

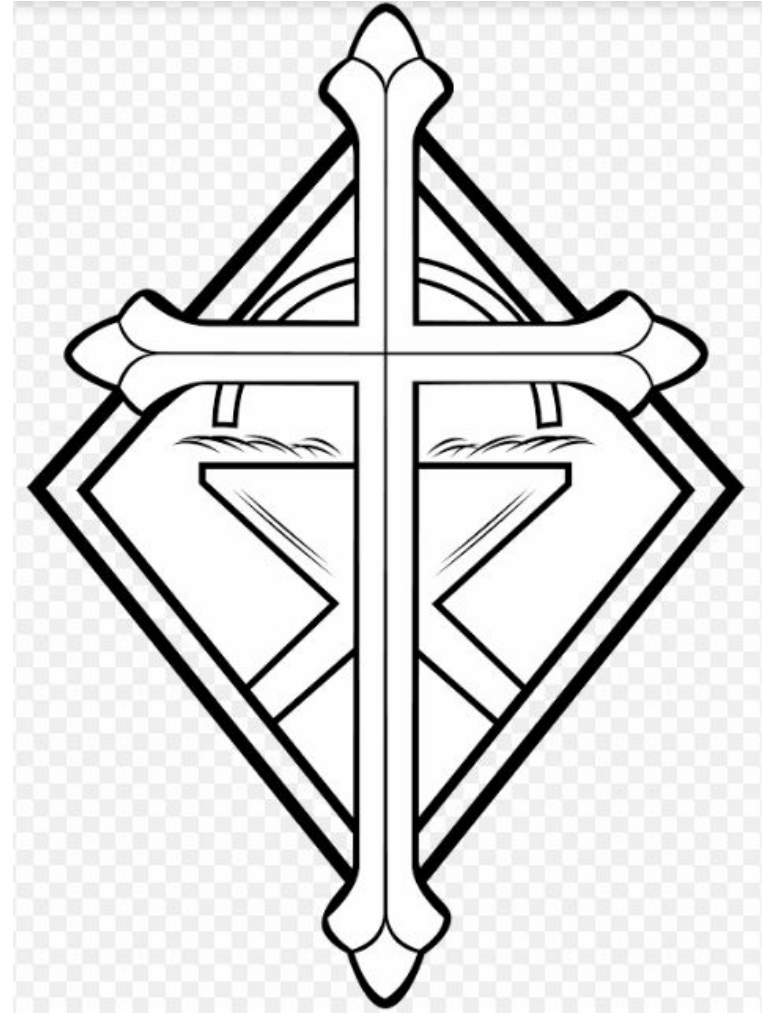
WE THANK ALL THE PEOPLE WHO CONTRIBUTED POINSETTIAS

## 2016 POINSETTIAS

<u>Contributor/s</u>	<u>In Honor or Loving Memory of</u>
Pastor Burmeister	<b>Doris Burmeister</b> (Mother)
Connie Costenbader	
Beverly Foster	<b>Robert &amp; Barbara Foster</b>
Alex & Ilene Gourley	<b>Jim Humphrey</b>
Elma Hendricks	<b>Woodrow &amp; Ruby Spires</b> (parents)
James Hendricks	<b>Ed &amp; Tina Hendricks</b> (parents)
Elaine Jones	<b>Richard Jones</b>
Mary Lou Knigge	<b>Family</b>
Don & Carolyn Miner	
Vivian & Tom Temple	<b>Melinda Colp &amp; William Pennock</b>
Joe Thacker	<b>Kay Thacker</b>
Janice Thomas	<b>Rev. Norman Pommeranz</b> (Father)
Janice & David Thomas	<b>Jane Thomas</b> (Mother)
John & Orpha Weber	
Steve & Ethel Wendt	<b>Victor Wendt</b>
Don & Bev Wienke	<b>Marcus Wienke</b>



Our Savior Lutheran Church  Lakeland, FL   
The Nativity of Our LORD      Christmas Eve  
December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016  7:00 pm



*Historic Church Year Symbol Set for Christmas Eve or Day: Birth of Jesus*

Image courtesy of the Lutheran Synod Publishing <https://lutheransynodpublishing.com>

- 1. As Each Happy Christmas - Dawns on earth again,  
Comes the Holy Christ Child - To the hearts of men.**
- 2. Enters with His blessing - Into ev'ry home,  
Guides and guards our footsteps - As we go and come.**
- 3. All unknown, beside me - He will ever stand,  
And will safely lead me - With His own Right Hand.**

**WE WELCOME YOU IN JESUS' NAME!** Here at Our Savior we preach and teach Christ crucified, whose suffering and death paid for all our sins and earned for us the gift of everlasting life. If you are visiting with us this morning, please sign the guest book on your way out. We invite you to worship with us again and to make Our Savior Lutheran your church home. – Pastor Burmeister

### THE ADVENT WREATH

The Advent wreath is a contribution of the German and Scandinavian traditions. It developed out of the simple use of an evergreen spray of fir, spruce, balsam, or pine placed near the hearth. The wreath is plain, without any ornamentation of ribbon or bow. The evergreen of the wreath represents the life that is found in Christ. The greens have come from the out-of-doors where nature has begun its winter sleep. Midst the drabness of nature the evergreen branch symbolizes the continuation of life. In the home it is placed on a central table. In the church it is usually suspended above the altar or set on a pedestal resting on the floor.

The Advent candles are arranged with the spray. Candles have been used for centuries as the symbol of light. The light reminds us of Christ, the Light of the world, so it is not at all strange that the Christian church has given the candle a prominent place in the observance of Advent.

It is the living light, the living flame that gives the candle its meaning, for the Gospel Light of Christ is itself a living power. This is what makes it more symbolic than artificial lights.

Jesus is the Light that broke forth on the world on that first Christmas when He was born as Prince of Peace. He is the light that gradually penetrated into all the world. The traditional act of lighting one more candle each week of Advent tells of the increasingly brighter light of His Coming, and leads gradually to the blaze of light at the dawning of Christmas.

Here is a listing of prophecies to be read during the **four Sundays of Advent:**

**1st Sunday in Advent - Jeremiah 33:14-16; Isaiah 9:1-2**

Christ the Branch of Righteousness is promised.

**The Prophecy Candle** honors those who spoke His promises

**2nd Sunday in Advent - Micah 4:1-7, 5:2**

Christ will establish His Kingdom of Grace.

**The Bethlehem Candle** symbolizes the preparations made for Him.

**3rd Sunday in Advent - Malachi 3:1-6; Luke 2:20**

Christ shall purify His people.

**The Shepherds' Candle** honors the first to spread the good news.

**4th Sunday in Advent - Isaiah 40:1-8; Luke 2:13-14**

Christ shall comfort His people.

**The Angels' Candle** celebrates the joy of God's grace to mankind.

### PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE TODAY

Pastor of Our Savior  
Accompanist (Organ)  
Flowers, Poinsettias  
Gift-bags, Handouts

**Pastor Andrew Burmeister**  
**Mrs. Janice Thomas**  
**Our Savior Members**  
**Our Savior Ladies & Families**

**A LIFE QUOTE FROM LUTHERANS FOR LIFE** – “The great joy of Christmas is multiplied when we realize our Savior, at His birth, has already been humbling Himself for nine months because of His unparalleled love for all humanity from the moment of conception.” *Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb, executive director of Lutherans For Life*

## Celebrate the Season Joyously!

Step out of the hectic rush and reflect upon our everlasting Hope because a Savior is born to you!

### Christmas Eve Family Program

Saturday, December 24, 7:00 p.m.

### Christmas Day Festival Service

Sunday, December 25, 9:30 a.m.

### New Year's Eve Service

Saturday, December 31, 7:00 p.m.

### New Year's Day Service

Sunday, January 1, 9:30 a.m.

***Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church***

6920 N Socrum Loop Rd, Lakeland, Florida 33809

[www.OSLlakeland.org](http://www.OSLlakeland.org)

Office: (863) 859-3400

Rev. Andrew Burmeister, Pastor

Pastor's Cell (863) 430-5859

Mrs. Janice Thomas, Organist

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 nature- sing!*

2) Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!

Let men their songs employ,  
While fields & floods, rocks, hills & plains  
*Re-peat the sounding- joy... (3 times).*

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... (3 times).*

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 OF HIS- LOVE! A--men*



OUR (SAVIOR) WELCOME

Our Savior congregation is so very pleased to have the opportunity to share with you the blessings of its Christ-centered ministry. We welcome you in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. To the friends who know us, we renew our welcome and to our first time guests we extend it most sincerely.

It is our goal to focus attention on the record of God's gracious accomplishments for our eternal destiny with Him. May the certainty of His mercy help to brighten the week ahead and this whole Holiday Season and to supply you with resolve for living as God's child and heir of eternal life.



## THE DIVINE SERVICE

We call our regular Worship the "Divine Service" because it is the service of God to man. This can hardly be more true than in today's service than when we celebrate God's coming into humanity in the person of Jesus Christ. He is true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary to substitute for all men, women, and children and to atone for our sins.

The service follows the pattern of the Lutheran "Chorale" service, in which the main parts of the service take the form of hymns and readings.

## THE SERVICE OF PREPARATION

ENTRANCE HYMN *Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful* TLH #102 ADESTE FIDELES

1. Oh, come, all ye faithful, trium-phantly sing;  
Come, see in the man-ger our Savior and King  
To Bethlehem hasten with joy-ful accord;

*Refrain: O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O COME, LET US ADORE HIM, CHRIST THE LORD!*

2. True Son of the Father, He comes- from the skies;  
To-be born of a vir-gin He doth not despise.  
To Bethlehem hasten with joy-ful accord;

*Refrain: O come, let us adore Him, (3 times), ...CHRIST THE LORD!*

3. Hark, hark, to the angels all sing-ing in Heaven,  
"To God in the high-est all glory be given!"  
To Bethlehem hasten with joy-ful accord;

*Refrain: O come, let us adore Him, (3 times), ...CHRIST THE LORD!*

4. To Thee, then, O Jesus, this day- of Thy birth  
Be glory and hon-or through Heaven and earth,  
True Godhead incarnate, omni-potent Word!

*Refrain: O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O COME, LET US ADORE HIM, CHRIST THE LORD!*

### The Invocation

P: In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C: AMEN.**

The **Introit** (*An Intro-duction to what the service is about today.*)

P: The LORD said to Me, You are My Son, this day have I begotten You. The LORD reigns, He is clothed with majesty; the LORD is clothed with strength, with it He has girded Himself. ...from **Psalm 110**

**Pastor:** **Genesis 3:15 (NIV)**

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 18:18** (NIV)

<sup>18</sup> Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation and all nations on earth will be blessed through him.”

**Galatians 4:4-5** (NIV)

<sup>4</sup> But when the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.

The **Kyrie** (*Kyrie is Greek for “Lord,” eleison is Greek for “have mercy.”*)

**All Congregation: Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison; LORD have mercy, CHRIST have mercy, LORD have mercy.**

**KYRIE HYMN Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel TLH #62, verse 1&4**

**1. Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel, 4. Oh, come, Thou Key of David, come, And ransom captive Israel, And open wide our heav’nly home, That mourns in lowly exile here Make safe the way that leads on high Until the Son of God appear. And close the path to misery.**

♪ **Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel! Shall come to you, O Israel!**

The answer to our cry for mercy: The **Gloria in Excelsis**

(*“Gloria in Excelsis” means “Glory/Honor in the Highest places = Heaven.”*)

**GLORIA HYMN All Glory Be to God on High TLH #237, verse 1**

**1. All glory be to God on high, Who hath our race befriended! To us no harm shall now come nigh, The strife at last is ended; God showeth His good Will to men, And Peace shall reign on earth again; Oh, thank Him for His goodness!**

The **Collect** for the Day (for **Christmas Eve**)

(*The “Collect” is a prayer reflecting the theme of the Day.*)

P: Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, and help us with Your great might, that whatever is hindered by our sins may be speedily accomplished by Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**



**THE SERVICE OF THE WORD**



**THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**

**Isaiah 9:6-7** (NIV)

P: For unto us a Child is Born, unto us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His Shoulders, and He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

...witness to testify concerning that Light, so that through him all men might believe. 8 He himself was not the Light; he came only as a witness to the Light. 9 The true Light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and though the world was made through Him, the world did not recognize Him. 11 He came to that which was His own, but His own did not receive Him. 12 Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His Name, He gave the right to become children of God - 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. 14 The Word became Flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**SHORT CHRISTMAS EVE MESSAGE: Luke 2:10-11 & Acts 4:12 “Solus Christus”**

(After MESSAGE) The Lord’s Prayer “*Our Father, ...*” (Then) **OFFERING**

**CONGREGATION NATIVITY HYMN Silent Night TLH #646 STILLE NACHT**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>1. Silent night, holy night!</b><br>All is calm, all is bright<br>Round yon virgin mother and child.<br>Holy Infant, so tender and mild,<br>Sleep in heavenly peace,<br>Sleep in heavenly peace. | <b>2. Silent night, holy night!</b><br>Shepherds quake at the sight;<br>Glories stream from heaven afar,<br>Heav’nly hosts sing, Alleluia!<br>Christ, the Savior, is born!<br>Christ, the Savior, is born! |
|---|--|
- 3. 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.**

The **Christmas Collect** (Closing Prayer)

LORD God, heavenly Father, we give thanks to You that of Your mercy and compassion You caused Your Son to become Incarnate, and through Him redeemed us from sin and everlasting death: We beseech You, enlighten our hearts by Your Holy Spirit, that we may ever be thankful for such grace, and comfort ourselves thereby in all tribulation and temptation, and at last obtain eternal salvation; through the same, your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives - and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. Amen.

**Benediction:**

P: The LORD bless us and keep us;  
The LORD make His Face shine upon us and be gracious unto us;  
The LORD lift up His Countenance upon us and give us peace.

**C: AMEN.**

**Women:**

**Luke 2:15-20 (KJV)**

<sup>15</sup> And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this Thing which is come to pass, which the LORD hath made known unto us. <sup>16</sup> And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup> And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this Child. <sup>18</sup> And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. <sup>19</sup> But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

**CHIEF HYMN *Hark, The Herald Angels Sing* TLH #94 MENDELSSOHN**

**1. Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born 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 new-born King!"**

**2. Christ, by highest heaven adored. Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of a virgin's Womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail the incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell; Jesus, our Immanuel!  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"**

**3. Hail, the Heav'nly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings, Risen with healing in His wings.  
Mild He leaves His throne on high, 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 new-born King!"**

**4. Come, Desire of nations, come, Fix in us Thy humble home;  
Oh, to all Thyself impart, Formed in each believing heart!  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"  
**HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING, "GLORY TO THE NEW-BORN KING!"****

**Pastor's Part:**

**John 1:1-14 (NIV)**

**John 1:1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was with God in the beginning. **3** Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. **4** In Him was Life, and that Life was the Light of men. **5** The Light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood It. **6** There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. **7** He came as a ↗

<sup>7</sup> Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over His Kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.

The Zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.

**Micah 5:2 (NIV)**

<sup>2</sup> "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."

**The Gradual**

*(The "Gradual" is an excerpt from Scripture that serves to "graduate" or "move gradually" from the Old Testament Lesson to the New Testament readings.)*

**C: Your people will be willing in the day of Your power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning. The LORD said to my Lord, Sit at My right hand, until I make Your enemies Your footstool. Alleluia! Alleluia! The LORD said to Me, Thou art My Son, this day have I begotten You. Alleluia!**

...from Psalm 110



**All Read as Noted:**

**Luke 1:26-37 (NIV)**

**Pastor:** <sup>26</sup>In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

**Men:**

<sup>28</sup>The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The LORD is with you." <sup>29</sup> Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> You will be with Child and give birth to a Son, and you are to give Him the Name Jesus. <sup>32</sup> 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, <sup>33</sup> and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; His Kingdom will never end."

**Women:**

<sup>34</sup> "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup> The 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. <sup>36</sup> Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. <sup>37</sup> For nothing is impossible with God."

**THE EPISTLE LESSON**

**Pastor:** **Philippians 2:5-11 (NIV)**

<sup>5</sup>Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: <sup>6</sup> Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a Servant, being made in human likeness. <sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a Man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to death - even death on a Cross! <sup>9</sup> Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the Name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> that at the Name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is LORD, to the glory of God the Father.

**THE GOSPEL LESSON**

**Pastor:** **Luke 2:1-7(KJV)**

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. <sup>2</sup> (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup> And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. <sup>4</sup> And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) <sup>5</sup> To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with Child. <sup>6</sup> And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. <sup>7</sup> And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

**Men:** **Luke 2:8-12 (KJV)**

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And, lo, the angel of the LORD came upon them, and the glory of the LORD shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. <sup>10</sup> And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. <sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

**LIGHTING of the CHRIST CANDLE ☪ ☆ ☪ on the ADVENT WREATH  
CRADLE HYMN *Away in a Manger* (NOT in TLH) ELH #119 ANONYMOUS**

- 1. *Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little LORD Jesus laid down His sweet Head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,  
The little LORD Jesus asleep on the hay.***
- 2. *The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,  
But little LORD Jesus, no crying He makes.  
I love Thee, LORD Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
And stay by my cradle 'til morning is nigh.***
- 3. *Be near me, LORD Jesus; I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,  
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.***

**Pastor:** **Luke 2:13(KJV)**  
<sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the Heavenly Host praising God, and saying,

**All Congregation:** **Luke 2:14(KJV)**  
**<sup>14</sup> Glory to God in the highest,  
And on earth peace,  
Good will toward men.**



**CAROL *Angels We Have Heard on High* (NOT in TLH) FRENCH CAROL**  
Verse singing: **v. 1 All; v. 2 Men; v. 3 Women; v. 4 All (All sing Refrain)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b><i>ALL sing verse 1</i></b>  | <b><i>MEN sing verse 2</i></b>  |
| <b>1. <i>Angels we have heard on high,<br/>Sweetly singing o'er the plains,<br/>And the mountains in reply,<br/>Echoing their joyous strains.</i></b> | <b>2. <i>Shepherds, why this jubilee?<br/>Why your joyous strains prolong?<br/>What the gladsome tidings be<br/>Which inspire your Heav'nly song?</i></b> |

**Refrain ALL: *Glo- -ria, in excelsis Deo; Glo- -ria, in excelsis Deo.***

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b><i>WOMEN sing verse 3</i></b>  | <b><i>ALL sing verse 4</i></b>   |
| <b>3. <i>Come to Bethlehem and see,<br/>Him Whose birth the angels sing,<br/>Come, adore on bended knee,<br/>Christ the Lord, the newborn King.</i></b> | <b>4. <i>See, within a manger laid,<br/>Jesus, LORD of Heav'n and earth,<br/>Lend your voices, lend your aid<br/>To proclaim the Savior's birth!</i></b> |

**Refrain ALL: *Glo- -ria, in excelsis Deo; Glo- -ria, in excelsis Deo.***

**CHRISTMAS-EVE ADVENT SOLAS: "4. SOLUS CHRISTUS" 12.24.16 EVE**

*Grace to you and Peace, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus.*

**PRAYER** *Almighty God, grant that as we have known the mystery of Christ's Incarnation on earthy we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

**And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:10-11)**

Jesus Christ is God, and yet not as the false religions imagine Him to be. He is not some petty demigod who controls one aspect of nature or some an otherworldly blue-skinned, four-armed deity. Rather, the Christ, true God, is true man. The King of Kings, born to save His people from their sins, was a baby Boy, born in humility to a young Jewish virgin and a carpenter to whom she was betrothed.

Had the one true God come the way false religions suppose Him to be no one could dare approach Him — for fear, for guilt, for shame. But Christ has come as Man, of humble birth, in order that we may draw near to Him with confidence that we will *"receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."* (**Hebrews 4:16**) To Christ alone who was born in Flesh and Blood like us, Who was tempted as we are, Who sympathizes with our weaknesses, can we draw near, as the shepherds and wise men did long ago. For Christ alone is **Immanuel — God with us**. Christ alone is **approachable** to help in time of need. Christ alone is present to forgive sins and give life and salvation.

**SUMMARY/CONCLUSION OF ADVENT/CHRISTMAS "SOLAS"**

**"And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other Name under Heaven given among men by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12)**

Peter's words before the Jewish authorities remind us once again that if one of the **great solas of the Reformation** is lost, all are lost. First, he refers to **Scripture Alone**. He quotes the prophecy in **Psalm 118**, fulfilled when Jesus, the Christ, was rejected and crucified by the builders, the religious leaders of the Jews. Scripture alone teaches this.

**Second, Christ Alone is our salvation.** No one else could possibly prevail over sin and death, because all have sinned and deserve death. Christ alone, being perfect, won forgiveness, life, and salvation for all.

**Third, this salvation is given by Grace Alone**, which is found in the little word "given." The saving Name of Jesus is given among men, not on account of their works, but **by grace and grace alone**.

**Finally, it is received by faith alone.** We confess, "Christ's Name is received only by faith. Therefore, we are saved by confidence in Christ's Name, and not by confidence in our works." (Apology to the Augsburg Confession, IV:99)

**PRAYER** *Lord Jesus Christ, Your Name is the only Name in which Salvation is found. Thank You for Your Grace in giving me Your Name through Your Scriptures, which I receive through Faith. Amen.*

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PRAYER *Lord Jesus **Christ**, Your Name is the only Name in which Salvation is found. Thank You for Your **Grace** in giving me Your Name through Your **Scriptures**, which I receive through **Faith**. Amen.*

## CHRISTMAS-DAY ADVENT SOLAS: “5. SOLI DEO GLORIA” 12.25.16 DAY

*Grace to you and Peace, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus.*

### The Nativity of Our Lord — Christmas Day

*O come, Thou Dayspring from on high, And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;*

*Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death’s dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel! (LSB 357:6)*

**And the Word became Flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)**

Today we celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord — Christmas Day. The Baby Boy born in Bethlehem, wrapped in swaddling cloths, and lying in a manger is the Word who was with God in the beginning and IS God. That Boy is the true Light through whom all things were made. The prophet **Isaiah** foretold: *“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has Light shone.” (Isaiah 9:2)*

And the Light that shone on them is the little Lord Jesus. “A great and mighty wonder” -- that a Newborn is the everlasting Son of God, by Whom all things were made!

His own people should have received Him. The testimony was there, spoken by prophets who foretold the coming Messiah, by angels at His birth, by His Father at His Baptism. Nevertheless they did not. But you, **by faith alone**, have. You see, ALL those who believe in His Name **have received Him**. The Word Who spoke all things into existence has spoken faith into your heart. You have been reborn not by earthly bloodlines, but by the shed Blood of the Light Who came into the world for you.

**Rejoice, therefore, because Christ is born for you!**

PRAYER *Almighty God, grant that the Birth of Your only-begotten Son in the Flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*