

TO US A CHILD IS BORN

Christmas Through Isaiah's Eyes

A Children's Christmas Service by Luke Were

Morrison Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church – December 24, 2008

Processional

“Oh, Come, Little Children” Congregation

1. Oh, come, little children, oh, 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.

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

Congregation: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Introduction

Matthew Hockers: The prophet Isaiah is known as the evangelist of the Old Testament. His 66-chapter book heralds the coming of Christ with many beautiful gospel promises. From the time that Adam and Eve fell into sin, God announced the coming of a Savior. In the years that followed, God appointed prophets, or preachers, to strengthen believers by reminding them of the Savior's coming. The descriptions that these prophets gave the people would help the people recognize the Savior when he came.

Jordan Laabs: The Holy Spirit inspired Isaiah to write about the person and the work of Christ, who came to redeem us. Isaiah is even quoted in Matthew's gospel. Throughout this service, we will hear passages from the book of Isaiah blended with the accounts of Christ's birth from Matthew and Luke. May it give us a fuller picture of Christ and his work! Listen now, to Christmas through Isaiah's eyes.

Recitation From Isaiah

Kyle Laabs: How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, “Your God reigns!” (Isaiah 52:7)

Congregation Hymn

Go, Tell It on the Mountain CW 57

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

1. While shepherds kept their watching o’er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.

Refrain

2. The shepherds feared and trembled when lo, above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior’s birth.

Refrain

3. Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

Refrain

Part 1: The Promise of a Savior

8th Grade: When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

7th-8th Grade Boys: Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?”

7th-8th Grade Girls: The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

7th Grade: So the LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life.

7th and 8th Grade: “And 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 3:6,13-15)

Grades 7 & 8 Hymn CW 378:1, 4, 6

1. All mankind fell in Adam’s fall;
One common sin infects us all.
From one to all the curse descends,
And over all God’s wrath impends.
4. But Christ, the second Adam, came
To bear our sin and woe and shame,
To be our life, our light, our way,
Our only hope, our only stay.
6. We thank you, Christ; new life is ours,
New light, new hope, new strength, new pow’rs;
This grace our ev’ry way attend
Until we reach our journey’s end.

6th Grade: This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” (Matthew 1:18-21)

Recitation From Isaiah

Claire Ott: **We all, like sheep, have gone astray,
each of us has turned to his own way;
and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.** (Isaiah 53:6)

Grade 5: All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:

Claire Ott: **“The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”** [Isaiah 7:14]

Grade 5: —which means, “God with us.” When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus. (Matthew 1:22-25)

Recitation From Isaiah

Dakota Schmidt: **“See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation; the one who trusts will never be dismayed.”** (Isaiah 28:16)

Grades 5 & 6 Hymn *Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel* CW 23

1. Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!
2. Oh, come, O Root of Jesse, free
Your own from Satan’s tyranny;
From depths of hell your people save,
And bring them vict’ry o’er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!
3. Oh, come, O Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by your drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death’s dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!

Part 2: The Fulfillment of the Promise

Grades 3 & 4: 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. (Luke 2:1-5)

Grades 3 & 4 Song “In a Little Stable”

1. In a little stable far across the sea
Was a little baby just like you and me.
2. Not a bed or cradle, not a pillow deep,
But a lowly manger was his place to sleep.
3. Oh, I love this Jesus, who was little then,
For he surely loves me, little though I am.

Recitation From Isaiah

Kara Schultz: I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David. (Is 55:3)

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. (Is 11:1)

He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this. (Is 9:7)

Congregation Hymn

Behold, a Branch Is Growing CW 47

1. Behold, a Branch is growing of loveliest form and grace,
As prophets sang, foreknowing; it springs from Jesse’s race
And bears one little flow’r in midst of coldest winter,
At deepest midnight hour.
2. Isaiah had foretold it in words of promise sure,
And Mary’s arms enfold it, a virgin meek and pure.
Through God’s eternal will this child to her is given
At midnight calm and still.
3. The shepherds heard the story proclaimed by angels bright,
How Christ, the Lord of glory, was born on earth this night.
To Bethlehem they sped and in the manger found him,
As angel heralds said.
4. This flow’r, so small and tender, with fragrance fills the air;
His brightness ends the darkness that kept the earth in fear.
True God and yet true man, he came to save his people
From earth’s dark night of sin

Preschool and Kindergarten: 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. (Luke 2:6,7)

Preschool & Kindergarten *Away in a Manger*

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.

Recitation From Isaiah

Aaron Van Iten: To us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)

Congregation Hymn

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;
Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent Night! Holy Night CW 60
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.

Grades 1 & 2 Group A: 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,

Grades 1 & 2 Group B: “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.” (Luke 2:8-12)

Recitation From Isaiah

Cassandra Wagner: He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him. (Isaiah 53:2)

Grades 1 & 2: 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.”

Grades 1 & 2 *Angels We Have Heard on High* CW 63

1. 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.
2. 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.

3. 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.

Grades 1 & 2: 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. (Luke 2:13-16)

Recitation From Isaiah

Cassandra Wagner: Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. (Isaiah 60:1)

Hymn (children: verse 1; congregation verses 2-4)

Peace Came to Earth CWS 707

Grades 3 & 4: 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 2:17-20)

Congregation Hymn

Where Shepherds Lately Knelt CW 54

1. Where shepherds lately knelt and kept the angel’s word,
I come in half-belief, a pilgrim strangely stirred;
But there is room and welcome there for me,
But there is room and welcome there for me.
2. In that unlikely place I find him as they said:
Sweet newborn Babe, how frail! and in a manger bed,
A still, small voice to cry one day for me,
A still, small voice to cry one day for me.
3. How should I not have known Isaiah would be there,
His prophecies fulfilled? With pounding heart I stare:
A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me,
A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me.
4. Can I, will I forget how Love was born, and burned
Its way into my heart unasked, unforced, unearned,
To die, to live, and not alone for me,
To die, to live, and not alone for me?

Recitation From Isaiah

Luke Zeamer: “Behold, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I will create, for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight and its people a joy. I will rejoice over Jerusalem and take delight in my people; the sound of weeping and of crying will be heard in it no more.” (Isaiah 65:17-19)

Children Preschool – 8th Grade - *I Am So Glad When Christmas Comes* CW 51

1. I am so glad when Christmas comes,
The night of Jesus’ birth,
When Bethl’em’s star shone as the sun,
And angels sang on earth.
2. The little child of Bethlehem,
He was a king indeed!
For he came down from heav’n above
To help a world in need.
3. He lives again in heaven’s realm,
The Son of God today;
And still he loves his little ones
And hears them when they pray.
4. I, too, shall sing my Savior’s praise,
My joy, my crown, my Lord;
For he has made me his own child
By water and the Word.
5. And so I love each Christmas Eve,
And I love Jesus, too;
And that he loves me ev’ry day
I know so well is true.

Offering

stand

Christmas Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

The Blessing

Recessional Hymn

Joy to the World CW 62

1. 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.
2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
3. 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.
4. 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.

Children in the 2008 Christmas Program

Grades 7 & 8 (seated in the back to the left of the altar)

Back two rows Alex Pischke, Kasey Doyen

Justin Lemke, Eli Herzog

Middle row: Ryan Malcore, Zachary Laabs, Luke Zeamer, Aaron Van Iten, Dakota Schmidt, Kyle Laabs, Matthew Hockers

Front row Hannah Ihlefeldt, Brianna Leick, Trisha Compton, Cassandra Wagner, Kara Schultz, Claire Ott, Jordan Laabs

Grades 5 & 6 (seated in the back to the right of the altar)

Nathan Beining, Kaitlyn Kuchenbecker, Olivia Tasch,

Brandon Leiterman, Lucas Soderlund, Heidi Schultz

Brandon Van Iten, Joshua Ihlenfeldt, Megan Schultz, Emily Vaughn, Madeline Sabel, Dezareae Wiedow

Wes Ott, Anna Nushart, Blake Pahl, Shane Nushart, Jenna Lemke, Nicholas Griepentrog, Luke Witt

Grades 3 & 4 (seated at the top of the steps and below the steps)

Left side of the aisle

Row at top of steps: Emily Malcore, Asley Leiterman, Brandon Zittlow, Emmett Kiley, Rachel Ihlenfeldt, Gloria Blauert, Noah Witt,

Row at bottom of steps: Marissa Leick, Colin Salm, Jonathan Otto, Evan Vaughn, Bryanna Cappelle, Matthew Sabel, Jesse Doyen

Right side of the aisle

Row at top of steps: Cody Kittell, Jacob Beining, Megan Laabs, Jerod Wiedow, Matthew Wendt, Victoria Wagner

Row at bottom of steps: Leah Ihlenfeldt, Anthony Feldkamp, Alexander Laabs, Lauren Griepentrog, Thomas Schultz, Leah Voster

Grades 1 & 2 (seated on the pulpit side in chairs and the first two benches)

Back row: Natalie Zirbel, Matthew Krueger, Elaine Blauert, Hayden Meulemans, Lindsey Doyen, Zachary Diny, Leah Kuchenbecker

Middle (first bench): Jerod Voster, Terrell Edinger, Haillee Fritsch, Harmony Baril, Samantha Zittlow, Andrew Gajewske, Emily Cappelle, Aaron Schultz

Front (second bench) Hailey Witt, Thomas Voster, Alyssa Laabs, Trisha Feldkamp, Sydney Salm, Matthew Gajewske, Erin Magley, Leah Nushart

Kindergarten (seated at bottom of the steps on the right side of aisle)

Paige Zirbel, Grace Blauert, Justin Laabs, Anna Voster, Jordyn Ossmann, Mitchell Leick

Preschool (seated in front bench on the right side of the aisle)

Cole Van Rossum, Jacob Gajewske, Genelle Basten, Carter Salm, Emma Geib, Ethan Diny, Emma Otto

Candlelight Worship is tonight at 11:00 p.m.

Christmas Festival worship will be at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow.