



The Nativity of Our Lord

11 pm, Friday December 24, 2021

“Let the Heavens Rejoice!”

In winter’s deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people.

The angels declare that Jesus’ birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

**GOOD SHEPHERD EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
MANISTEE, MICHIGAN**

GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”
-Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)
- Paul Manz (1919-2009)

Noel X for Organ
- Louis Claude Daquin (1694-1772)

“While by My Sheep I Watched at Night”
-Traditional German Carol, arranged for choir by John Leavitt, 2008

All who are able, stand for singing.

GATHERING HYMN

“Joy to the World” ELW 267

WELCOME

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

And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace
to God's peo - ple on earth.
Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we
wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.
Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace
to God's peo - ple on earth.

Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord
 God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the
 right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.
 Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace
 to God's peo - ple on earth.
 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
 you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus
 Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of
 God the Fa - ther. A - men, a - men.
 Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray,

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

All are seated.

WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

A reading from Isaiah.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Spoken by all.

Psalm 96

Sing to the LORD | a new song;

sing to the LORD, all | the whole earth.

Sing to the LORD and | bless his name;

proclaim the good news of his salvation from | day to day.

Declare his glory a- | mong the nations

and his wonders a- | mong all peoples.

For great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised;

he is more to be feared | than all gods.

As for all the gods of the nations, they | are but idols;

but it is the LORD who | made the heavens.

Oh, the majesty and magnificence | of his presence!

Oh, the power and the splendor of his | sanctuary!

Ascribe to the LORD, you families | of the peoples;

ascribe to the LORD hon- | or and power.

Ascribe to the LORD the honor | due his name;
bring offerings and come in- | to his courts.
Worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness;
let the whole earth trem- | ble before him.
Tell it out among the nations: "The | LORD is king!
He has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peo- | ples with equity."
Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all | that is in it;
let the field be joyful and all that | is therein.
Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy
before the LORD | when he comes,
when he comes to | judge the earth.
He will judge the | world with righteousness
and the peoples | with his truth.
Glory to the Father, and | to the Son,
and to the | Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will | be forever.
A | - - men.

SECOND READING

Titus 2:11-14

A reading from Titus.

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

All who are able, stand for the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)

The Holy Gospel comes to us from the Second Chapter of the Gospel of Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see--I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all

these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

All are seated.

HOMILY

Pastor Greene

A period of silence is kept. Then all who are able, stand to sing the hymn.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” ELW 270

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

Each petition ends with:

Lord in Your Mercy,

Hear our Prayer.

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

GREETING OF PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

After exchanging peace, all are seated.

ANTHEM

“Still, Still, Still”

- Jean Anne Shafferman, 2002

MEAL

PRAYER

When the table is set, all who are able stand at the minister’s invitation.

Let us pray,

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times
and in all places offer thanks and praise to you,
O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord.

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh
you have opened the eyes of faith
to a new and radiant vision of your glory;
that, beholding the God made visible,
we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.

And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est.



Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, Ho-



san-na in the high - est, ho-san-na in the high-est.

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:
Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.
You have filled all creation with light and life;
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Through Abraham you promised to bless all nations.
You rescued Israel, your chosen people.
Through the prophets you renewed your promise;
and, at this end of all the ages, you sent your Son,
who in words and deeds proclaimed your kingdom
and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.
In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Therefore, gracious Father, with this bread and cup
we remember the life our Lord offered for us.
And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in
power to share with us the great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,
the spirit of our Lord and of his resurrection,
that we who receive the Lord's body and blood
may live to the praise of your glory
and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every
place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest
until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

**Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.**

Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

Father, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.

**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.

LAMB OF GOD



- 1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
- 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
- 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer - cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer - cy now, we pray.
e - ter - nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

COMMUNION

All are invited to commune at the direction of the ushers. When all have partaken, those who are able, stand for the hymn.

COMMUNION VOLUNTARY

Pastorale of the Shepherd from “Messiah”
- Georg Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

COMMUNION HYMN

“Away in a Manger” ELW 277

PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of wonder, in Jesus we behold the light of the world come near. As you have come among us now, send us out in joy, hastening to share the good news of your love. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit dwelling among us now and forever.

Amen.

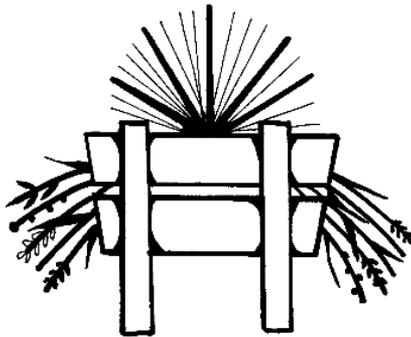
SENDING – LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

READING OF JOHN 1: 1-18 *During the lighting of candles*

CLOSING HYMN “Silent Night, Holy Night” ELW 281

SENDING VOLUNTARY

Organ Improvisation: “Joy to the World the Lord is Come!”
- Raymond Haan, 1985



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