



**CHRIST THE
SAVIOR IS BORN**

Heavenly Hosts Sing Alleluia

CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2025



"Winning souls for Christ. Coaching Christians for life."

4651 Kernan Blvd S, Jacksonville, FL 32224 • (904) 642-8900

A Place to Call Home: Victory Lutheran

In the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, welcome home. We especially welcome to our house of worship our guests who have joined us today. We pray you will be strengthened by the good news about God's grace, love, and forgiveness to us through Jesus. We say with the Psalmist, whether here on campus or viewing online, "I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the LORD'" (Psalm 122:1). May the Lord continue to help us grow in His grace and knowledge as we hear, speak, and sing His holy Word.

Please sign the Connection Card inside the worship folder and return it in the basket on the worship table. Members, please update your contact info if there is a change.

Restrooms are located in the hallway to the left as you exit the sanctuary. Changing tables are available in both restrooms.

A Quiet Room for children who need a moment to get settled with a parent or guardian is located on the right before entering the sanctuary.

Visit our website: www.victorylutheran.org or find us on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube!



Worship Series Focus: **CHRIST THE SAVIOR IS BORN**

"Silent Night" was written originally in German by Joseph Mohr, with music composed by Franz Gruber. The carol was first performed on Christmas Eve in 1818 at St. Nicholas Church in Oberndorf, Austria. Legend says the church organ was broken, prompting Gruber to compose a simple guitar accompaniment. Subsequently accompanied by many instruments and translated into many languages, the text paints the picture of the incarnation. The last phrase is repeated, so in the second stanza we hear it twice: "Christ the Savior is born!" Every word of that phrase is significant, and every line of the Christmas carol describes a Bible truth. We use the beloved hymn to ponder the profound message of the Twelve Days of Christmas.

Today's Worship: **HEAVENLY HOSTS SING ALLELUIA**

Families cherish their Christmas traditions. Year after year, they decorate the tree with the same ornaments, play the same music, bake the same Christmas cookies. Without asking, family members know when they will open presents. If you try to change your family's Christmas traditions, you might be in trouble! When it comes to family Christmases, people generally don't like things to change.

Because our celebration of Christmas has so many unchanging traditions, we might miss the fact that the birth of Christ the Savior meant radical change for the world. Would the change be an improvement or another step in decline? The angels answer the question. They don't sing "Watch out for impending doom!" They sing "glory" and "peace," praising God with alleluias!

Christmas Eve Worship

Our Path for Worship

Preservice Music

Welcome and Introduction



EXHORTATION AND PRAYER

Minister: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

Do not be afraid! I bring you good news of great joy!

This good news of great joy is for all people, including us.

Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you;

He is Christ the Lord!

This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.

This baby in Bethlehem's manger is the all-powerful Son of God, born as a true human being to save us from our sins, and win for us eternal life.

In light of this best news, let us join with the angels in their glorious proclamation, praising God:

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.

O loving God, once again on this Christmas Eve, turn our thoughts toward Bethlehem and the Christ-child. Lead us to celebrate the good news of great joy this Christmas and always, that for us a Savior is born! May the words of Scripture we hear remind us again that the old story is ever so new. May the songs we sing reveal to us again the mystery of his birth. May the light of candles remind us of your Son, who is the Light of the world. May all who have known that Light on earth come to the full measure of its joys in heaven.

Be near us, Lord Jesus, as we worship you this holy day. Amen.

OPENING HYMN

CW338 | *On Christmas Night All Christians Sing*

Congregation



1 On Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing to hear the news the
 2 When sin de - parts be - fore his grace, then life and health come
 3 All out of dark - ness we have light, which made the an - gels



an - gels bring, on Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing to
 in its place, when sin de - parts be - fore his grace, then
 sing this night, all out of dark - ness we have light, which



hear the news the an - gels bring, news of great joy, news
 life and health come in its place; an - gels and saints with
 made the an - gels sing this night: "Glo - ry to God and



of great mirth, news of our mer - ci - ful King's birth.
 joy may sing, all for to see the new - born King.
 peace to men now and for - ev - er - more. A - men."

Text: English, abr.
 Tune: English
 Text and tune: Public domain

CONFESSION OF SINS

However, the fact that the Savior needed to be born reveals the very real problem we all have. As the Apostle Paul writes in Romans 3, “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

“There is no one righteous, not even one: there is no one who does good, not even one.”

“We all like sheep have gone astray; each of us has turned to our own way.” Therefore, let us join together to confess our sins, and be reminded of why the gift of our Savior, born this night, is good news of great joy for us, and all people.

All: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Dear friends, hear the good news! Today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ, the Lord! That child, born in a stable and placed in a wooden feed trough grew up, living a perfect, holy life, and willingly went to a wooden cross to suffer the punishment and pay the price for the sins of the whole world. Hear the word of God, then, through his called servant: All your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. May the peace and joy of forgiveness in Christ fill our hearts and lives this Christmas, and always!

Amen!

A Savior has been born to you.

He is Christ, the Lord!



HYMN

CW340 | *Away in a Manger*

All A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,
Women 2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
All Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you 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 bright sky looked down where he lay,
 I love you, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky,
 Bless all the dear chil - dren in your ten - der care,

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
 and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.
 and take us to heav - en to live with you there.

Text (sts. 1–2): The Myrtle, Boston, 1884; (st. 3): Vineyard Songs, Louisville, 1892, alt.
 Tune: James R. Murray, 1841–1905
 Text and tune: Public domain

The Word

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true light. Grant that as we have known on earth the wonder of that light, we may also behold him in all his glory in the life to come;
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING

Micah 5:2–5a

The prophet foretold that a person would come from Bethlehem to bring peace to the world

²“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
though you are small among the clans of Judah,
out of you will come for me
one who will be ruler over Israel,
whose origins are from of old,
from ancient times.”

³Therefore Israel will be abandoned
until the time when she who is in labor bears a son,
and the rest of his brothers return
to join the Israelites.

⁴He will stand and shepherd his flock
in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they will live securely, for then his greatness
will reach to the ends of the earth.

⁵And he will be our peace

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

All Is Well | by Michael W. Smith and Wayne Kirkpatrick

SECOND READING

Titus 2:11–14

The grace God showed us in sending his Son changes our present lives and our eternal destiny

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. ¹²It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

HYMN

CW345 | *Where Shepherds Lately Knelt*



1 Where shep-herds late - ly knelt and kept the an - gel's word,
 2 In that un - like - ly place I find him as they said:
 3 How should I not have known I - sa - iah would be there,
 4 Can I, will I for - get how Love was born, and burned



I come in half - be - lief, a pil - grim strange - ly stirred;
 sweet new - born babe, how frail! And in a man - ger bed:
 his proph - e - cies ful - filled? With pound - ing heart I stare:
 its way in - to my heart— un - asked, un - forced, un - earned,



but there is room and wel - come there for me,
 a still, small voice to cry one day for me,
 a child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me,
 to die, to live, and not a - lone for me,



but there is room and wel - come there for me.
 a still, small voice to cry one day for me.
 a child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me.
 to die, to live, and not a - lone for me?

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008

Tune: Carl F. Schalk, 1929–2021

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GOSPEL READING

Luke 2:1-20

This child's birth changed the relationship of human beings and God

¹In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ²(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

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.

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

All children are invited to join Pastor at the front of the sanctuary for a message based on today's sermon, specifically designed for them! If children would feel more comfortable, an adult is welcome to come up with them.

HYMN OF THE DAY

CW346 | *Angels We Have Heard on High*

Congregation



- 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 ti - dings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

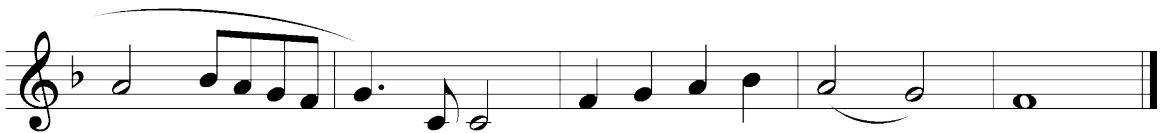
Refrain



Glo - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo - - -



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

Text: French; tr. The Crown of Jesus, Part 2, 1862, alt.
Tune: French
Text and tune: Public domain

FOCUS ON THE SCRIPTURES

Pastor Jonathan Kolander

"Redeemed to Be His Very Own"

Titus 2:11-14

SERMON RESPONSE

CW344 | *What Child Is This*

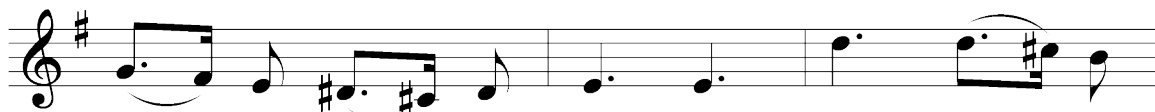
Congregation



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 - en now 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, 1837–1898, alt.
Tune: English, 16th cent.
Text and tune: Public domain

THANK OFFERING

To show our thanks to God for his generosity toward us, we gather this thank offering, an act of worship (Romans 12:1), to support our Gospel-focused ministry in the Jacksonville area and beyond. See our website for other ways to support Victory's ministry and mission. If you want to give your thank offering online, you may use the camera on your smartphone to scan the QR code.



Please also fill out the Connection Card found inside your worship folder and drop it in the basket on the back (blue) table. You can also scan the QR code on the left to fill out an online Connection Card.

OFFERTORY

4:00 Service – O Holy Night
7:00 Service – The First Noel | **arr. Barnwell**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Gracious Father, when the time had fully come, you sent your Son to carry out your plan to save the world from the tyranny of sin, the threat of death, and the power of Satan. On this holy night, strengthen our faith as we ponder the depth of your divine love.
Lead us to quiet awe as we remember your gracious compassion.

Take away our fears and fright and fill us with joy as we hear the message that Jesus was born for us and that he came to restore peace with you and mend the bond broken by sin. Move us to sing our carols and hymns not with passing pleasure but with the depth of praise for his extraordinary love.

Let our songs and hymns reflect our faith in the redemption gained by Christ.

Fill us with an eager joy that moves us to share the good news with others, especially those who may have forgotten or dismissed the love of God in Christ. Give us faith-filled maturity to recognize that the best gift we can give to children is the story of Jesus who was born as a baby and died on a cross to save them for heaven.

Move us to tell the good news of great joy that we have seen and heard.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

As we close this service, let us remember and treasure this: In the beginning was the Word. The Word was with God; the Word was God!
In Him was life, and that life was the light of men.

Jesus is the Light of the World!
He is light; in Him there is no darkness at all.

As we walk in the light, we have fellowship with one another.
The blood of Jesus—our Savior—has purified us from all sin.

Once we were in darkness.
Now we are light in the Lord!

O Holy Spirit, as the light of candles drives away the darkness, so use the message of Jesus, our Savior, to drive sin and doubt from our hearts. Lead us—like the shepherds—to share the message that God is again at one with us, because Jesus became one of us. As we've rejoiced at Your first coming, lead us to long for Your second coming. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!
Amen.

THE CHRISTMAS BLESSING

May he, who by his incarnation gathered into one all things earthly and heavenly, fill us with the surpassing joy that comes with the knowledge of the forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life. And the blessing of God Almighty: the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.
Do not be afraid. Today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ, the Lord. Amen!

Our closing hymn will be sung in candlelight. To light your candles, ushers will come down the center aisle, and light the candle of the person sitting on the aisle. You will then "pass the flame" down the row by lighting the candle of the person next to you. Please keep the lit candle upright, and tip unlit candles to the flame. Please be sure to keep the paper tray on your candle, to catch any drips of melted wax. At the conclusion of the service, please extinguish your candles, and deposit them in the basket in the center aisle as you exit the sanctuary.



CLOSING HYMN

CW337 | *Silent Night, Holy Night*

Congregation



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
at the sight. Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face



Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
heav'n - ly hosts__ sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy



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

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

Tune: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1787–1863

Text and tune: Public domain

Join us for Christmas Day worship, tomorrow morning at 9:15am!



Serving in Worship

Pastor
Accompanists

Flutist
Harpist
Guitarist
Soloists

Choir Director

Rev. Jonathan Kolander
4:00 Service | *Ms. Jeanine Heller*
7:00 Service | *Mrs. Katie Seelman*
Mrs. Anne Grotefend
Mrs. Virginia Black
Mr. Jake Seelman
Mrs. Jenny Kolander
Mr. Brian Nordin
Mrs. Anne Grotefend

For reflection based on today's Scripture readings...

- 1st: What jumps out here about the coming of the Messiah? What would Old Testament Israel have to go through first, and why was this? What is the peace God held out to them? Read Psalm 96.
- 2nd: Why is the message of salvation also a message of grace? Who is this grace for, and note the significance of your answer? Think over the 'things' we are to say 'No' to, and why this is healthy direction from God. How can you improve in living a more 'self-controlled' life? Read Psalm 98 and 1 John 5:3.
- 3rd: If you have heard these words before, what gets you every time ... or maybe gets you this time? Connect the peace mentioned in Micah to the peace mentioned here. How can you be more 'shepherd-like' in your life? Read Psalm 100 and Galatians 5:22–25.

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Sunday Service Times

8:00am Worship

9:15am Bible Class and Sunday School

10:30am Worship with Livestream

Contact Information

Brad Smith, Office Manager — (904) 642-8900
office@victorylutheran.org

Jonathan Kolander, Pastor — (414) 510-0971
pastork@victorylutheran.org

Katie Seelman, Preschool Director — (904) 955-1926
director@victorylutheran.org

Jarrett Mielke, Staff Minister — (941) 735-6962
jmielke@victorylutheran.org

Victory is a member congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS), headquartered in Waukesha, Wisconsin.

