

Calvary Lutheran School
December 15th, 2017

Our children have prepared to lead worship tonight – not a play or program. It is the prayer of our faculty and students that the focus of our worshippers' attention will not be the children, but the Christ child in the manger.

*We ask that there be **NO PHOTOGRAPHY DURING THE SERVICE.***



The service will be made available on our church website and will also be made available on DVD when students return from Christmas Break. You may take pictures with your children after the service.

Offering: *If you wish to make a free-will offering to support the work of Calvary Lutheran Church and School, you will find an envelope in this service folder and baskets located near the doors of the sanctuary as you exit.*

A “Sola” Christmas

A Children’s Christmas Service

Focusing on the “Solos” of the Reformation

by Matthew Manthe

Hymn: “O Come, Little Children” (*Children*)

O come, little children, O come one and all,
To Bethlehem haste, to the manger so small,
God’s Son for a gift has been sent you this night
To be your Redeemer, your Joy and Delight.

He’s born in a stable for you and for me,
Draw near by the bright gleaming starlight to see,
In swaddling clothes lying so meek and so mild,
And purer than angels the heavenly Child.

See Mary and Joseph, with love beaming eyes,
Are gazing upon the rude bed where He lies,
The shepherds are kneeling, with hearts full of love
While angels sing loud hallelujahs above.

Kneel down and adore Him with shepherds today,
Lift up little hands now and praise Him as they
Rejoice that a Savior from sin you can boast,
And join in the song of the Heavenly Host.

Invocation: (*Congregation, please stand*)

M In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Responsive Reading (Psalm 96, selected verses):

M Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

C **Sing to the LORD, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day.**

M Declare his glory among the nations,

C **his marvelous deeds among all peoples.**

M Ascribe to the LORD, all you families of nations,

C **ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.**

M Worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness;

C **tremble before him, all the earth.**

M Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;

C **let the sea resound, and all that is in it.**

M Let all creation rejoice before the LORD, for he comes,

C **he comes to judge the earth.**

M He will judge the world in righteousness

C **and the peoples in his faithfulness.**

(Be seated)

Congregational Hymn: "Now Sing We, Now Rejoice" (CW 34)

(Children)

Now sing we, now rejoice, now raise to heaven our voice;

He from whom joy streameth poor in a manger lies;

Not so brightly beameth the sun in yonder skies.

Thou my Savior art! Thou my Savior art!

(Children)

Come from on high to me; I cannot rise to thee.

Cheer my wearied spirit, O pure and holy Child;

Through Thy grace and merit, Blest Jesus, Lord most mild,

Draw me unto thee! Draw me unto thee!

(Congregation)

**Now through His Son doth shine the Father's grace divine.
Death o'er us had reigned through sin and vanity;
He for us obtained eternal joy on high.
May we praise Him there! May we praise Him there!**

(Congregation & Children)

**Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'nly ground?
Where the angels singing with all His saints unite,
Sweetest praises bringing in heav'nly joy and light.
Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!**

Introduction

We all know how important a solid foundation is for a building. A building with a weak foundation may stand for a time, but eventually it will topple. Tonight, we once again hear the account of the birth of Jesus. Why do we set aside time to do this every year? The answer is that this is an important brick in the foundation of our faith. Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 3:11, "No one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ." As we close out the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, we are reminded how God used Martin Luther to restore to the church the true teachings of Scripture. Luther summarized those teachings in five short statements: By Scripture Alone, By Faith Alone, Through Christ Alone, To God's Glory Alone, and By Grace Alone. These phrases form the foundation of the Lutheran Church, and because they are rooted in Scripture, they form the foundation of the Christian faith.

Pre-K and Kindergarten Recitation and Song

On the very first Christmas night,
A wondrous star shown big and bright.
It marked the spot where the baby lay,
So kings and shepherds could come to pray.

Song: "In a Little Stable" (Words: H. W. Gockel)

In a little stable
Far across the sea
Was a little Baby
Just like you and me.

Not a bed or cradle,
Not a pillow deep,
But a lowly manger
Was His place to sleep.

Shepherds stood around Him,
Angels watched with care,
For this Babe was Jesus,
Lying, smiling there.

Oh, I love this Jesus,
Who was little then.
For He surely loves me,
Little though I am.

Hymn: "Today, a Savior is Born" (Lynn Shaw Bailey) *(Cherub Choir)*

Refrain:

Today a Savior is born for you.
Glory to God in the highest!
Today a Savior is born for you.
Glory to God in the highest!

This will be a sign to you, the babe asleep on the hay.
Tell the news to everyone, Jesus, Messiah, is born today! *(Refrain)*

Shepherds ran to Bethlehem, to see the babe on the hay.
Angels in the heavens sang, Jesus, Messiah, is born today! *(Refrain)*

PART ONE: By Scripture Alone (Sola Scriptura)

Narration:

When the earth was new and people lived for hundreds of years, information was passed down from one generation to the next by word of mouth. Many generations were able to talk directly with Adam and Eve about the Garden of Eden, their fall into sin, and God's promise of a Savior. As the first people began dying and the number of generations increased, it became necessary to record God's promises. God tells us through his disciple Peter how this took place:

Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. (2 Peter 1:20,21)

So how do we know that the baby whose birth we are celebrating is our Savior? Because Scripture tells us. That news can be found nowhere else but in God's Word. God gave his people prophecies—pictures of coming events—so they would recognize the Messiah when he came.

"I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel." (Genesis 3:15)

"The Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel." (Isaiah 7:14)

"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." (Micah 5:2)

"'The days are coming,' declares the LORD, 'when I will fulfill the good promise I made to the people of Israel and Judah. In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David's line; he will do what is just and right in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. This is the name by which it will be called: The LORD Our Righteous Savior.'" (Jeremiah 33:14-16)

Hymn: "Of the Father's Love Begotten" (CW 35)

(Junior Choir)

Of the Father's love begotten ere the world began to be,

He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending he,
Of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see
Evermore and evermore.

(Junior Choir)

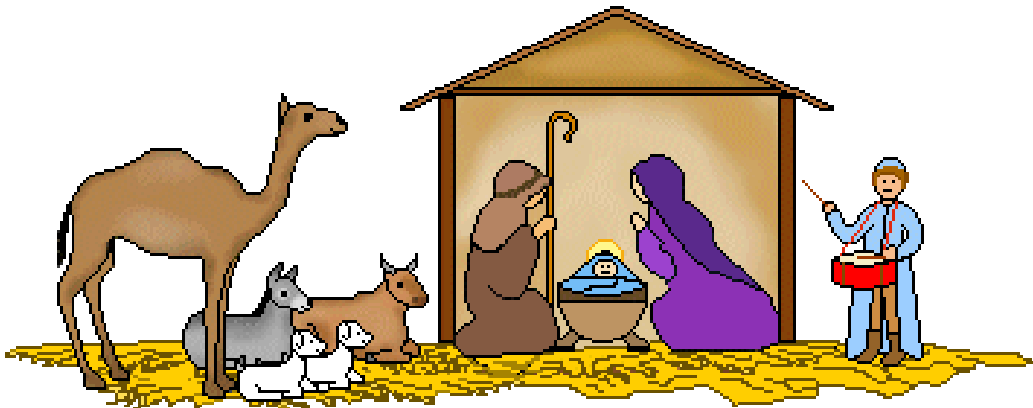
Oh, that birth forever blessed when the virgin full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race,
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer, first revealed His sacred face,
Evermore and evermore.

(Congregation)

**This is he whom heav'n taught singers, sang of old with one accord;
Whom the Scriptures of the prophets, promised in their faithful word.
Now He shines, the long expected; Let creation praise its Lord
Evermore and evermore.**

(Congregation)

Let the heights of hea'vn adore Him, angel hosts his praises sing.
Pow'rs, dominions bow before Him, and extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent, ev'ry voice in concert ring
Evermore and evermore.



**PART TWO: By Faith Alone, Through Christ Alone
(Sola Fide, Solus Christus)**

Narration:

In the 11th chapter of the letter to the Hebrews, we find a definition for faith: "Faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see." When we receive unsettling news, our reaction might be to doubt the truth of this news. Tonight we see in Mary an example of a strong faith as she reacts to some potentially startling news.

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. 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, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on 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. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail."

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her. (Luke 1:26-38)

Mary was chosen by God to give birth to the Savior. Mary was not special in and of herself, but by faith—a gift of the Holy Spirit—she trusted God and his Word. Many people today say they have faith, but too often it is in someone or something that provides no lasting foundation. Scripture tells us that there is only one sure foundation for our faith—Jesus Christ.

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6)

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved. (Acts 4:12)

Hymn: “Once in Royal David’s City” (CW 50)

(Children)

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.

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.

But 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.

(Congregation & Children – Please stand)

**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.**

(Be seated)



Hymn: “Hush, My Babe” (Jody W. Lindh) Junior Choir

Hush, my Babe, lie still in slumber,
In this stable poor and drear,
Hear the wind blow cold and bitter,

Sheep and oxen standing near.
Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo,
Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo,

Bright the winter stars are shining,
Angels from the heavens sing.
Shepherds gather, lost in wonder,
Wise Men kneel, their gifts to bring.
Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo,
Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo,

May your sleep be sweet and peaceful,
May you rest now, Heav'n'ly Boy,
Child of Blessing, Child of Promise,
Be our Hope, our Peace, our Joy.
Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo,
Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo,

Narration:

Thousands of years after making the first promise of a Savior, God finally sent the Messiah. Listen again to those familiar words proclaiming Jesus' birth:

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

So 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. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and 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. (Luke 2:1-7)

"Away in a Manger" (CW 68) (Children)

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.

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.

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.



Hymn: "Silent Night" (CW 6o)

Alumni are asked to walk forward with their candles and disperse along the two side aisles during the prelude to "Silent Night." A faculty member will initiate candle lighting in each aisle and alumni are asked to carefully continue the lighting of candles down the aisle

FRONT



during "Silent Night." When the song is complete, please blow out your candles as you walk back to your seats. Please place your candles in the box in the narthex at the end of the service.

(Children and alumni)

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.

(Children and alumni)

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht, Alles schläft; einsam wacht
Nur das traute hoch heilige Paar. Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh! Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!

(Children, alumni & Congregation)

**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.**

PART THREE: To God's Glory Alone (Soli Deo Gloria)

Narration:

Matthew, the author of the first book of the Bible's New Testament, records the angel's instructions to Joseph concerning Mary's child:

"You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."
(Matthew 1:21)

We have no part in saving ourselves. The Bible tells us we are saved through Christ alone. So we give God alone all the glory in thankfulness for sending his Son to save us.

Yes, tonight we see a humble baby in a manger; but the apostle Paul reminds us in his letter to the Philippians of Jesus' honored place:

God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:9-11)

The angels gave us a good example when they praised God after telling the shepherds the news of Jesus' birth.

There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." (Luke 2:8-14)

Hymn: "Angels We Have Heard on High" (CW 63) *(Children)*

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria 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.
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.



PART FOUR: By Grace Alone (Sola Gratia)

Narration:

In the next few days many of you will be opening your Christmas gifts. What did you do to earn those gifts? The moment we do something to earn them, they are no longer gifts. Out of love for us, God gave the most precious gift on that first Christmas night—the Savior who lived a perfect life and suffered and died to pay for our sins. Our sinful nature wants nothing to do with God and his precious gift. Despite that fact, God still loves us. God’s love is undeserved. That is GRACE! The apostle Paul reminds us:

It is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. (Ephesians 2:8,9)

After you have opened your gifts, do you keep quiet about them? Or do you tell all your friends what you have received? When the shepherds saw God’s gift to the world, they did not keep the news to themselves. They spread the word so that others could experience God’s grace too!

When 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."

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told. (Luke 2:15-20)

Hymn: "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" (CW57) (*Children*)

Refrain:

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills, and ev'rywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. (*refrain*)

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo, above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed the Savior's birth. (*refrain*)

Down in the lowly manger the humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. (*refrain*)

Message

Responsive Prayer

M God our Wonderful Counselor, in your Word you reveal to us who you are and what we are.

C Through your Scriptures alone you show us that you are righteous and we are not. You show us that you are love and that we are forgiven.

M Mighty God, you provide us with certain hope and redeem us from our sin.

C Through faith alone we hold to your promises, and through Christ alone we receive salvation.

M Everlasting Father, you rule the universe, the church, and the hearts of your people.

C To you alone belongs all glory and praise!

M Prince of Peace, your love covers us and fills us and moves us.

C Through grace alone we receive new life and eternal hope.

M Faithful God, move us to rejoice in our salvation and to share eagerly this Good News with others.

C Help us to live for you through Scripture alone, by faith alone, in Christ alone, under grace alone, and to your glory alone. Amen.

Song: Joy Has Dawned (Keith Getty and Stuart Townsend) *(Children)*

Joy has dawned upon our world, promised from creation-
God's salvation now unfurled, hope for ev'ry nation.
Not with fanfares from above, not with scenes of glory;
But a humble gift of love – Jesus born of Mary.

Sounds of wonder fill the sky with the songs of angels,
As the mighty Prince of Life shelters in a stable.
Hands that set each star in place, shaped the earth in darkness,
Cling now to a mother's breast, vuln'erable and helpless.

Shepherds bow before the Lamb, gazing at the glory;
Gifts of men from distant lands prophesy the story.
Gold – a King is born today, Incense – God is with us,
Myrrh – His death will make a way and by His blood He'll win us.

Son of Adam, Son of Heav'n, given as a ransom;
Reconciling God and man, Christ, our mighty champion!
What a Savior! What a Friend! What a glorious myst'ry!
Once a babe in Bethlehem, Now the Lord of hist'ry.

Prayers and Lord's Prayer *(Congregation, please stand)*

C 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.

Benediction

(Be seated)

Recessional Hymn: “ Joy to the World” (CW 62)

(Children)

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

(Congregation & Children)

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
While field and floods, rocks, hills, and plains, Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow, far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

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.



SPECIAL THANKS:

Ms. Dawn AswegeDirector
Mrs. Tania Kopplin Organ
Mrs. Beth Weed Piano
Mr. Bill BallGuitar
Mr. Gary Hengst Guitar
Mr. John McCarthy Audio/Visual

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP AT CALVARY

December 24	Christmas Eve Festival of Lessons and Carols.....	5:00 PM
December 24	Christmas Eve Compline Service	11:00 PM
December 25	Christmas Day	9:30 AM
December 31	New Year's Eve.....	5:00 PM

CANDY BAGS

Children are invited to take a candy bag from the ushers as they leave church (white treat bags are nut-free). Please accept this candy bag as a gift from our congregation. We ask that you do not open the candy bags until you are home so that we can keep our facilities clean.

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