



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



The Festival of the Incarnation – Christmas Day–

December 25, 2022 10:30 Holy Communion

Welcome to worship today!

If you are visiting with us we invite you to sign the Guest Book in the back of the sanctuary.

† GATHERING †

Prelude and Announcements

Gathering Hymn The Bells of Christmas
(For music turn to Hymn 298 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **The bells of Christmas chime once more;
the heav'nly guest is at the door.
He comes to earthly dwellings still
with new year gifts of peace, good will.**
2. **This world, though wide and far outspread,
could scarcely find for you a bed.
Your cradle was a manger stall,
No pearls nor silk nor kingly hall.**
3. **Now let us go with quiet mind,
the swaddled babe with shepherds find,
to gaze on him who gladdens them,
the loveliest flow'r of Jesse's stem.**
4. **Oh, join with me, in gladness sing,
to keep our Christmas with our king,
until our song, from loving souls,
like rushing mighty water rolls!**
5. **O patriarchs' Joy, O prophets' Song,
O Dayspring bright, awaited long,
O Son of Man, incarnate Word,
great David's Son, great David's Lord:**
6. **Come, Jesus, glorious heav'nly guest,
and keep your Christmas in our breast;
Then David's harpstrings, hushed so long,
Shall swell our jubilee of song.**

Text: Nikolai F.S. Grundtvig, 1783-1872; tr. Charles Porterfield Krauth, 1823-1883, alt.
Music: Carl C. N. Balle, 1806-1855

Greeting (2 Corinthians 13:13)

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

C: And also with you.

Call to Worship

A: Sing to God something brand new!

C: For God has done wonderful things!

A: God has not forgotten to love us all!

C: Even the ends of the earth have heard!

A: Make a joyful noise!

C: Break forth in song!

A: With strings and horns,

C: sing praise to the Holy One!

A: With the roaring seas and everything in it!

C: With all the land and everything in it!

A: The floods clap their hands.

C: The hills sing for joy.

A: Thank God! God is coming to set everything right:

C: Justice for everyone, everything fair.

A: Sing to God something brand new!

C: For God has done wonderful things!

Hymn of Praise Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

For music turn to Hymn 270 in the Red Hymnal

1. **Hark! The herald angels sing,**
“Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.”
Joyful, all you nations rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to new the newborn king!”

2. **Christ, by highest heaven adored,**
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the God-head see!
Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel! *Refrain*

3. **Hail the heav'n born Prince of peace!
Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth,
born to give us second birth. Refrain**

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt. Music: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831-1915

Prayer of the Day

B: 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.

C: Amen.

† WORD †

First Reading Isaiah 62:6-12

D: ⁶Upon your walls, O Jerusalem,

I have posted sentinels;
all day and all night
they shall never be silent.

You who remind the LORD,
take no rest,

⁷and give him no rest
until he establishes Jerusalem
and makes it renowned throughout the earth.

⁸The LORD has sworn by his right hand
and by his mighty arm:

I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies,
and foreigners shall not drink the wine
for which you have labored;

⁹but those who garner it shall eat it
and praise the LORD,
and those who gather it shall drink it
in my holy courts.

¹⁰Go through, go through the gates,
prepare the way for the people;
build up, build up the highway,
clear it of stones,
lift up an ensign over the peoples.

¹¹The LORD has proclaimed
to the end of the earth:

Say to daughter Zion,
“See, your salvation comes;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.”

¹²They shall be called, “The Holy People,
The Redeemed of the LORD”;
and you shall be called, “Sought Out,
A City Not Forsaken.”

After the reading the reader may say: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 97 (*read responsively*)

E: The Lord rules; the earth is eager,
joy touches distant lands.

**C: God is wrapped in thunder cloud,
throned on justice, throned on right.**

E: Fire marches out in front
and burns up all resistance.

**C: Overhead, God’s lightning flares,
the earth shudders to see it.**

E: Mountains melt down like wax
before the Lord, the ruler of all.

**C: Overhead God’s justice resounds,
a glory all people can see.**

E: Idolators are the fools,
they brag of empty gods.
You gods, be subject to the Lord!

**C: Zion hears, and is happy.
The cities of Judah are joyful
about your judgments, Lord.**

E: You Lord, you reach high
in majesty above the earth,
far higher than any god.

C: Those who love the Lord hate evil;

**God shields their faithful lives
and breaks the hold of the wicked.**

E: Light will rain down on the just,
joy on the loyal heart.

**C: Be joyous in the Lord God,
you people of faith,
praise God's holy name!**

Second Reading Titus 3:4-7

F: 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.

After the reading the reader may say: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (Psalm 98:3)

C: Alleluia. All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God. Alleluia

Gospel Reading John 1:1-14

The gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 1st chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

In 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. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

After the reading:

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day The First Noel
(For music see Hymn 300 in the Red Hymnal)

**1. The first noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they,
lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

Refrain: **Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.**

**2. They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth
it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.** *Refrain*

**3. And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
and to the king
was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went.** *Refrain*

**4. This star drew near to the northwest,
o'er Bethlehem it took to rest;
and there it did**

**both stop and stay
right over the pace where Jesus lay. *Refrain***

5. **Then entered in those wise men three,
full rev'rently upon their knee,
and offered there
in his presence
their gold and myrrh and frankincense. *Refrain***

Text: English traditional. Music: English traditional; arr. John Stainer, 1840-1901

Nicene Creed

P: Let us confirm our faith with the Nicene Creed

**C: 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, was incarnate of the virgin Mary and
became truly human. 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, who with the Father and the
Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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.**

Prayer of the Church

“Let the Star of Morning Rise” from *Guerillas of Grace* by Ted Loder

Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us share that peace with one another.

The congregation may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

† MEAL †

Special Music

Hymn of Thanksgiving Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful Lord
For music turn to page 35 in the Blue Hymnal

**Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer now.
Grace our table with your presence, Lord,
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray: God of abundance:

**C: receive and bless these gifts we have offered.
Join our hearts with the song of the angels,
and gather us at your table of celebration.
Strengthen us to share with all the world
the abundance of your grace upon grace,
poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.
Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: 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 the Christ. 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 all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join in their unending hymn:

(Isaiah 6:3 - spoken)

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

P: In the night in which he was handed over our Lord Jesus took bread, 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."

Lord's Prayer

P: Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C: 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.

Communion Distribution

Welcome to the Lord's Supper! All who are baptized are invited to receive communion. Please pick up a communion glass as you come forward to the altar. You will receive bread from the communion assistant. (If you need a gluten free wafer please tell the assistant.) The pastor will pour wine into your glass. If you prefer grape juice it is prefilled in the individual glasses. As we commune together everyone is invited to sing the following hymns:

Lamb of God (Page 39 of the Blue Hymnal)

278 *Away in a Manger (Red Hymnal)*

276 *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly (Red Hymnal)*

Communion Blessing *After all have communed the pastor will say:*

P: The body and the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray:

God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

Blessing

P: God the Father bless you,
Jesus grant you grace and truth,
and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts,
now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn O Little Town of Bethlehem
(For music see Hymn 279 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in the dark street shineth
the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.**
2. **For Christ is born of Mary,
and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king,
and peace to all the earth!**
3. **How silently, how silently
the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heav'n.**

No ear may hear his coming;
but, in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.

4. O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Immanuel!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893, Music: Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **God's Work. Our Hands.**

Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers	Volunteer
Acolyte	Volunteer
Altar Care	Volunteer
Communion Assistant	Volunteer
Counters	Bill and Katy Stimmel
Coffee Hour	Fresh Sweet Rolls

Worship assistants for next Sunday, January 1

Greeters and Ushers	Volunteer
Acolyte	Volunteer
Altar Care	Volunteer
Communion Assistant	Volunteer
Counters	
Coffee Hour	

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