

**Close of Day (Compline) on Christmas Eve**

**Opening Hymn 340 Away In a Manger**

- 1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
- 2 The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.
- 3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay  
close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,  
and take us to heaven to live with you there.

Text (sts. 1–2): The Myrtle, Boston, 1884; (st. 3): Vineyard Songs, Louisville, 1892, alt.  
Text: Public domain

P: The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and peace at the last.

**C: Amen.**

P: It is good to give thanks to the Lord,

**C: To sing praise to your name, O Most High;**

P: To herald your love in the morning,

**C: Your truth at the close of day.**

**First Reading**

**Genesis 3:8-15**

<sup>8</sup>They heard the voice of the LORD God, who was walking around in the garden during the cooler part of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

<sup>9</sup>The LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?”

<sup>10</sup>The man said, “I heard your voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, so I hid myself.”

<sup>11</sup>God said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree

from which I commanded you not to eat?”

<sup>12</sup>The man said, “The woman you gave to be with me—she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

<sup>13</sup>The LORD God said to the woman, “What have you done?”

The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

<sup>14</sup>The LORD God said to the serpent:

Because you have done this,  
you are cursed more than all the livestock,  
and more than every wild animal.

You shall crawl on your belly,  
and you shall eat dust all the days of your life.

<sup>15</sup>I will put hostility between you and the woman,  
and between your seed and her seed.

He will crush your head,  
and you will crush his heel.

### **Confession of Sins**

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father,

**C: we have sinned against you**

**in our thoughts, in our words, in our deeds,  
and in all that we have not done.**

**Forgive us in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Deliver and restore us, that we may rest in peace.**

P: By the mercy of God we are redeemed by Jesus Christ, and in him we are forgiven. Let us rest in his peace until the rising of the sun, when we shall serve him in newness of life.

**C: Amen.**

### **Second Reading**

**Isaiah 9:2**

<sup>2</sup>The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

For those living in the land of the shadow of death, the light has dawned.

<sup>6</sup>For to us a child is born.

To us a son is given.

The authority to rule will rest on his shoulders.

He will be named:

Wonderful Counselor,

Mighty God,

Everlasting Father,

Prince of Peace.

**Third Reading**

**Micah 5:2-4**

<sup>2</sup>But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
though you are small among the clans of Judah,  
from you, will go out the one who will be the ruler for me in Israel.  
His goings forth are from the beginning, from the days of eternity.  
<sup>3</sup>Therefore the LORD will give them up,  
until the time when the woman who is in labor bears a child.  
Then the remaining survivors from his brothers will return to the people of Israel.  
<sup>4</sup>He will stand and shepherd with the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
They will dwell securely, for at that time he will be great to the ends of the earth.

**Hymn 333 O Little Town of Bethlehem**

- 1 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.
- 2 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.
- 3 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.

- 4 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 Immanuel!

### Fourth Reading

**Luke 1:30-35**

<sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, because you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>Listen, you will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He 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. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will never end.”

<sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

<sup>35</sup>The angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

### Hymn 301 vv. 1-2

### Savior of the Nations, Come

- 1 Savior of the nations, come;  
Virgin’s Son, make here your home.  
Marvel now, O heav’n and earth,  
that the Lord chose such a birth.
- 2 Not by human flesh and blood,  
by the Spirit of our God  
was the Word of God made flesh,  
woman’s offspring, pure and fresh.

Text: tr. William M. Reynolds, 1812–1876, alt.; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546, abr.; Ambrose of Milan, 340–397, abr.  
Text: Public domain

### Fifth Reading

**Luke 2:1-14**

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governing Syria.

<sup>3</sup>And everyone went to register, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup>And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the town of Nazareth, into Judea, to the town of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was from the house and family line of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, his wife, who was pledged to him in marriage and was expecting a child.

<sup>6</sup>And so it was that while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son, wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup>There were in the same country shepherds staying out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock at night. <sup>9</sup>An angel of the Lord appeared to 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 behold, I bring you good news of great joy, which will be for all people: <sup>11</sup>Today in the town of David, a Savior was born for you. He is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>And this will be a sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup>Suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude from the heavenly army, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward mankind.”

## Hymn 345

## Where Shepherds Lately Knelt

- 1 Where shepherds lately knelt and kept the angel’s word,  
I come in half-belief, a pilgrim strangely stirred;  
but there is room and welcome there for me,  
but there is room and welcome there for me.
- 2 In that unlikely place I find him as they said:  
sweet newborn babe, how frail! And in a manger bed:  
a still, small voice to cry one day for me,  
a still, small voice to cry one day for me.
- 3 How should I not have known Isaiah would be there,  
his prophecies fulfilled? With pounding heart I stare:  
a child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me,  
a child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me.
- 4 Can I, will I forget how Love was born, and burned  
its way into my heart—unmasked, unforced, unearned,  
to die, to live, and not alone for me,  
to die, to live, and not alone for me?

## Offering

You can give your offerings from your smartphone with the new **Vanco Mobile** app, which can be downloaded for free at Google Play or the App Store. You can also give at [holytrinitylutheranwyoming.com](http://holytrinitylutheranwyoming.com) by clicking the Offerings link at the top of the page. If you have any questions about any of these options, please contact Dave Vogel at [financialsecretary@holytrinity-wels.net](mailto:financialsecretary@holytrinity-wels.net) The Sacrament



## Prayer

P: Hear my prayer, O Lord;

**C: listen to my cry.**

P: Keep me as the apple of your eye;

**C: hide me in the shadow of your wings.**

P: In righteousness I shall see you;

**C: when I awake, your presence will give me joy.**

P: Be present, O merciful God, and protect us through the silent hours of this night, so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of this fleeting world may rest in your eternal changelessness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

**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.**

**Lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,**

**and the glory are yours**

**now and forever. Amen.**

**Special Music**  
**Sixth Reading**

**A Son, Emmanuel**  
**Luke 2:15-20**

<sup>15</sup>When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Now let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup>So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they had seen him, they told others the message they had been told about this child. <sup>18</sup>And all who heard it were amazed by what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

**Hymn 343**

**Once in Royal David’s City**

- 1 Once in royal David’s city  
stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby  
in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little child.
- 2 He came down to earth from heaven  
who is God and Lord of all,  
and his shelter was a stable,  
and his cradle was a stall;  
with the poor and mean and lowly  
lived on earth our Savior holy.
- 3 And our eyes at last shall see him  
through his own redeeming love,  
for that child, so dear and gentle,  
is our Lord in heav’n above,  
and he leads his children on  
to the place where he is gone.
- 4 Not in that poor, lowly stable  
with the oxen standing by  
shall we see him, but in heaven,  
set at God’s right hand on high.

Then like stars his children crowned,  
all in white, his praise will sound.

Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1818–1895, abr., alt.  
Text: Public domain

## Seventh Reading

**John 1:1-14**

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup>Through him everything was made, and without him not one thing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and the life was the light of mankind. <sup>5</sup>The light is shining in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man, sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as an eyewitness to testify about the light so that everyone would believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but he came to testify about the light.

<sup>9</sup>The real light that shines on everyone was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, yet his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who did receive him, to those who believe in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. <sup>13</sup>They were born, not of blood, or of the desire of the flesh, or of a husband's will, but born of God.

<sup>14</sup>The Word became flesh and dwelled among us. We have seen his glory, the glory he has as the only-begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

## Blessing

P: The almighty and merciful Lord-the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit - bless us and keep us.

C: Amen.

## Hymn 337

## Silent Night, Holy Night

- 1 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.
- 2 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!

- 3 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.

Text: tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885; Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792–1848  
Text: Public domain

**Please join us tomorrow for  
Christmas Day Worship at 9:00am.**

**Merry Christmas!**

Pastor Schamber, Mr. Scherschel, the Faculty and Staff at Holy Trinity  
would like to wish you a Merry Christmas  
and a Blessed New Year filled with the light of Jesus!

