our full homage to demand.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel

shall come to you, O Israel!

Come, O come, Emmanuel.

Reading

Isaiah 9:2; 40:1–3

²The people walking in darkness

have seen a great light;

on those living in the land of deep darkness

a light has dawned.

¹Comfort, comfort my people,
says your God.

²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and proclaim to her
that her hard service has been completed,
that her sin has been paid for,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

³A voice of one calling:
"In the wilderness prepare
the way for the LORD;
make straight in the desert
a highway for our God.

Anthem

Prepare and Celebrate

Sung by Festival Choir

Rejoice, rejoice, again rejoice! Prepare ye the way of the Lord. Let valleys rise and grow. Let mountains be made low. Alleluia! Sing to the Lord! Sing to the Lord! Prepare, prepare the way.

Rejoice, rejoice, again rejoice! Prepare ye the way of the Lord. Let earth resound with praise. Let hearts be filled with grace. Alleluia! Sing to the Lord! Sing to the Lord! Prepare, prepare the way.

O come all you people and welcome the Light. A star out of Jacob will shine in the night. Fling open the doors of your heart, and rejoice! Prepare ye the way with your lives and your voice.

Prepare ye the way. Sing a joyful noise. Lift a joyful noise unto the Lord. Rejoice, rejoice, again rejoice! Prepare ye the way of the Lord. Make ev'ry highway straight. Soon we will celebrate! Alleluia! Sing to the Lord! Sing to the Lord! Prepare, prepare the way. Prepare ye the way of the Lord!

Reading

Jeremiah 29:11

¹¹For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Anthem

Advent Longing

Sung by Small Group

"Veni, veni" is Latin for "Come, come".

Light the Advent candles. Gather 'round the flame. Warm your heart with promise. Let your spirit live again. One by one, they flicker, dancing in the night, chasing ev'ry shadow 'til the coming of the light.

Refrain: The hope of heaven, for peace on earth; the gift of love, great joy for all the world. Our hearts are yearning for your returning. Come now, Messiah, set us free. Veni, veni. Come now, Messiah, set us free.

Savior, of the nations, come! Virgin's Son, here make your home! Marvel now, O heav'n and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.

Make us, Lord, your candles. Blaze in ev'ry heart. Burn away the doubt, and kindle hope in ev'ry part. Make us, Lord, your people, burning with your light, shining in the shadows like a beacon in the night. *Refrain*

Reading

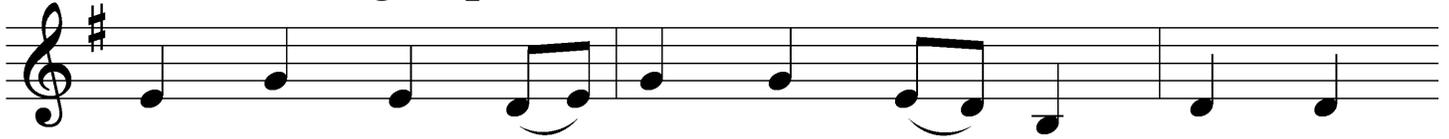
Luke 1:26b–33

²⁶God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

²⁹Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

CW 322



1 Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to
2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of
3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a
4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in



set thy peo - ple free; from our fears and
all the earth thou art, dear de - sire of
child and yet a king, born to reign in
all our hearts a - lone; by thine all - suf -



sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.
ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt. Tune: Southern Harmony, New Haven, 1835, ed. William Walker Text and tune: Public domain

Reading

Isaiah 60:1–3

- ¹“Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.
- ²See, darkness covers the earth
and thick darkness is over the peoples,
but the LORD rises upon you
and his glory appears over you.
- ³Nations will come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Anthem

Awake! Arise! Rejoice!

Sung by Festival Choir

Awake! Awake! The night is gone. The time has come for joyful song; for in the east a star appears. The coming of the Lord is near.

Arise! Arise and greet the morn, for unto us a Child is born; and he will be a mighty King, the Light of All, the Prince of Peace.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Your Light has come. Come, see the works that God has done. The promise now is sealed in grace, in Bethlehem, the chosen place.

Alleluia! Glory alleluia! Come and sing unto the Lord!

Awake! Arise! Rejoice and sing. Let music sound and praises ring. Our song of hope is now restored. Declare the coming of the Lord!

Alleluia! Sing a glad alleluia!

Reading

Matthew 1:18–25

¹⁸This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

²⁴When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Reading

Isaiah 52:7, 9–10

⁷How beautiful on the mountains
are the feet of those who bring good news,
who proclaim peace,
who bring good tidings,
who proclaim salvation,
who say to Zion,
“Your God reigns!”

⁹Burst into songs of joy together,
you ruins of Jerusalem,
for the LORD has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰The LORD will lay bare his holy arm
in the sight of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth will see
the salvation of our God.

Stand

Hymn

Joy to the World

Congregation:

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

Congregation:

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

Choir:

No more let sins and sorrows grow
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

Congregation:

**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.**

Be seated

Reading

Luke 2:8–20

⁸And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

¹³Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

¹⁶So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Hymn

A Festive Christmas Flourish

**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.**

**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 men,
from heav’n’s all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay,
to hear the angels sing.**

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King;
peace on earth, and mercy mild;
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise;
join the triumph of the skies.
With th'angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Then let us all, with one accord,
sing praises to our heav'nly Lord;
that hath made heav'n and earth of naught,
and with his blood mankind hath bought.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.

Choir:

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

Alleluia! Christ the Savior is born. Christ is born!

Stand

I will also make you a light for the Gentiles,
that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.

For you were once darkness,
but now you are light in the Lord.

You are the light of the world. Let your light shine before others,
that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Live as children of light!

Candle Lighting Directions

Please *do not tip a lighted candle* to light another.

Instead, always hold a lit candle upright.

Bend the unlit candle into the lit one and pass the flame
until all are lit in your row.

Hymn

Silent Night

Choir:

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.

Congregation:

**Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar.
Heav'nly hosts sing: "Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born!
Christ the Savior is born!"**

Congregation:

**Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light,
radiant beams from thy holy face
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth!
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth!**

Be seated

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SERVING WITH HEARTS OF LOVE

PASTOR: Rev. Aaron Mueller

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MUSICIANS: Mary Athorp, Amber Barber, Rev. Adam Bode, Thomas Cameron, Stan & Jill Grzonka, Greg Johnson, Nikki Leahy, Abby Phelps, Nick Schmidt, Jim Van Alstine, and Sue Vant Hul

Thank you to our Audio/Visual team and the many volunteers who put in so much time to make this Worship service fitting for our great Savior. To God be all the glory!

