

Christmas Day

Monday, Dec. 25th, 2017 - 10:00 am

Leading Today:

Presider: Rev. Mary Ellen Berry

Preacher: Rev. Martin Malina

Piano/Organ/Choir Director: David Santry

Church Secretary: Debra Boyd-Chisholm

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

The poinsettias on the altar are offered
by Kylie and Cameron Niman
in memory of their grandmother, Ethel Niman.

We welcome with warm and grateful hearts our friends
from Julian of Norwich Anglican Church, to celebrate
together the Nativity of our Lord.

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church

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A very merry Christmas to all who worship the Christ Child on this holy day. Our service this morning is the "Christ Mass," from which we get the word Christmas. It is simply the service of Holy Communion with special emphasis on the Incarnation of Christ: in the manger, in the Word, and in the Bread and Wine.

GATHERING AND WELCOME

GATHERING CAROL: *Joy to the World* (ELW 267)

CHRISTMAS DIALOG:

Today the Christ is born! Alleluia!

Today salvation has appeared! Alleluia!

Today on earth choirs of angels are singing!

Today in heaven archangels are rejoicing!

Today the just exult and say,

Glory to God in the highest! Alleluia!

CAROL: *Love Has Come* (ELW 292)

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.

CAROL: *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* (ELW 272)

EPISTLE: Titus 3:4-7

A reading from Titus.

⁴When 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: *From Heaven Above* (ELW 268, verses 1-3)

GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20

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

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.**

CAROL: *From Heaven Above* (ELW 268, verses 12-14)

SERMON

CAROL OF THE DAY: *Once In Royal David’s City* (ELW 269)

NICENE CREED (Back cover of hymn book or ELW p. 104)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

SHARING THE PEACE

GIFT GATHERING & SONG: *In the Bleak Mid-Winter* (ELW 294)

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Almighty God,

We are mindful of the supreme gift that you gave us in a manger at Bethlehem. Humbly we offer our gifts of service and possessions in joyful thanksgiving for the love you have shown us. We bring as well the concerns of our hearts for ourselves and for others. Hear our prayers and accept these gifts for the sake of your Son who was born this day, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also 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, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of 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 all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Lord God, Heavenly King, we give you thanks and praise upon this holy night when, in your goodness, you showed your supreme love for us by sending forth your only begotten Son, our Savior, to be born of a pure virgin, to save us all from sin.

Before you formed the heavens and the earth, he was your Word. In him you made all things. In him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell.

Yet he did not count equality with God as a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself to take the form of a servant, being born in our own likeness, even as a baby, lying in a manger.

For all these things, we give you thanks and herald his coming with the song of the angels:

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace and goodwill to all people.

Eternal God, your Son, Jesus Christ, came to us in your name and showed us your steadfast love for us. All that he did was by your will. All that he did was in your name. When we saw him, we saw the Father, for he was the image of the invisible God.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

For love of you, O Lord, and for love of us, he offered himself up to death on a cross, that we might be saved from sin and death. Yet you did not let the powers of darkness prevail over him, but raised him from the dead to sit at your right hand in glory. And now you have given to us who believe in him the promise of resurrection and eternal life.

Hosanna in the highest.

On the night before he died, 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.

After supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This 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.

On this holy day, O Lord:

We remember his humble birth in a manger. We proclaim his death and resurrection. We await his coming in glory.

Send now your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine. As Christ is Emmanuel, God with us, so fill our communion with his eternal presence, that we might know the joy and peace of his coming, have our faith renewed, and be strengthened in our hope for his return.

O Word made flesh, be born in us again.

Accept our prayers and praises, O Father, through your Son, our Savior, who was born this *day/night*, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, we give all honor and glory from generation to generation. **Amen**

LORD'S PRAYER (ELW, p. 208)

BREAKING OF BREAD

This is the Word made flesh, the very body and blood of him who was born for us.

Come to us now, O Lord, in the breaking of bread. As once you were born in a manger in Bethlehem, come to us again in the manger of our hands and hearts. Amen

COMMUNION CAROLS:

O Little Town of Bethlehem (ELW 279)

Away in a Manger (ELW 278)

The First Noel (ELW 300)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

Let us pray.

Almighty and Redeeming God, today you have made us one with you by lovingly sending your Son to take on our frail flesh. We thank you for this Word made flesh, revealed to us in the manger and in the bread and wine. Grant that we may find in his birth the new birth that he brings in us, to live out your gospel of love in the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

CHRISTMAS BLESSING

May the God of love, who gave his only Son to be born for you, fill your life with love and peace. **Amen**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING CAROL: *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (ELW270)*

DISMISSAL

Thank you to all who contributed to the beauty of this service, and, to all who brought refreshments and goodies for our pre-worship “Coffee Quatschen” time! Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!

The poinsettias on the altar are offered by Kylie and Cameron Niman in memory of their grandmother, Ethel Niman.

All who desire communion with Jesus and approach the sacrament with faith, are welcome at the Lord's Table. While both the common cup and individual glasses are offered, we encourage the use of the common cup to emphasize the unity we share in the Body of Christ, the church (please indicate your preference to the servers). A non-alcohol option is available in the tray. You may also partake of bread only, or come to the table for a blessing only.



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