

“Living in the Light”

School Christmas Service

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✠ IN THE NAME OF JESUS ✠

Preservice Music

Eighth Grade Piano Students Selected Carols for Christmas

School Choir “Gloria Deo Up in the Sky” - J. Butler

**Combined Sixth through Eighth Grade Bands “Sound of the Season”
J. Swearingen**

Processional Hymn “Angels from the Realms of Glory” *LSB* 367

Congregation and School

**Angels from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o’er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation’s story, Now proclaim Messiah’s birth.**

Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the new-born King.

**Shepherds in the field abiding, Watching o’er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing, Yonder shines the Infant Light. *Refrain***

**Sages, leave your contemplations, Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations, Ye have seen His natal star. *Refrain***

**Saints before the altar bending, Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending, In His temple shall appear. *Refrain***

**All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising To th’eternal Three in One. *Refrain***

Invocation

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

✠ THE SERVICE OF LIGHT ✠

P: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,
C: **the Light no darkness can overcome.**

P: Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,
C: **and the day is almost over.**

P: Let Your light scatter the darkness
C: **and illumine Your church.**

Phos Hilaron - Hymn of Light LSB 244

Grades 3-8

Joyous light of glory: of the immortal Father; heavenly, holy, blessed Jesus Christ.
We have come to the setting of the sun, and we look to the evening light.
We sing to God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit:
 You are worthy of being praised with pure voices forever.
O Son of God, O Giver of life: the universe proclaims Your glory.

Prayer

P: Let us pray.
 Blessèd are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ; may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for You are merciful, and You love Your whole creation and we, Your creatures, glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
C: **Amen.**

✠ MESSAGE ✠

Church is lowlight

K-4: Jesus came to be our light.

B1: Is His light like a nightlight, calming our fears?

K-4: Yes, but bigger.

B2: Is His light like a flashlight, helping us see through darkness?

K-4: Yes, but brighter.

B3: Is His light like a searchlight, finding us when we are lost?

K-4: Yes, but more powerful.

B4: Is his light like a lighthouse, showing us where to go?

K-4: Yes, but greater.

3-4: (**BOLDLY**) Jesus’ light is big, bright, powerful, great, ... perfect.

B5: Why do we need Jesus to be our light?

Church becomes dark.

VD: In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. In Him was life, and that life was the Light of men.

Spotlight on wall

F1: Long ago God created a perfect world by the power of His word.

1st: “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” *Genesis 1:1*

F2: People were part of God’s creation. He made Adam and Eve in His own image, blessed them, and charged them with caring for His creation.

F3: His creation was well-planned and complete. Everything worked together to the glory of God.

2nd: God saw all that He had made, and it was very good. *Genesis 1:31*

F4: Unfortunately, when Adam and Eve sinned, that act shattered the perfection of creation and condemned all to death. Everything did not work perfectly together anymore, and true darkness entered the world.

Cracked light via spotlight

F5: God was aware of this hopeless situation and in spite of this disobedience continued to love His creation. He knew that the Light, which was there from the beginning, was the only way to heal the darkness.

F6: Even as God was proclaiming condemnation, He was promising salvation.

3rd: God said to the serpent, “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*

F6: This was the first of many promises to send the Light into the world to save His people.

Turn off spotlight

MUSIC

F7: God chose Abraham and his descendants as the way to bring the Light into the world. Abraham believed God’s promises even though most of them were for future times.

4th: God said to Abraham, “I will make you a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

Genesis 12:2-3

- F8: Because human nature had become sinful, people suffered in the darkness of their sin. Even God’s chosen people, the Children of Israel, wandered in the wilderness after the Exodus, but God proved His presence to them by guiding them with pillars of fire and smoke. In the same way, throughout Old Testament times, so that the darkness would not be overwhelming, He sent prophets to remind His people that the Light was coming.
- 6th G: Through the Prophet Isaiah God declared, “The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.” *Isaiah 9:2*
- 6th B: With faith in God the Prophet Micah said, “Do not gloat over me, my enemy! Though I have fallen, I will rise. Though I sit in darkness, the LORD will be my light.” *Micah 7:8*
- F9: The Light and the promise seemed dim and far away at times. Maybe no brighter than a night light, but it was always present. Even the Psalmist David reminded his people of the promised light.
- 4th: “The LORD is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?” *Psalms 27:1*
- F10: The promise was foretold that the Light would dawn in Bethlehem among God’s chosen people.
- 7th: The Prophet Micah prophesied, “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. He 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. And He will be their peace.” *Micah 5:2, 4-5*
- F11: Though the wait seemed long on earth, God’s timing was perfect when He sent His son Jesus to Bethlehem. Again, through the Prophet Isaiah God announced the coming Light.
- 1st: “Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.
- 2nd: “See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and His glory appears over you.
- 3rd: “Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.” *Isaiah 60:1-3*

Hymn “Savior of the Nations, Come” *LSB 332*

Grades 1-4

Savior of the nations, come, Virgin’s Son, make here Your home!
Marvel now, O heav’n and earth, That the Lord chose such a birth.

Not by human flesh and blood, By the Spirit of our God,
Was the Word of God made flesh—Woman’s offspring, pure and fresh.

Here a maid was found with child, Yet remained a virgin mild.

In her womb this truth was shown: God was there upon His throne.

Tableau - Kindergarten

5th: “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 his 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 room for them in the inn.

Shepherds and Angels arrive

“And 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 of great joy that will be for all the people. 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.

“Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests.’ ”

Luke 2:1-14

B7: Finally, the long awaited Savior had arrived. This tiny Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes was the Light of the World.

Hymn “Savior of the Nations, Come” *LSB* 332

Congregation and School

6th-8th Men: Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and kingly hall;
God of God, yet fully man, His heroic course began.

5th-8th: From the manger newborn light Shines in glory through the night.
Darkness there no more resides; In this light faith now abides.

**All: Glory to the Father sing, Glory to the Son, our king,
Glory to the Spirit be Now and through eternity.**

F12: This plan was not only for the Jews; God planned to save the whole world with this Light. In fact, God used a special light in the sky to draw people from far away to come and see Jesus.

Wise Men arrive at the Tableau

6th: “After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, ‘Where is the One who has been born King of the Jews? We saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.’ ” *Matthew 2:1-2*

F13: King Herod was living in the darkness and feared the promise of the Light. He did not want to not help the Magi. He really wanted to kill the Light.

6th: “After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the Child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the Child with His mother Mary and they bowed down and worshipped Him. Then they opened their treasures and presented Him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.” *Matthew 2:9-12*

Song “The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy”

Kindergarten

F14: Jesus didn’t come to stay a baby and twinkle like a Christmas light. He came to be the Light of the world. Sometimes that light seems harsh, like standing too close to a floodlight. His light showed the filth of sin that made the world such a dark place. It revealed hate, jealousy, anger, greed, selfishness ... all of the things that caused pain, sadness, and death.

F15: But His light also brought healing. Jesus didn’t stay a baby. Mankind needed Him to grow up and take their place. He took on the darkness of sin and gave His light in its place through His blood shed on the cross. His resurrection brought new life and light to the world.

1st -2nd: Jesus said: “I am the Light of the World. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness, but will have the Light of Life.” *John 8:12*

3rd-4th: Speaking to His Son, God the Father said, “It is too small a thing for You to be My Servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring those of Israel I have kept. I will also make You a light for the Gentiles, that You may bring My salvation to the ends of the earth.” *Isaiah 49:6*

F16: Jesus didn’t just come for the people of His time or for the people of the Old Testament. He came for us as well. At Christmas we remember His coming as a gift to us to be our Light and Salvation. This Light is the cure for the darkness of **our** sin. His light brings forgiveness and life for all people. He is our saving grace.

7th-8th: Jesus says to His followers, “You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine

before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.” *Matthew 5:14-16*

F17: Jesus’ light shines just as brightly today as it did 2000 years ago. His great gift of light cannot be contained. It is our joy to share the Good News with those around us, not just at Christmas and Easter but at all times. May Jesus’ Light and Love shine through us and illuminate our world. May He use us as beacons to draw all people unto Him.

Gathering of the Offerings “No Room in the Inn”

**Voluntary “What Child Is This” and “Joy to the World”
Martha Lynn Thompson**

Handbell Elective Class

Hymn Sing Congregation and Students

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” *LSB* 380

**All: Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With th’angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”**

**Christ, by highest heav’n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of a virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail th’incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”**

**Hail, the heav’n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, Ris’n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”**

“Silent Night, Holy Night” *LSB* 363

**1st-4th: 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.**

**All: Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heav’nly 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.**

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” *LSB* 411

1st-4th: I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world. The Star of my life is Jesus.

1st-8th: In Him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the Light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

5th-8th: I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.

Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path, And show me the way to the Father.

**All: In Him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the Light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

All: I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.

When we have run with patience the race, We shall know the joy of Jesus.

In Him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the Light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

K: Jesus came to be our light,
Changed the darkness, made it bright.

Jesus shines His light on me,
Takes my sins and sets me free

Makes me a light for Him each day,
Helps me to show the world His way.

Prayers

P: Lord, You came to be our Light.

C: Shine in our hearts, Lord Jesus.

P: In a world full of darkness, shine Your light.

C: Shine in our hearts, Lord Jesus.

P: Lead us away from the things that destroy us.

C: Shine in our hearts, Lord Jesus.

P: Draw us to You as the shepherds were drawn to the manger.

C: Shine in our hearts, Lord Jesus.

P: Shower us with the light of your forgiveness.

C: Shine in our hearts, Lord Jesus.

P: Let Your light shine through us into a world full of darkness.

C: Shine in our hearts, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Lord’s Prayer

P: Taught by our Lord and trusting in His promise, we are bold to pray:

C: **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.**

Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

RECESSIONAL HYMN Rise, Shine, You People” *LSB* 825

**All: Rise, shine, you people! Christ the Lord has entered
Our human story; God in Him is centered.
He comes to us, by death and sin surrounded,
With grace unbounded.**

**See how He sends the pow’rs of evil reeling;
He brings us freedom, light and life and healing.
All men and women, who by guilt are driven,
Now are forgiven.**

**Come, celebrate, your banners high unfurling,
Your songs and prayers against the darkness hurling.
To all the world go out and tell the story
Of Jesus’ glory.**

**Tell how the Father sent His Son to save us.
Tell of the Son, who life and freedom gave us.
Tell how the Spirit calls from ev’ry nation
His new creation.**

POSTLUDE “Angels from the Realms of Glory” John Ferguson

✠ DISCIPLES IN THE WORD ✠