The Order of Vespers

for Christmas Eve

**Emmanuel Lutheran Church**

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**Sts. Peter & Paul Lutheran Mission**

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Rev. Paul A. Rydecki, Pastor

member of the Evangelical Lutheran Diocese of North America (ELDoNA)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Welcome!** Emmanuel is a liturgical, traditional, historical, evangelical, catholic, orthodox, confessional Lutheran congregation, in fellowship with the Evangelical Lutheran Diocese of North America (ELDoNA). We believe that the Bible is the very Word of God, inspired and without any errors. We confess the truth of Scripture according to the Lutheran Book of Concord of 1580, without exception or reservation. We observe the calendar of the traditional Church Year and follow the Historic Lectionary. We celebrate the Divine Service (also known as the Mass) every Sunday and on other festivals, and we welcome visitors to hear God’s Word with us.

**The Order of Service** is the Order of Vespers from *The Lutheran Hymnal* (TLH), with extra Scripture lessons and hymns for Christmas Eve. The entire service is printed in this service folder. You will only need a hymnal for the singing of the hymns.

**Individual candles** (both wax and battery-operated) are available in the back of the church. They will be lit as the last hymn, *Silent Night!,* is introduced. The ushers will walk down the center aisle to light the candle of the person nearest the aisle in each row. Please pass the flame to the candle of the person next to you. Those sitting near the candles in the window sills may light their candles from those flames instead. Those with battery-operated candles may turn them on at that time as well. Parents are asked to supervise their children’s use of the candles carefully.

**EVENTS IN THE NEAR FUTURE…**

Mon., Dec. 25 - Christmas Day Divine Service, 10 AM

Sun., Dec. 31 - (No Sunday School or Bible class)

- Divine Service, 10:15 AM (Sunday after Christmas)

The Order of Vespers for Christmas Eve

**HYMN**  *TLH #88 - This Night a Wondrous Revelation*

*Stand*

V O Lord, open Thou my lips.



V Make haste, O God, to deliver me.





**HYMN** *TLH #103 - To Shepherds as They Watched by Night*

*Sit*

The Lections

**FIRST LESSON** *Isaiah 9:2-7*

*After each Lesson:*

V But Thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.



**HYMN** *TLH #85 - From Heaven Above to Earth I Come (st. 1-5)*

**SECOND LESSON** *Micah 5:2-5a*

**HYMN** *TLH #85 - From Heaven Above to Earth I Come (st. 6-10)*

**THIRD LESSON** *Titus 2:11-14*

**HYMN** *TLH #85 - From Heaven Above to Earth I Come (st. 11-15)*

**FOURTH LESSON** *Titus 3:4-7*

**HYMN** *TLH #77 - All My Heart This Night Rejoices (st. 1-5)*

**FIFTH LESSON** *Isaiah 7:10-14*

**HYMN** *TLH #77 - All My Heart This Night Rejoices (st. 6-10)*

**SIXTH LESSON** *Matthew 1:18-25*

**HYMN** *TLH #77 - All My Heart This Night Rejoices (st. 11-15)*

**SEVENTH LESSON** *Luke 2:1-20*

**HYMN** *TLH #81 – O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is*

**SERMON**

**OFFERING**

*Stand*

**VERSICLE**

V Let my prayer be set forth before Thee as incense.



The Canticle

***Cantate Domino* (Sing to the Lord)** *Psalm 98*

*All sing the Canticle together, after it is introduced.*



**1 Oh, sing to the LORD a | new | song! \***

**For He has | done mar- | velous | things;**

**2 His right hand and His | holy | arm \***

**have gained for | Him the | victor- | y.**

**3 The LORD has made known His sal- | va- | tion; \***

**His righteousness He has revealed in the sight | of the | na- | tions.**

**4 He has remembered His mercy and His faithfulness to the house of | Isra- | el; \***

**All the ends of the earth have seen the sal- | vation | of our | God.**

**5 Shout joyfully to the LORD, | all the | earth; \***

**Break forth in song, rejoice, | and sing | prais- | es.**

**6 Sing to the LORD | with the | harp, \***

**With the harp and the | sound | of a | psalm,**

**7 With trumpets and the sound | of a | horn; \***

**Shout joyfully be- | fore the | LORD, the | King.**

**8 Let the sea roar, and all its | full- | ness, \***

**The world and | those who | dwell in | it;**

**9 Let the rivers clap their hands; Let the hills be joyful together be- | fore the | LORD, \***

**For He is | coming to | judge the | earth.**

**10 With righteousness He shall | judge the | world, \***

**And the | peoples with | equi- | ty.**

**11 Glory be to the Father and | to the | Son\***

**And | to the | Holy | Ghost;**

**12 As it was in the beginning, is now, and | ever shall | be, \***

**world | without | end. A- | men.**

The Prayers

**The Kyrie**

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**THE LORD’S PRAYER** *(spoken by all)*

**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 SALUTATION**

P The Lord be with you.

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**COLLECTS**

**Collect of the Day**

O God, Who hast made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light, grant, we beseech Thee, that, as we have known on Earth the mysteries of that Light, we may also come to the fullness of its joys in Heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.

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**Collect for Peace**

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed, give unto Thy servants that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Thy commandments, and also that we, being defended by Thee from the fear of our enemies, may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ, our Savior, who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.



The Benedicamus

V Bless we the Lord.

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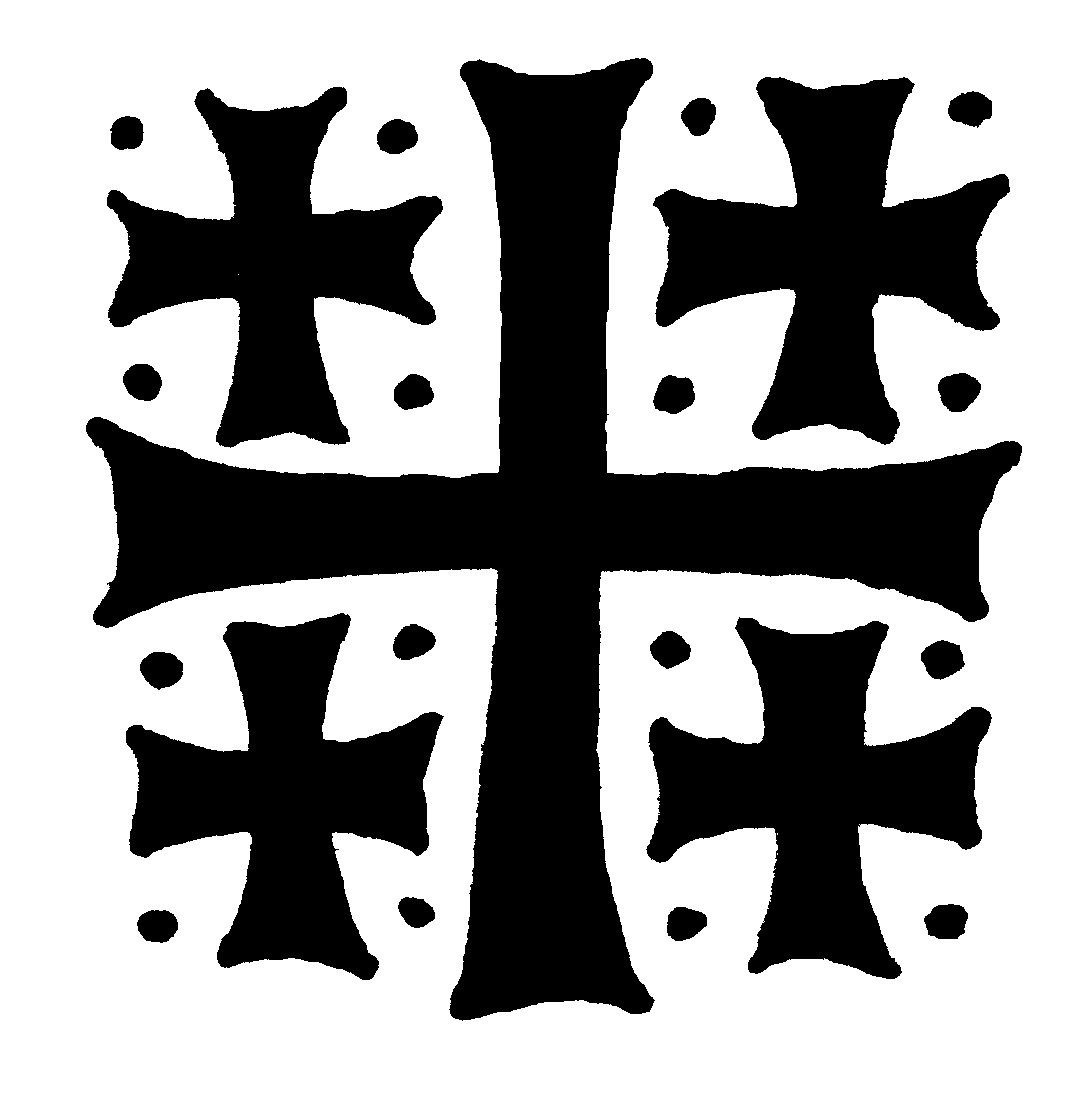
The Benediction

V The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Ghost be with you all.

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**HYMN** *TLH #646 - Silent Night! Holy Night! (words also printed on next page)*

*Remain standing for Silent Night. An introduction will be played while individual candles are being lit by the ushers in the center aisle. Please pass the flame to the candle of the person next to you. Those with battery-operated candles may turn them on at this time as well. The congregation then joins in singing the hymn.*



**"Silent Night! Holy Night!"**

**1. 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.**

**2. Silent night! Holy night!**

**Shepherds quake at the sight;**

**Glories stream from heaven afar,**

**Heavenly hosts sing, Alleluia.**

**Christ, the Savior, is born!**

**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.**

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***All are invited to join us tomorrow for our Christmas Day Divine Service at 10 AM.***

***A blessed and merry Christmas to you all!***