

Christmas Eve

Tuesday, December 24th, 2019 - 8:00 pm

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW)

Pastor: Martin Malina **Musician:** Sharon Wirth
Reader: Peter Nabein **Assistant:** Natasha Nabein
Honorary Assistant Pastor: Diane Raddatz

Thank you to all who decorated our worship space.
The Christmas tree is donated by the Quast family
in memory of all the family members and friends
who have passed away during the year.

The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God
by Kylie and Cameron Niman in remembrance
of their grandmother Ethel Niman.

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church

CALL TO WORSHIP: Welcome to this Christmas Eve contemplative, candlelight, and Communion worship service. Like the shepherds, we come as we are, hearing the comforting and encouraging words of the angels:

Reader 1: Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy.

Reader 2: To us is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, the Messiah, the Lord.

Reader 1: This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger.

Reader 2: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to all! Let us go now to Bethlehem.

CAROL: *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (ELW 279)

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: *It Came upon the Midnight Clear* (ELW 282)

PRAYER OF THE DAY: Let us pray. **All-powerful and unseen 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.**

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.**

CAROL: *Once in Royal David's City* (ELW 269)

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: *Love Has Come* (ELW 292)

GOSPEL: Luke 2:15-20

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

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

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 among world leaders, that they may use their power to lift burdens and break the bonds of oppression.**

Mighty God, **we pray with 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 with 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 Midwinter* (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 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.

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:

The First Noel (ELW 300)

'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime (ELW 284)

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.

A candle is lighted from the Paschal candle, symbolizing Christ as the light of the world. Ushers light their candles from this candle and then light worshipers' candles. Always hold a lighted candle 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: *Joy to the World!* (ELW 267)

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.**