

Christmas Eve

Sunday, Dec. 24th, 2017 - 8:00 pm

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW)

Setting 10, p. 203

Assisting This Evening:

Reader – Peter Nabein

Assistant – Natasha Nabein

Thank you to all who decorated our worship space
To make it beautiful for the Christmas services.

Piano/Organ/Choir Director: David Santry

Church Secretary: Debra Boyd-Chisholm

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church

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CALL TO WORSHIP

Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy.
To us is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, the Messiah, the Lord.

This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace!

Let us go now to Bethlehem.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

We light the Paschal candle to symbolize Christ's presence and God's promise fulfilled.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests on his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to all on whom his favour rests.

Blessed be the name of the Lord.

CAROL: *Angels We Have Heard on High* (ELW 289)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

A reading from Isaiah.

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined.

³You 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.

⁴For 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.

⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For 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.

⁷His 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 CAROL: *Joy to the World* (ELW 267)

SECOND READING: Titus 3:4-7

A reading from Titus.

⁴But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. ⁶This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

CAROL: *The First Noel* (ELW 300)

GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was

expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

¹⁵When 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.’ ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The 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.

SERMON

CAROL: *What Child is This?* (ELW 296)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray.

God of glory, **by your grace**
A child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests on his shoulders,

and in his name we pray.

Wonderful Counsellor,
**we pray for wisdom for the world's leaders,
that they may use their power to lift burdens
and break the bonds of oppression.**

Mighty God,
**we pray for the church of Jesus Christ our Lord,
that you will multiply and increase our joy
as we share in the harvest you have gathered.**

Everlasting Father,
**we pray for families, friends and loved ones,
that those who now walk in deep darkness
may see the great light of your saving love.**

Prince of Peace,
**we pray for an end to violence and warfare,
that your authority may continue to grow
until there is endless peace in every land.**

Lord of hosts, establish your holy realm
**With justice and righteousness,
From this time on and forevermore. Amen**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING CAROL: *In the Bleak of Winter* (ELW 294)

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

**Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who
came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you
have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others.
With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout
for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts, **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (*To the tune of “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”*)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of heav’n and earth adored.
O how blest is he who comes
In the holy name of God.
Joyful, all you nations rise;
Join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn king!” Amen.**

LORD’S PRAYER (ELW p. 208)

COMMUNION CAROLS:

’Twas in the Moon of Wintertime (ELW 284)
It Came Upon a Midnight Clear (ELW 282)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Gracious God, in the incarnation of your Son you have united earth and heaven. May we who have tasted heavenly things share the gift of your presence with all the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*From an altar candle the minister may light a large candle, which symbolizes Christ, the light of the world of whom John’s gospel speaks. Ushers or assistants light their candles from the minister’s candle and then light the candle of each worshiper nearest the aisle. **A lighted candle is never tilted**, but is always held upright when giving light to another.*

THE GOSPEL OF THE INCARNATION: John 1:1-14

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

CAROL: *Silent Night, Holy Night!* (ELW 281)

BLESSING

May God, who has called you out of darkness to be servants of light, grant you the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, and the peace of the Christ Child. Almighty God, the Father, the Son, † and the Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

The candles are extinguished.

SENDING CAROL: *Hark the Herald Angels Sing* (ELW 270)

DISMISSAL

Glory to God in the highest!

Peace to God's people on earth!

As Heralds of God's peace,
go forth in joy to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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