

St. John's Lutheran Church & School



The Nativity of Our Lord

25 December 2023

WELCOME - TODAY WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER!

For baptized Christians (Matthew 28:19) who have been instructed in the faith (Galatians 6:6), The Lord's Supper is our participation in the body and blood of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 10:16), as the one body of Christ (1 Corinthians 10:17), to receive forgiveness of sin (Matthew 26:28) and to proclaim the Lord's death until He comes (1 Corinthians 11:26).

So that those who partake of the Lord's Supper do so in a worthy manner (1 Corinthians 11:27) and not to their harm (1 Corinthians 11:29), let us each examine ourselves (1 Corinthians 11:28):

- Do you believe that you are a sinner? That you have sinned in thought, word and deed?
- Are you sorry for your sin?
- Do you trust that Jesus Christ gives forgiveness of sin through His Supper?
- Do you believe that the body and blood of Jesus are present in, with and under the bread and wine?
- Do you seek to lead godly lives by the power of the Holy Spirit?

Please speak to a pastor or usher if you have questions. Gluten-free wafers are provided upon request. Non-alcoholic grape juice is provided in the center of each communion tray. Those who are not communing may come forward for a blessing from the pastor.

Bell

Prelude

Welcome

379 O Come, All Ye Faithful



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
 2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;
 Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
 Je - sus, to Thee be glo - ry giv'n!



Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:
 Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Glo - ry to God In the high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

Refrain



O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,



O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

Text and tune: Public domain

Invocation and Sentences

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

P: Joy to the world! The Lord has come!

C: We welcome Him, our Savior and our God.

P: Joy to the World! See how the Father has loved us.

C: We are God's children, and that's what we are!

P: Joy to the world! God has shown His love and has come to bring salvation to all people.

C: Christ Jesus came to be our Savior that we may be His people, eager to do His will.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Sisters and brothers in Christ: there was a time when the world sat in darkness, separated from God because of sin. Since we human beings were unable to find God in that darkness, He came near to us as a baby, born of a virgin, bringing with Him the great light of our salvation. I encourage you to come near to God, open your hearts to Him, and confess to Him your sins. (*Silence for personal reflection and confession.*)

P: Heavenly Father,

All: we confess that we have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and deeds. The world has tempted us in this Christmas season to put our delight and joy in material things, to be envious of others, and to center our celebrations around ourselves rather than on you. Thus we have sinned against You and against one another.

P: The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broke and contrite heart.
O God, You will not despise. Psalm 51:17

All: The celebration You desire is the worship of the heart. Forgive our sins, O Lord, for the sake of the Babe of Bethlehem, Jesus Christ, who died for us. Decorate our hearts with repentance and joy that our Christmas celebration may be pleasing to You.

P: This Child whose birth we celebrate came among us to live perfectly in our stead, to give His life in payment for our sins, to rise from the grave for our justification, and to give us new life. In His name and at His command, I as a called and ordained servant of the Word, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

Response

4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;
O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with You.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray:

Grant, almighty God, that the birth of Your only begotten Son in human flesh may set us free, who through sin are held bondage; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, Our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen**

Old Testament Reading.

Isaiah 62: 10-12

R: The Old Testament reading for Christmas Day is from the sixty-second chapter of Isaiah.

**Go through, go through the gates;
prepare the way for the people;
build up, build up the highway;
clear it of stones;
lift up a signal over the peoples.
Behold, the LORD has proclaimed
to the end of the earth:
Say to the daughter of Zion,
“Behold, your salvation comes;
behold, his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.”
And they shall be called The Holy People,
The Redeemed of the LORD;
and you shall be called Sought Out,
A City Not Forsaken.**

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading.

Titus 3:4-7

R: The Epistle is from the third chapter of Titus.

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

952 Alleluia – II



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The Family Reading of the Christmas Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

P: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the second chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord

Fathers: In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria.

Mothers: And all went to be registered, each to his own town.

Fathers: And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

Mothers: And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Fathers and Boys: And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

Mothers and Girls: And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. 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. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

All: **"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"**

Fathers and Boys: When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.

Mothers: But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.

Fathers: And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord

C: **Praise to you, O Christ**

Sermon Text: Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed¹ to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

The Christmas Confession of Faith

I believe in God the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, who sent His Son as my Savior on Christmas Day.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, announced by the angels, worshipped by the Shepherds, adored by the Wise Men, who lived to suffer, die, and rise again, to free us from sin, death, and the power of the devil.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, who has brought me to faith in the Christ of Christmas and by whose continuous work in my heart, I am ever led to lay before the feet of Christ, the treasures of my love and live under Him as my King, both now and forever. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

P: Heavenly Father, we give you thanks and praise for having brought us once again to the glorious celebration of the birth of Your Son, Jesus Christ. As we are surrounded by many gifts, remind us by the power of Your Holy Spirit that the gift of Jesus Christ is the greatest gift of all, and comes from You as a sign of Your grace, mercy, and love.

C: Hear our prayer

P Heavenly Father, as the angels announced the birth of Jesus, they also announced Your gift of peace. Give us peace, we pray. In our lives help us to know peace that comes through forgiveness and reconciliation You provide through Jesus Christ. As Your children, help us to live in peace with one another. Grant peace in the world, we pray. Where there is warfare, terrorism, or strife of any kind, move leaders and people to treat one another with dignity and value, and to work for a just end to all strife. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer

P: As we celebrate joy in the gift of Your Son, O Lord, we remember before you all those whose hearts are burdened and whose joy is not fulfilled. Comfort the lonely with Your presence, by your gracious power in keeping with Your will grant healing to the sick. Especially we remember before You..., for whom our prayers are requested. We pray that those whose hearts are burdened with memories of loved ones who are no longer present to celebrate with us this year may find peace and hope in the message of Your love. Watch over, bless, and protect all who serve and protect us as we worship: our armed forces, police forces,

firefighters, medical professionals and others. Grant them joy in their work, and give them peace. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We pray for Your blessing on all who will receive the gift of life through the blessed Sacrament of Your Son's body and blood this day. May our eating and drinking work in us a sense of peace, forgiveness, life, and salvation as You intend. Strengthen our faith, that we may honor You in all we do, and call all people to receive the gift of life through Your Son. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer. Amen

Gathering of Tithes and Offerings

"Sing, O Sing, This Blessed Morn"

John Carter

Offertory Prayer:

P: God of time and eternity,

C: You have given us Your only Son, born of Mary, to save and redeem us. Bless us with all good things, that the works of our hands through all the years of our lives may proclaim the news of Your redeeming love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Service of Holy Communion

A Carol Setting

Preface *(tune from "Now Sing We, Now Rejoice")*

P: Oh, may the good Lord be with you.

C: And may the Lord be with you too.

P: Lift your hearts to Him in praise.

C: To the Lord our hearts we raise.

P: Let us offer praises true.

C: It is fitting so to do

All: gratefully we sing to the Lord our King!

Proper Preface

P: It is truly, good, right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may be drawn to the love of these things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus *(tune from "As with Gladness Men of Old")*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord
God of hosts, by all adored:
Heav'n and earth cannot contain
All the Glory of Your name!
With the heav'nly host we sing
Highest praises to our King.**

**Hail! Hosanna! Endless fame
be to Him who, in God's name,
Now draws nigh with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hail! Hosanna! Praises be
To the Lord eternally!**

Consecration

Lord's Prayer *(tune from "Away in a Manger")*

Our Father in heaven,
All praise to Your name!
Your kingdom among us,
Your will done the same
By mortals and angels.
Come, Lord, reign alone:
Oh, hear and bless us
From heaven's high throne.

The bread that we yearn for
provide us each day:
As we forgive others,
our sins take away;
In times of temptation,
to lead us be near;
From evil deliver
Your children most dear.

For Yours is the kingdom;
o'er all things You reign
And Yours is the power;
All things You maintain.
To You be the glory,
resounding again
From all of creation,
forever! Amen.

Anthem

"Shepherds Rejoicing"

Austin Lovelace

374 Gentle Mary Laid Her Child



1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;
2 An - gels sang a - bout His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;
3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;



There He lay, the Un - de - filed, To the world a strang - er.
Heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth Glo - ry all a - round Him.
He is still the Un - de - filed But no more a strang - er.



Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Sav - ior?
Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, Heard the an - gels sing - ing;
Son of God of hum - ble birth, Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;



Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His fa - vor.
All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ring - ing.
Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glo - ry!

Text and tune: Public domain

366 It Came upon the Midnight Clear



- 1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, That glo - rious song of old,
- 2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come With peace-ful wings un - furled,
- 3 All you, be - neath your heav - y load, By care and guilt bent low,
- 4 For lo, the days have come to pass By proph-ets seen of old,



From an - gels bend - ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold:
And still their heav'n-ly mu - sic floats O'er all the wea - ry world.
Who toil a - long a drea - ry way With pain - ful steps and slow:
When down in - to the cir - cling years Came Christ as was fore - told.



“Peace on the earth, good-will to all, From heav’n’s all - gra - cious king.”
A - bove its sad and low-ly plains They bend on hov - ’ring wing,
Look up, for gold - en is the hour, Come swift - ly on the wing,
His word of peace shall to the earth God’s an - cient prom - ise bring,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay To hear the an - gels sing.
And ev - er o’er its ba - bel sounds The bless - ed an - gels sing.
The Prince was born to bring you peace; Of Him the an - gels sing.
And all who take this gift will hear The song the an - gels sing.

Text and tune: Public domain

Thanksgiving *(tune from “Angels From the Realms of Glory”)*

**Thank the Lord, His praises voicing
For His promised faithfulness!
All who seek the Lord, rejoicing
Tell His Love, His name confess
For He leads us, with thanksgiving
In the paths of righteousness.**

**At Your Word, Lord, let Your servant
Go in peace, for with my eyes
I have seen Your bright salvation,
Israel’s Light, begin to rise
As the Glory of the nations,
Leading us to Paradise.**

Post-Communion Prayer

P: Great and gracious God, we thank You that in this holy meal the true Light has come to dwell in us. As we return into the world You love, may we take to all people the Good News of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.

C: Amen

Benediction *(tune from “O Little Town of Bethlehem”)*

P: Now may the good Lord bless and keep, His love in you increase: lift up His face with shining grace, and grant eternal peace.

**C: To Father, Son and Spirit, eternal one-in-three,
be thanks and praise through all our days and to eternity!**

368 Angels We Have Heard on High



- 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.

Text and tune: Public domain

Announcements

Postlude

Serving in Worship

Homilist: Rev. Ronald Weidler

Liturgist: Rev. Mark Stapleton

Trumpeter: Ms. Vicki Hastings

Director of Music: Mr. Gregory Ceurvorst

Flowers at the altar are given to the Glory of God in celebration of Christ's birth.

The Altar Guild would like to thank all who purchased poinsettias to beautify the Sanctuary in celebration of Jesus' birth this Christmas!

Given to the Glory of God for Blessings Received

Jeff Baker and Beth Zeiter
Don and Kathy Bezek
Amy Buonassisi
Marie A. Fukar
Harlan and Judy Hirt
Ron and Ruth Gallman
Jack and Jeannette Nord

Given To the Glory of God:

Sharon Broz
Marie A. Fukar
Ron and Ruth Gallman
Ralph and Chris Kirchenberg
Chris Hubacek
Marjorie Newpher
Mary Newren
Art Schroeder

Given to the Glory of God in memory of loved ones:

In memory of Victor Ayala, Chuck Kline, Gaby Ronces, and Javier Castellanos, from the Flores and Kline Families

In memory of Ken Fukar, Ken Adams, and Julia Fukar, from Marie A. Fukar

In memory of our son, Ron Gallman, Jr.; our parents, Karl and Ethel Stodden, and Henry and Duean Gallman; and the rest of our family and friends celebrating in heaven with our Lord, from Ron and Ruth Gallman

In memory of Ann and George Hubacek and Faith Knight from Chris Hubacek

In memory of John D. and Mary A. Mark; Benjamin and Bernice Pilarczyk; and loving husband and father David J. Pilarczyk, from Nancy and Benjamin Pilarczyk

In memory of Bob and Shirley Pyritz, and William Pyritz, from Joann Pyritz
In loving memory of Pastor David Smith from Marnie Smith and Family

Mission Notes

SUNDAY SCHOOL
TRUTH TRAVELERS (JR HIGH)
ADULT BIBLE STUDY
BIBLE STUDY/SMALL GROUP
BIBLE STUDY/SMALL GROUP
WOMENS' SMALL GROUP
GRIEF SHARE
WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY
CHOIR PRACTICE
CONFIRMATION CLASS
PICKLEBALL
BIBLE STUDY/SMALL GROUP
TRIP ORDER

Sundays, 9:25, Music Rm (Second Floor)
Sundays, 9:25AM, Youth Rm (Basement)
Sundays, 9:25AM, Heritage Rm
Sundays, 6PM, Offsite
Mondays, 7PM, Zoom
Tuesdays, 8:45AM, Heritage Rm
Tuesdays beginning September 26, 1:00 – 2:30PM, Heritage Rm
Wednesdays, 9AM, Heritage Rm
Wednesdays, 7PM, 2nd Floor, Music/Choir Rm
Wednesdays, 6:00PM, Heritage Rm
Thursdays, 6:30PM, Gym
Thursday, 7PM, Offsite
January 8 and 22



Merry Christmas!



Equipping ♦ Engaging ♦ Encouraging

St. John's Lutheran Church and School

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