



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

A Member of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Worship Schedule: Sunday 9:00am

Education Hour: Sunday @ 10:30am

**Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday from 8am-12:00pm
507-532-4857**

office@gslcmarshall.org or pastor@gslcmarshall.org
www.gslcmarshall.org

Pastor: James J. Stefanie

We, the members of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, believing the Bible to be God's inspired and inerrant Word, acknowledging that Jesus Christ is Lord, and affirming that we are saved by Grace through faith in Him alone, offer the following as our statement of mission:

Empowered by the Holy Spirit and loving our neighbors as ourselves, we, as ambassadors for Christ, must strive to make disciples of all nations; Using the gifts the Lord has given to each of us, we must help the saints to grow in unity of faith through regular worship attendance, the partaking of the Sacraments, the study of God's Word, and by ministering to the spiritual needs of others; we will persevere in prayer and thanksgiving for all the opportunities and blessings which God places before us.

**CHRISTMAS EVE
December 24, 2023**

Welcome

Welcome to the Lord's House on this blessed and holy night. The Service of Lessons and Carols is observed this evening to focus upon the fulfillment of God's promise to send us a Savior in the birth of Jesus Christ, our Lord. We pray that the Holy Spirit will enable you to truly listen to the Lord tonight as He speaks to you through His Holy Word and points you to the Word made flesh. May you be led to faithfully confess with confidence that this Baby is the Eternal Word of God in human flesh, who came down from heaven and was Incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary in order to save you from your sins. He is our Immanuel, which means "God with us." He is the King of kings and Lord of lords who was born to die for you!

That is what Christmas is truly about – the salvation accomplished and won by Jesus Christ. May this Service of Lessons and Carols be a celebration for you of the forgiveness, life, and salvation you have through faith in Christ! Please take the time to fill out the Record of Fellowship form that is in the pew. If you are visiting with us this evening, we want you to know that we are overjoyed that you are here. Please make your visit known to us by introducing yourself to us after the Service and by signing the guest book that is in the hallway on the left as you leave the sanctuary. Thank you and MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Organist – Beth Steuck

Liturgist and Preacher – Pastor James Stefanic

Processional Hymn

Joy to the World

LSB# 387



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him
play, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
ground; He comes to make His bless - ings
prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Tune: George Frideric Handel, 1685–1759, adapt.

Text and tune: Public domain

The Invocation

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

Opening Versicles

- L** The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.
- C** **The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.**

- L** On those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.
- C** **We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son who came from the Father.**

- L** For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.
- C** **In Him was life, and that life was the light of men.**



Hymn of Preparation

O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is

LSB #372



1 O Je - sus Christ, Thy man - ger is My
2 He whom the sea And wind o - bey Doth
3 Thy light and grace Our guilt ef - face, Thy
4 Thou Chris - tian heart, Who - e'er thou art, Be



par - a - dise at which my soul re - clin - eth.
come to serve the sin - ner in great meek - ness.
heav'n - ly rich - es all our loss re - triev - ing.
of good cheer and let no sor - row move thee!



For there, O Lord, Doth lie the Word Made
Thou, God's own Son, With us art one, Dost
Im - man - u - el, Thy birth doth quell The
For God's own Child, In mer - cy mild, Joins



flesh for us; here - in Thy grace forth shin - eth.
join us and our chil - dren in our weak - ness.
pow'r of hell and Sa - tan's bold de - ceiv - ing,
thee to Him; how great - ly God must love thee!

5 Remember thou

What glory now

The Lord prepared thee for all earthly sadness.

The angel host

Can never boast

Of greater glory, greater bliss or gladness.

6 The world may hold

Her wealth and gold;

But thou, my heart, keep Christ as thy true treasure.

To Him hold fast

Until at last

A crown be thine and honor in full measure.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941

Tune: Kenneth T. Kosche, 1947

The Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with thy spirit.**

P Let us pray:

P O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

The First Lesson

Genesis 3:8-15

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising

LSB #375



1 Come, your hearts and voices raising, Christ the
2 Christ, from heav'n to us descend-ing And in
3 Ja - cob's star in all its splen - dor Beams with
4 From the bond - age that op - pressed us, From sin's



Lord with glad - ness prais - ing; Loud - ly sing His love a -
love our race be - friend - ing; In our need His help ex -
com - fort sweet and ten - der, Forc - ing Sa - tan to sur -
fet - ters that pos - sessed us, From the grief that sore dis -



maz - ing, Wor - thy folk of Chris - ten - dom.
tend - ing, Saved us from the wi - ly foe.
ren - der, Break - ing all the pow'rs of hell.
tressed us, We, the cap - tives, now are free.

5 Oh, the joy beyond expressing
When by faith we grasp this blessing,
And to You we come confessing
That Your love has set us free.

6 Gracious Child, we pray, O hear us,
 From Your lowly manger cheer us,
 Gently lead us and be near us
 Till we join Your choir above.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.

Tune: German, 14th cent.

Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003005

Tune: Public domain

The Second Lesson

Genesis 22:15-18

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

O Come, All Ye Faithful

LSB #379



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
 2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le - hem;
 Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;
 Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
 Je - sus, to Thee — be — glo - ry giv'n!



Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:
 Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Glo - ry to God — In — the — high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

Refrain

O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,
 O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

Text: tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–80, alt.

Text and tune: John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786

Text and tune: Public domain

The Third Lesson

Isaiah 7:14; 9:2, 6-7

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

What Child Is This

LSB #370

v. 3 a cappella

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is
 2 Why lies He in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are
 3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to

sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While
 feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The
 own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let

shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is
 si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall
 lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the



Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
 pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
 song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98

Tune: English, 16th cent.

Text and tune: Public domain

The Fourth Lesson

Micah 5:2-5

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

LSB #361



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is giv'n!
 4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;
 While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won - d'ring love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of His heav'n.
 Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear His com - ing; But in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to-night.
 And prais - es sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!
 Where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–93
 Tune: Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908
 Text and tune: Public domain



The Fifth Lesson

Matthew 1:18-25

- L** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C** Praise to You, O Christ.

364 Away in a Manger

LSB #364

v. 3 a cappella



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask Thee to stay



The lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet head.
 But lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing He makes.
 Close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.



The stars in the sky — looked down where He lay,
 I love Thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,
 Bless all the dear chil - dren in Thy ten - der care,



The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
And stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
And take us to heav - en to live with Thee there.

Text (sts. 1-2): Little Children's Book, 1885, Philadelphia; (st. 3): Vineyard Songs, 1892, Louisville, alt.

Tune: James R. Murray, 1841-1905

Text and tune: Public domain



The Sixth Lesson

Luke 2:1-7

- L** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C** Praise to You, O Christ.

Once in Royal David's City

LSB #376

v. 2 *a cappella*



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y Stood a
2 He came down to earth from heav - en, Who is
3 For He is our child - hood's pat - tern, Day by
4 And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His
5 Not in that poor, low - ly sta - ble With the



low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a moth - er laid her
God and Lord of all, And His shel - ter was a
day like us He grew; He was lit - tle, weak, and
own re - deem - ing love; For that child so dear and
ox - en stand - ing by Shall we see Him, but in



ba - by In a man - ger for His bed; Mar - y
sta - ble, And His cra - dle was a stall; With the
help - less, Tears and smiles like us He knew; And He
gen - tle Is our Lord in heav'n a - bove; And He
heav - en, Set at God's right hand on high. Then like



was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
poor and mean and low - ly Lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
feels for all our sad - ness, And He shares in all our glad - ness.
leads His chil - dren on To the place where He is gone.
stars His chil - dren, crowned, All in white, His praise will sound!

Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1818–95, alt.

Tune: Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–76

Text and tune: Public domain

The Seventh Lesson

Luke 2:8-20

L This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Angels We Have Heard on High

LSB #368



1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro-long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;



And the moun-tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad-some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain



Glo - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - -



- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Public domain

Sermon

The Eighth Lesson

John 1:1-14

L This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

A Great and Mighty Wonder

LSB #383



1 A great and might - y won - der, A full and ho - ly cure:
2 The Word be - comes in - car - nate And yet re - mains on high,
3 While thus they sing your Mon - arch, Those bright an - gel - ic bands,
4 Since all He comes to ran - som, By all be He a - dored,
5 All i - dols then shall per - ish And Sa - tan's ly - ing cease,



The vir - gin bears the in - fant With vir - gin hon - or pure!
And cher - u - bim sing an - thems To shep - herds from the sky.
Re - joice, O vales and moun - tains, And o - ceans, clap your hands.
The in - fant born in Beth - l'em, The Sav - ior and the Lord.
And Christ shall raise His scep - ter, De - cree - ing end - less peace.

Refrain



Pro - claim the Sav - ior's birth: "To God on high be



glo - ry And peace to all the earth!"

Text: Germanus, c. 634-c. 734; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt.
Tune: Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng, 1599, Köln
Text and tune: Public domain

The Offering and Candle Lighting

As our tithes and offerings are gathered for the Lord's work, your individual candles will be lit. Remember, when you light your candles, please tip only unlit candles. After the offerings have been gathered and all candles have been lit, we will sing "Silent Night, Holy Night."

Silent Night, Holy Night

LSB #363

v. 3 – a cappella



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright Round yon
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep-herds quake at the sight; Glo - ries
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light Ra - diant



vir - gin moth-er and child. Ho - ly In - fant, so ten-der and mild,
stream from heav-en a - far, Heav'n-ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
beams from Thy ho - ly face With the dawn of re-deem - ing grace,



Sleep in heav - en - ly peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

The Concluding Collect

P Let us Pray:

O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The Christmas Response

P Joy to the world, the Lord is came!

C **Glory to God in the highest!**

P Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills, and everywhere;

C **Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

The Benediction

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

C Amen.

The Recessional Hymn

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

LSB# 380



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see, Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty!
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.



Refrain
Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

Public domain



The Postlude

A Christmas Carol for Children by Martin Luther

*Good news from heaven the angels bring,
Glad tidings to the earth they sing:
To us this day a child is given,
To crown us with the joy of heaven.*

*This is the Christ, our God and Lord,
Who in all need shall aid afford:
He will Himself our Saviour be,
From sin and sorrow set us free.*

*To us that blessedness He brings,
Which from the Father's bounty springs:
That in the heavenly realm we may
With Him enjoy eternal day.*

*All hail, Thou noble Guest, this morn,
Whose love did not the sinner scorn!
In my distress Thou cam'st to me:
What thanks shall I return to Thee?*

*Were earth a thousand times as fair,
Beset with gold and jewels rare,
She yet were far too poor to be
A narrow cradle, Lord, for Thee.*

*Ah, dearest Jesus, Holy Child!
Make Thee a bed, soft, undefiled,
Within my heart, that it may be
A quiet chamber kept for Thee.*

*Praise God upon His heavenly throne,
Who gave to us His only Son:
For this His hosts, on joyful wing,
A blest New Year of mercy sing.*