

CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH

Steamboat Springs, CO

www.steamboatlutheran.org

Learning, Living, Sharing the Gospel

Pastor: Dave McKnight

DCE/Youth Director: Ellie Bach

WORSHIP NOTES

Christmas Eve, December 24, 2005, 5:30 & 7:30 PM

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC AND CHRISTMAS PRELUDE

Played by Henry Savage at the 5:30pm service

WELCOME & GREETINGS

OPENING SONG: "O Come All Ye Faithful" (Congregation)

INVOCATION:.....Amen

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

C: Lord Jesus, we know the darkness of our own night. We know the darkness of our own brokenness, failure and sin. We have fallen short in thought, word, and deed. Guide our hearts this night, as you did the shepherds in the field, to the Child in Bethlehem's manger. Forgive us for Jesus' sake.

P. I announce to you this night the truth of the birth of the long promised Messiah. I announce unto you the reality of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. It is for Jesus' sake that God forgives us our sins. This new life, a renewed life, is the true gift of Christmas.

CHRISTMAS HYMN: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" (Congregation)

RESPONSIVE READING:

P. O God, let this Christmas see a new birth of *hope* in our lives.

C. Inspire us to see that your helping hand is always there to support us.

P. O God, let this Christmas see a new birth of *faith* in our lives.

C. Cause us to be more genuine in our worship, in our work, in our witness.

P. O God, let this Christmas see a new birth of *joy* in our lives.

C. Restore within us the joy of your salvation.

P. O God, let this Christmas see a new birth of *wonder* in our lives.

C. Amaze us with your presence, power, and promises each day.

P. O God, let this Christmas see a new birth of *gratitude* in our lives.

C. Make our family life, our festive times, our fellowship activities authentic expressions of gratitude with generosity.

P. O God, let this Christmas see a new birth of *witness* in our lives.

C. Challenge us to let your light shine through our sharing and service and support of others.

P. Jesus Christ is born!

C. Alleluia! Amen!

P. Praise be to You, Father, for sending your Son.

C. Praise be to You, Jesus, for becoming one of us.

P. Praise be to You, Holy Spirit, for creating faith in us.

P. & C. Jesus is born! Alleluia! Amen!

CHRISTMAS PRAYER: O loving God, you once caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Turn our thought toward Bethlehem and the Christ Child. May the words of Scripture remind us again that the old story is ever new. May the carols reveal to us again the wonder and mystery of his birth. May the candles symbolize for us your Son as the Light of the world. May all who have known this mystery of that Light on earth come to the full measure of its joys in heaven.

C. Amen. Help us, O Lord, in our worship this night. Amen.

CHRISTMAS SCRIPTURE: Luke 1:26-35

CAROL: "What Child Is This" (Congregation)

CHRISTMAS SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:1-7

CAROL: "Away in a Manger" (Congregation)

CHRISTMAS SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:8-16

CAROL: "Angels We Have Heard on High" (Congregation)

CHRISTMAS SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:17-20

CHRISTMAS EVE MESSAGE: "The Magic & Wonder of Christmas"

OFFERINGS ARE RECEIVED

Special Music: "O Holy Night" (Paul Draper) 7:30pm service

PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CAROL: "Silent Night" (Congregation)

THE CHRISTMAS BLESSING:.....Amen

CLOSING CAROL: "Joy to the World" (Congregation)

We would like to invite all our guests to join us again next weekend for our New Year's Eve service Saturday at 5:30pm. We also have New Year's Day services on Sunday morning at 8 and 10:45am. Come and worship with us.

Luke 1:26-35

²⁶In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

²⁹Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. ³¹You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. ³²He 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, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."

³⁴"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

³⁵The angel answered, "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.

Luke 2: 1-7

In 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 his 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 room

for them in the inn.

Luke 2:8-16

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 of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ 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,
and on earth peace to men 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.

Luke 2:17-20

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.