

The Nativity of Our Lord - Christmas Eve
December 24, 2022
Order of Service: Service of Prayer and Preaching
LSB page 260



*Ah, dearest
Jesus, holy
Child,
Prepare a
bed, soft,
undefiled,
A quiet
chamber set
apart
For You to
dwell within
my heart.
LSB 358:13*

AS WE GATHER

The original title of the Christmas carol “In dulci jubilo” (LSB 386, “Now Sing We, Now Rejoice”) was interpreted by the famous French organist and composer Marcel Dupre as “In Quiet Joy.” Another familiar hymn tells of the birth of the Savior in the words “How silently the wondrous gift is given!” (LSB 361:3). Though there were moments of rage and loud opposition through His earthly ministry, many of our Lord’s activities happened in the quiet and stillness of His presence. Indeed, even as He accomplished His goal, He entered Jerusalem in quiet humility, suffered obediently, closed His eyes and breathed His last in death, and finally was laid in the stone-cold silence of a tomb. There are times for loud praise and rejoicing, but this night let us gather in quiet joy contemplating the mystery that, in this little babe in the little town of Bethlehem of Judea, fulfilled God’s ancient promise of redemption and peace for all who would be drawn in the silence of the Spirit of God through His Word and blessed Sacraments.

Opening Hymn: LSB #367 “Angels from the Realms of Glory”

Opening Versicles *LSB 260*

Old Testament Cantic: A Candle is Burning (Tune: Away in the Manger)

A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,
A candle of hope in December’s dark night,
While angels sing blessings from heaven’s dark sky,
Our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.

A candle is burning, a candle of peace,
A candle to signal that conflict must cease.
For Jesus is coming to show us the way,
A message of peace humbly laid in the hay.

A candle is burning, a candle of joy,
A candle to welcome brave Mary’s new boy,
Our hearts fill with wonder, and eyes light and glow,
As joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.

A candle is burning, a candle of love,
A candle to point us to heaven above,
A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth,
For Jesus is bringing God’s love to our Earth.

Old Testament Reading
Epistle Reading

Isaiah 9:2–7
1 John 4:7–16

Hymn: LSB #361 “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Holy Gospel
Responsory
Apostles’ Creed
Lord’s Prayer

Matthew 1:18–25
LSB 263
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Hymn of the Day: LSB #374 Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

Sermon: Rev. Brian Rosnau
Offering: (*Offerings previously gathered are brought forward*)
Prayer
Collect of the Day
Collect for the Word
Evening Prayer

LSB 264

New Testament Canticle: LSB #363 “Silent Night, Holy Night”

sts. 1–3

Christmas Story. Luke 2:1-20 KJV
Blessing

Closing Hymn: LSB # 387 “Joy to the World”

Acknowledgments

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