



Christmas Eve Candlelight

What Child Is This?

CHRIST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH | Lodi, California

December 24, 2021

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

In the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, we welcome you to Christ Lutheran. We especially welcome our guests who have joined us today. We pray that your soul will be strengthened by the good news about God's grace, love, and forgiveness to us through his Son, Jesus Christ.

If you would like to learn more about our church, please speak with our pastor or one of our members after the service. We would be happy to assist you.

If you have a prayer request you would like included in the Prayer of the Church, there is a clipboard with paper at the entry to the sanctuary, where you can note your request.

WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

A baby is born every twelve seconds. That's 140 million babies born each year. Yet, there is something that sets this child apart from all others. It is not simply his humble beginnings, with a cattle trough as his first cradle. It is not just the miraculous nature of his birth, his mother being a virgin. There is so much more. This child is the only hope we have for peace and a future. This child can wipe away every tear, drive away every fear. Here is the truth of Christmas. With this child, you lack nothing. Without him, you have nothing. Let us use this season of Christmas to answer this most important question:

WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

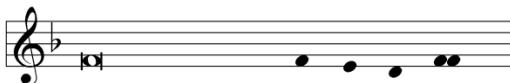
This Christmas Eve, an angel answers that question. "A savior has been born to you." It is a stunning statement, for two reasons. First, this child looks nothing like what we would expect in a hero-savior. This child is weak, helpless, and mired in poverty. Second, he has come to bring salvation "to you." It is a salvation we all need desperately. It was God's gift to us, given on that first Christmas Eve.

SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

“Evening Prayer” is based on the historic service called “Vespers.” Christians gather at the end of the day to raise their voices in thankful praise and prayer. The “Service of Light” portrays the comforting and ever-present light of Christ as daylight disappears. This service is an adaptation of the Advent Carol Service traditionally held at King’s College, Cambridge, England.

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light (Isaiah 9:2).

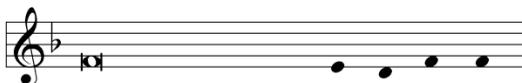
Please enter and be seated. Candles will be lit and worship begins. Tip only unlit candles. Do not tip lit candles.



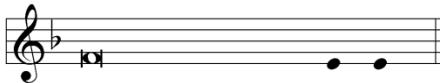
M: Jesus Christ is the light of the world,



C: the light no darkness can o - ver - come.



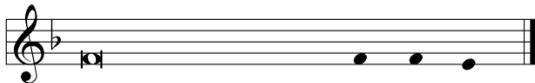
M: Stay with us, Lord, for it is eve-ning,



C: and the day is almost o - ver.



M: Be our light and scat - ter the dark-ness,



C: and hear our evening hymn of praise.

Exhortation and Prayer

please stand

M: Dear people of God, in this Christmas season it is our duty and delight to hear again the message of the angels and, in heart and mind, to go to Bethlehem and see this thing which has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us—the Christ-Child lying in a manger.

Let us read and learn in Holy Scripture the story of the loving purposes of God from the first days after our fall into sin to the glorious redemption brought to us by this holy Child.

But first, let us pray for people all over the world who would delight with us to know the good news of Jesus Christ, and who would join with us in singing his praises. Let us pray for the people of this city and for all those in our own congregation.

And, because this would please our Lord, let us remember, in his name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who are sad, the lonely and the unloved, the elderly and the little children. We especially remember all those who do not know the Lord Jesus, or who do not love him, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Finally, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us in heaven, who live in greater light than we, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, who died in faith, and who live before the throne of God and praise him each day in his temple. We confess that we are united with them as we are united with one another.

To sum up all these petitions, please stand and let us pray as Christ himself taught us.

**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

*We extinguish our candles as the Word of God is a lamp to our feet and a light for our path.
Candles will again be used at the end of worship.*

NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 3:8-15

This wasn't just any child. This was the long promised seed of woman that would crush the serpent's head.

HYMN

Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising (v. 1-4) | CW 362

We light the first Advent Candle

SECOND LESSON

Genesis 22:15-18

Through this promised son all nations on the earth would be blessed.

HYMN

Of the Father's Love Begotten (v. 1-3) | CW 358

We light the second Advent Candle

THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

They will be blessed because this child is unlike any other. Isaiah calls him, “Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.”

HYMN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (v. 1,2) | CW 350

We light the third Advent Candle

FOURTH LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-9

This is not just any child. This child will grow from the dead lifeless stump of Jesse (David’s Father). He will be the king that brings peace.

HYMN

Once in Royal David’s City (v. 1,2) | CW 343

We light the fourth Advent Candle

FIFTH LESSON

Luke 1:26-35, 38

The angel Gabriel visits Mary announcing the fulfillment of the Genesis 3:15. This child will be born without the help of man. This will be son of God.

HYMN

A Great and Mighty Wonder (v. 1-3) | CW 349

We light the fifth Advent Candle

SIXTH LESSON

Matthew 1:18-25

This story from Mary was unbelievable even to Joseph but God wasn’t about to let his son come into this world without a father. An angel also appeared to Joseph. This child will be Jesus.

HYMN

Away in a Manger | CW 341

SEVENTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-20

This child honored the poor and lowly, even the shepherds are able to worship this child.

HYMN

Where Shepherds Lately Knelt | CW 345

EIGHTH LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12

This child honored foreigners when his own rejected him.

HYMN

O Jesus Christ, Your Manger Is (v. 1-3) | CW 342

NINTH LESSON

John 1:1-14

This child brought about a new creation and new life as the Word of God came into this world in flesh and blood.

DEVOTION

Luke 2:1-20

What child is this? The Savior who is born to you.

No formal offering is gathered; a basket is located by the door if you wish to leave an offering, please stand

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

The ushers will light their candles, walk down the center aisle, and light the candles of the people sitting on the ends. Each person will then light their candles from the person sitting next to them. To avoid dripping hot wax on you DO NOT TIP A LIT CANDLE. Tip only the unlit candles. The candles will remain lit until after the benediction.

M: Rejoice! The Light of the World has come. That light transforms us with the brightness of His glory. This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaimed to you: that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

C: **If we say we have fellowship with Him but still walk in darkness, we lie, and do not live according to the truth.**

M: But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another;

C: **And the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all our sins.**

M: You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and then cover its light. Instead they set the lamp on its stand, set up high, and it lights everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before everyone, that they may see your good works and give praise to your Father in heaven.

PRAYER

M: Let us pray:

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

C: Amen.

M: The almighty and merciful God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

C: Amen! Glory to God in the highest! And peace to His people on earth!
BLESSING

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Silent Night! Holy Night | CW 337

**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; Heavenly hosts sing,
Alleluia; 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.**



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WELCOME TO CHRIST EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH!

We preach a message of forgiveness, hope and peace
through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Families and individuals of all ages will find opportunities
both to grow and to serve.

Our mission statement:

Look what Christ is doing!

He binds us together in fellowship

He gathers us in for worship

He builds us up for service

He sends us out with the gospel

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