

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

Olaf Roynesdal, Senior Pastor
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor
Paul H. Moessner, Associate Pastor
Inba Inbarasu, Visitation Pastor

2650 Farnam Street
Omaha, NE 68131-3616
402-341-7761
www.kmlchurch.org

December 24, 2017

7:00 & 11:00 PM

CHRISTMAS EVE



On a long winter evening we gather to proclaim the coming of the light. 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.

PRELUDE

7:00 PM

Kountze Brass, Harp
K. Craig Bircher, Scott Quackenbush, Trumpet
Jay Wise, John Wise, Trombone
Mary Bircher, Harp

11:00 PM

K. Craig Bircher, Trumpet
Mary Bircher, Harp

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the Holy One of Israel, the Word made flesh,
the Power of the Most High, † one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

P Gathered in the name of Jesus, let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

P Gracious God,

C in Christ Jesus you come among us as light shining in darkness.

We confess our failure to welcome this light.

Forgive us and renew our hope,

so that we may live in the light of your grace,

and welcome the truth of Christ the Lord. Amen.

P I bring you good news of great joy for all the people:

To you is born a Savior, Christ the Lord. Your sins are forgiven in † Jesus' name.

C Amen.

(We light the Christ Candle in the center of the Advent Wreath)

**Oh, come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him born the king of angels:**

Refrain

**Oh, come, let us adore him, oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, 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***

APOSTOLIC 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

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

ELW 270

**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!
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"**

WORD

THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL 1

Luke 2:1-7

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.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HYMN

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

ELW 289

**Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.
Glo—ri--a in excelsis Deo; Glo—ri--a in excelsis Deo.**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heav'nly song?
Glo—ri--a in excelsis Deo; Glo—ri--a in excelsis Deo.**

**Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Glo—ri--a in excelsis Deo; Glo—ri--a in excelsis Deo.**

THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL 2

Luke 2:8-20

In 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 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.”* 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.

A The word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

(sit)

SERMON

Pastor Roynesdal

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

ELW 257

**O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy 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 wondering love.
O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King, And peace to all the earth!**

**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;
Oh, come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!**

THE NICENE CREED

G 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.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Response: **P** Lord, in your mercy,
 C hear our prayer.

THE CHRISTMAS PEACE IS SHARED

P The peace of Christ be with you always.
C And also with you.

MEAL

(sit)

THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

We glorify God in our giving. Our offering is an act of worship that makes the ministries of this church possible. We encourage everyone to give. If you are visiting with us today, please do not feel obligated to participate in this portion of worship. If you would like, use the QR code scanner on your smart phone to give online or use the giving kiosk in the Fellowship Hall.



THE TABLE IS PREPARED

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“The Coming of Our King”

John Rutter, Arr.

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN

“What Child Is This”

ELW 296

Verses 1 & 3

**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!**

**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!**

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898

OFFERING PRAYER

- ☐** God with us:
- ☑** You came as a baby to a manger.
You slept on straw and greeted shepherds.
Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things,
things like bread and wine, people like us.
And then, through these gifts, help us to bless the lives of others
in the strength of your holy name. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION *(spoken)*

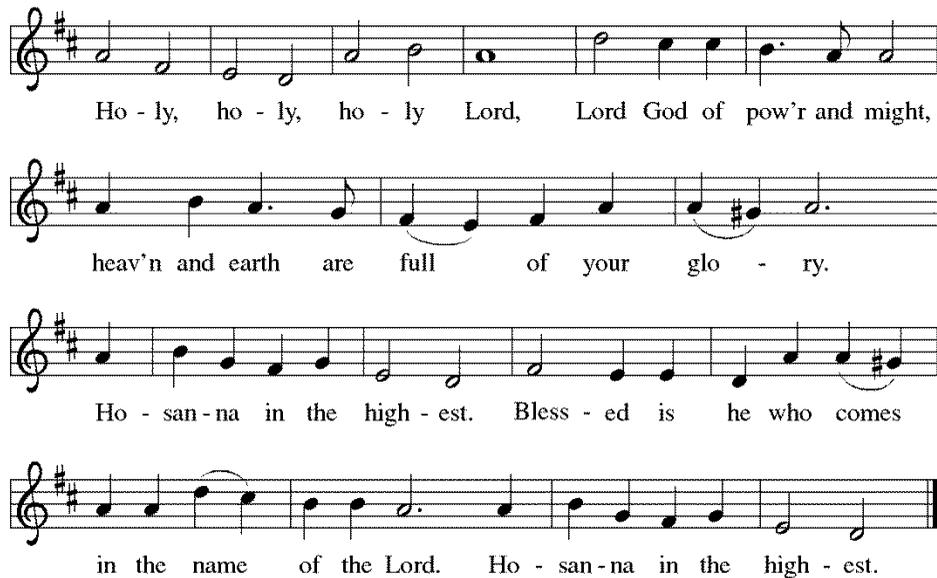
- ☐ The Lord be with you.
- ☑ **And also with you.**

- ☐ Lift up your hearts
- ☑ **We lift them to the Lord.**

- ☐ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- ☑ **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PREFACE FOR THE INCARNATION OF OUR LORD

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Sung to the tune of "Away in a Manger")*

**Our Father in heaven, all praise to Your Name!
Your kingdom among us, Your will done the same
By mortals and angels. Come, Lord, reign alone:
Oh, hear us and bless us from heaven's high throne.**

**The bread that we yearn for provide us each day;
As we forgive others, our sins take away;
In times of temptation, to lead us be near;**

From evil deliver Your children most dear.

**For Yours is the kingdom; o'er all things You reign.
And Yours is the power; all things You maintain.
To you be the glory, resounding again
From all of creation, forever! Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- P** Joy to the world! The Lord is come. Let every heart receive your Savior.
- C** Let every heart receive your Savior.

(sit)

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

*“It Came upon the Midnight Clear”
“The First Noel”*

Mary Bircher, Harp
ELW 282
ELW 300

As worshipers return to their pews, ushers will hand out candles.

(stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- P** On this day, O God, you gave us Christ the Son to save us.
- C** As you sent the one foretold, send us now with good news for all people. Let the gladness of this feast have no end as we share with others the joy that fills us; through Jesus Christ our Savior Lord. Amen.
- P** Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. In the beginning you created darkness and light and in the fullness of time you sent forth your Son, the light of the world. Enlighten our darkness by the light of your Christ; may his word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path;
- C** for you are merciful and you love your whole creation, and we, your creatures, glorify you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

CANDLELIGHTING

From the light of the Christ Candle at the center of our Advent Wreath, the light is passed along. Please tip your unlighted candle toward a lighted one. Common sense and good judgment are encouraged. Following the service, please place your candle and holder in one of the boxes provided. Thank you.

**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,
 Heav’nly hosts ... sing Al-le-lu-ia!
 Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!**

**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.**

**Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
 with the angels let us sing,
 Al-le-lu-ia to our King;
 Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!**

THE GOSPEL OF THE INCARNATION

John 1:1-5, 9-14

The congregation will stand with lighted candles and face the reader as the Gospel is read from the center of the sanctuary. Listen in wonder and awe.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

G **And also with you.**

P Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we will walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G **Amen.**

THE COMMISSION *(from the service of Holy Baptism)*

P Now let your light so shine before others, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

G **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

- ☐ May Christ, who by his incarnation has filled us with grace and truth, give you peace this Christmas and always. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

HYMN

“Joy to the World”

ELW 267

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive its 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.**

**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.**

**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.**

DISMISSAL

- ☐ Glory to God in the highest!
☑ **Peace to God's people on earth!**
☐ Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.
☑ **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

7:00 PM

Kountze Brass
K. Craig Bircher, Scott Quackenbush, Trumpet
Jay Wise, John Wise, Trombone

11:00 PM

K. Craig Bircher, Trumpet
Mary Bircher, Harp

† † †

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