Hanging of the Greens

RESURRECTION LUTHERAN CHURCH
HANGING OF THE GREENS
NOVEMBER 30, 2022 – 6:00 PM

PRELUDE

In the Bleak Midwinter – arr. J. Leavitt

GREETING

CAROL

Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel **LSB 357 v. 1, 3, 5**

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.

Refrain
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

3. O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times didst give the Law In cloud and majesty and awe.
Refrain

5. O come, Thou Key of David, come, And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high, And close the path to misery.
Refrain

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INVOCATION & RESPONSIVE SENTENCES

P In the Name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

P How shall we prepare this house for the Coming of the King?
C With branches of pine, the tree of royalty.

P How shall we prepare this house for the Coming of the Eternal Christ?
C With garlands whose leaves are ever living, ever green.

P How shall we prepare this house for the Coming of our Savior?
C With wreaths of holly and ivy, telling of His Suffering, Death, and Resurrection.

P How shall we prepare our hearts for the Coming of the Son of God?
C With candles that proclaim Him the Light of the World.

P For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.
C Glory to God in the highest!

BLESSING OF THE GREENS, WREATHS & CANDLES

The evergreens symbolize God's eternal and everlasting love for us, even after death. The wreath, round with no beginning and no end, symbolizes the victory and glory of the fulfillment of Scripture in the coming of Christ. The candles remind us that Christ is the Light Which casts out the darkness of sin, death, and evil.

RESPONSE

Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel **LSB 357 v. 4, 6**

4. O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree, Free them from Satan's tyranny
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save, And give them vict'ry o'er the grave.

Refrain
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

6. 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.
Refrain

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BLESSING OF THE POINSETTIAS

Poinsettias add a special glow to the pageantry of the Advent season. This plant blooms at Christmas in Mexico, where it is known by its native name, "Flower of the Holy Night". Christians see in the flaming star of its red bracts the Star of Bethlehem.

CAROL

Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel **LSB 357 v. 2, 7**

2. O come, Thou Wisdom from on high, Who ord'rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show, And teach us in her ways to go.

Refrain
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

7. O come, Desire of nations, bind In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease, And be Thyself our King of Peace.
Refrain

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PSALM

P The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it;
C for He founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters.

P Who may ascend the Hill of the LORD? Who may stand in His Holy Place?
C He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to an idol or swear by what is false.

P He will receive blessing from the LORD and vindication from God his Savior.
C Such is the generation of those who seek Him, who seek your face, O God of Jacob.

P Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of Glory may come in.
C Who is this King of Glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.

P Lift up your heads, O you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors, that the King of Glory may come in.
C Who is He, this King of glory? The LORD Almighty— He is the King of Glory.

BLESSING OF THE MANGER SCENE

In the 13th century, St. Francis of Assisi started the Christmas custom of a creche, a scene showing the manger and stable where Jesus was born. Although the stable Jesus was born in may have been a cave, our creche reminds us how the very Son of God came into the world as a baby. The lowly manger also reminds us that Jesus is the Savior of all people, whether they are rich or poor. God sent His Son into the world because God wants all people to be saved.

CAROL

Away in a Manger **LSB 364 v. 1 & 3**

1. 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.

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.

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HANGING OF THE CHRISMONS

Our tree decorations are called Chrismons. The word is created from a combination of Christ and the Christ + monogram, thus Chrismon. If you look carefully at their design, the Chrismons have a story to tell. They tell about Christ's Name, His Life, and His Saving Work. The Chrismons also have designs that symbolically teach the doctrines of the church.

CAROL

Joy to the World **LSB 387 v. 1 & 4**

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.

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.

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BLESSING AND LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE

Martin Luther decorated a fir tree for his children, placing candles on its branches to shine like the stars in the sky, recalling that night long-ago when angels announced Christ's Birth. We put an evergreen tree in our church to remind us that Christ is ever-present and that He is the "Tree of Life". We put lights on the tree to remind us that the Christ Child came to earth as the "Light of the World".

MESSAGE

Pastor Jonathan Blanke

God's Handiwork

CAROL

Silent Night **LSB 363 v. 1-2**

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

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BLESSING OF THE TREE

P The Lord Almighty, the Father, the ✠ Son and the Holy Spirit, bless this tree, its lights, and all the special Advent and Christmas decorations for use in His Church.
C Amen.

CAROL

O Christmas Tree

O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree, Your leaves are ever faithful.
O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree, Your leaves are ever faithful.
Not only green in summer time, But also when it's winter time.
O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree, Your leaves are ever faithful

O Chrismon Tree, O Chrismon Tree, You fill our hearts with God's love.
O Chrismon Tree, O Chrismon Tree, You fill our hearts with God's love.
Reminding us of Christmas Day; of Christ our Life, our Light, our Way.
O Chrismon Tree, O Chrismon Tree, You fill our hearts with God's love.

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OFFERING Offering Collected for Special Advent Ministries

MUSICAL OFFERING

Advent Meditation – D. Wagner Heavenly Handbells

CLOSING BLESSING

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.

CLOSING HYMN *Behold the Tree Before Us* **(Tune LSB 383)**

Behold the tree before us, of loveliest form and grace;
Hung now with Chrismon splendor, tradition now in place.
Its symbols tell the news, in midst of season's greetings'
Christ's Birth is meant for you.

This tree whose limbs so tender, with beauty fill the air;
Dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.
Christ is the dark world's Light; from sin and death He saves us,
And lightens every load.

Chrismons, they tell the story --- Christ felt our human woe.
Chrismons, they show the glory --- Christ gives us Heaven we know.
For everyone we pray, to know the joy of Christmas,
And peace in all our days.

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POSTLUDE

Ding! Dong! Merrily on High – arr. J. Leavitt

Acknowledgments
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