



**CALVARY
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

2625 East
Northern Pkwy
Baltimore, MD
21214
410-426-4301
410-426-4302

Rev. Kevin Barron
Pastor

Sunday Worship
10:00 a.m.

Sunday School
8:45 a.m.

Bible Study

8:45 a.m.



Christmas Eve

www.calvarylutheranCS.org

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

“Forward in Faith and Mission”

CHRISTMAS EVE

4 p.m.

December 24, 2021

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

CALVARY CONNECTION: Please register your presence at worship using the clip boards located at the center aisle end of each pew. If we already have your current address, phone, email, etc., then, just enter your name, communion and or Pastoral call check-offs. Thank you.

✠ Means please stand.

PRELUDE *“Willie, Take Your Little Drum”*

J. Biery

OPENING HYMN *“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”* #380



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new - born King;
2 Christ, by high - est heav’n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail, the heav’n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!”
Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin’s womb.
Light and life to all He brings, Ris’n with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see, Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty!
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, “Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!”
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.



Refrain
Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new-born King!”

†THE INVOCATION AND OPENING PRAYER

P: In the name of the Father,

C: Whose infinite love brings us here today.

P: In the name of the Son,

C: Whose wondrous birth we celebrate.

P: In the name of the Holy Spirit,

C: Whose gift of faith enables us to believe. Amen.

P: We pray:

O God, You once caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. By Your Spirit we have known the mystery of that Light here on earth. Bring us also to the full measure of its joys in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

†CONFESSION OF SINS AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF FORGIVENESS

P: Let us confess our sinfulness before God and one another, trusting in God's endless mercy and love.

(Please kneel, if able)

P: Merciful God,

C: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P: Today we celebrate our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession who are zealous for good works. Because of this Savior born for us, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

THE HYMN

“What Child Is This”

#370



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 and ass 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!

THE INTROIT

L: When all was still, and it was midnight, Your Almighty Word, O Lord,
descended from the royal throne.

C: **Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, praise His name; proclaim His salvation day after day. Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous deeds among all peoples. For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; He is to be feared above all gods. Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it; let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them. Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy.**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

L: When all was still and it was midnight, Your Almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the royal throne. (Ps. 96: 1-4, 11-12)

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 7:10–14

(God reassures the King he will keep his promises by sending His Son.)

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹“Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹²But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” ¹³And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE SECOND LESSON

1 John 4:7-16

(Through the love of God, Jesus was sent, that we might live through Him; love one another.)

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people; to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. Alleluia!

✠THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18-25

(The birth of Jesus Christ.)

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

THE HYMN

"O Little Town of Bethlehem" #361



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is giv'n!
4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;
While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won - d'ring love.
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of His heav'n.
Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
No ear may hear His com - ing; But in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.
And prais - es sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!
Where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.
O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

THE SERMON

Rev. Kevin Barron

✠ THE APOSTLES' CREED/PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE GATHERING OF GIFTS AND OFFERINGS

(The offerings should be placed in the plate near the entrance of the worship area.)

THE HYMN

“Away in a Manger”

#364



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask Thee 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 sky — looked down where He lay,
I love Thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,
Bless all the dear chil - dren in Thy ten - der care,



The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
And stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is night.
And take us to heav - en to live with Thee there.

✠ PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Dear Heavenly Father, by sending Your Son, our Savior, into the world, You have removed the price that sin placed upon us. You have declared us “Not Guilty” by reason of forgiveness in Christ Jesus.

C: Enrich our minds with a deeper understanding of what You have done for us on this holy night.

P: You have lifted the burden of sin from our shoulders.

C: Give us instead the joyful burden of charity toward our family and friends, toward our communities, and toward all those in the world who are still under the weight of their sin.

P: You have placed joy in our hearts.

C: Help us to live so that the joy will be known to the people of this world.

P: You have placed a song on our lips.

C: Give us grace and courage to sing it and share it that others may know of Your salvation.

P: Father, we lift before You the sad, the lonely, the hungry and homeless, the sick, the grieving, those who suffer from addictions, those whose situation or duty keeps them far from home, and especially those who do not know the love of the Lord Jesus. Refresh them with the hope found only in You, and provide us with opportunities to serve them. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer

✠ THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

✠ THE BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. **Amen.**

THE CLOSING HYMN “Angels We Have Heard on High” #368



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 tid - ings 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.

THE DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *“On Christmas Night”*

M. Burkhardt

TODAY’S SERVANTS

Proclaimer:	Rev. Kevin Barron
Organist:	Barbara Sommer
Cantor:	Laura Higgins
Lector:	Kris Sabatino
IT Assistants:	Jim McWilliams, Bridget Jones

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*Please note: The service continues to be recorded and posted to Calvary’s website at

www.calvarylutheranCS.org

Upcoming Calendar of Holiday Services & Events

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 7 p.m.

Christmas Day Service, Saturday, December 25th, 10 a.m.

The First Sunday after Christmas, December 26th, 10 a.m.

(Please bring one unwrapped baby gift for our donation drive to shelters who care for victims of domestic violence.)

Merry Christmas!