



# St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



## *The 4th Sunday of Advent*

*December 18, 2016*

*10:30 Service of the Word*

Today our Sunday school children present their Christmas program. Though the story of our Lord's birth is familiar to us it is a story with many dimensions and rich in detail. Experience it again with a fresh heart and find God coming to you in new ways.

*Welcome to worship today!*

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

Nursery care is available during the service. Please see one of the ushers if you need more information.

# † GATHERING †

## Prelude and Announcements

Gathering Hymn People, Look East  
(For music see Hymn 248 in the Red Hymnal)

- 1. People, look east. The time is near  
of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able,  
trim the heath and set the table.  
People look east, and sing today –  
Love, the Guest, is on the way.**
- 2. Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,  
one more seed is planted there.  
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,  
that in course the flow'r may flourish.  
People, look east, and sing today –  
Love, the Rose, is on the way.**
- 3. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim,  
one more light the bowl shall brim,  
shining beyond the frosty weather,  
bright as sun and moon together.  
People, look east, and sing today –  
Love, the Star, is on the way.**
- 4. Angels announce with shouts of mirth  
him who brings new life to earth.  
Set ev'ry peak and valley humming  
with the word, the Lord is coming.  
People, look east, and sing today –  
Love, the Lord, is on the way.**

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881-1965, copyright Miss Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates. Music: French carol; arr. Barry Rose, b. 1934, copyright 1999 Novello and Co. Ltd., London.

## 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.**

Gathering Dialog (John 1)

A: In the beginning was the Word,

**C: and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

A: In the Word was life,

**C: and the life was the light of all people.**

A: The Word became flesh and lived among us,

**C: and we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.**

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

† WORD †

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

*(Read immediately after the congregation is seated from the Prayer of the Day)*

A: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. In your Son, Emmanuel, you have shown us your light and saved us from the power of sin. Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath. Increase our longing for your presence, that at the celebration of your Son's birth his Spirit might dwell anew in our midst, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.

**C: Amen**

*As the fourth candle on the wreath is lit we sing:*

Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel

*(For music turn to Hymn 257 in the Red Hymnal)*

**1. Oh come, Oh come Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.**

**Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to you, O Israel.**

**3. O come, O come, O Lord of might,  
as to your tribes on Sinai's height**

**in ancient times you gave the law  
in cloud and majesty and awe. Refrain**

**4. O come, O Branch of Jesse, free  
your own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell your people save,  
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. Refrain**

**5. O come of Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heav'nly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery. Refrain**

Text: *Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum*, Koln, 1710, tr. composite. Music: French processional, 15<sup>th</sup> century.

*Children's Christmas Program*

*Please join in singing the following hymns:*

Mary Had a Baby

*(For music see Hymn 100 in the Songbook Binder)*

- 1. Mary had a baby,  
Yes, Lord!  
Mary had a baby.  
Yes, my Lord!  
Mary had a baby.  
Yes, Lord!  
The little child of Bethlehem was born for us.**
- 2. What did she name him?  
Yes, Lord!  
What did she name him?  
Yes, my Lord!  
What did she name him?  
Yes, Lord!  
The little child of Bethlehem was born for us.**
- 3. She named the baby Jesus.  
Yes, Lord!  
She named the baby Jesus.  
Yes, my Lord!  
She named the baby Jesus.  
Yes, Lord!  
The little child of Bethlehem was born for us.**

**4. Where was he born?**

**Yes, Lord!**

**Where was he born?**

**Yes, my Lord!**

**Where was he born?**

**Yes, Lord!**

**The little child of Bethlehem was born for us.**

**5. Born in a manger.**

**Yes, Lord!**

**Born in a manger.**

**Yes, my Lord!**

**Born in a manger.**

**Yes, Lord!**

**The little child of Bethlehem was born for us.**

*Text and music: spiritual*

**The Friendly Beasts**

*(For music see Hymn 101 in the Songbook Binder)*

- 1. Jesus, our brother, strong and good,  
was humbly born in a stable rude,  
and the friendly beasts around him stood,  
Jesus our brother strong and good.**
- 2. "I," said the donkey, shaggy and brown,  
"I carried his mother up hill and down,  
I carried his mother to Bethlehem town;  
I," said the donkey shaggy and brown.**
- 3. "I," said the cow all white and red,  
"I gave him my manger for his bed,  
I gave him hay to pillow his head;  
I," said the cow, all white and red.**
- 4. "I," said the sheep with curly horn,  
"I gave him my wool for his blanket warm,  
he wore my coat on Christmas morn;  
I," said the sheep with curly horn.**
- 5. "I," said the dove from rafters high,  
"we cooed him to sleep that he should not cry,  
we cooed him to sleep, my mate and I;  
I," said the dove, from rafters high.**

**6. Thus all the beasts, by some good spell,  
in a stable dark were glad to tell  
of the gifts they gave Emmanuel,  
the gifts they gave Emmanuel.**

Text: 12<sup>th</sup> Century French. Music: Based on *Orientis Partibus*, a medieval French melody, arr. Bonnie Bridger Coffman, copyright Bonnie Bridger Coffman, 2011

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

Go Tell It on the Mountain

*For music turn to Hymn 290 in the Red Hymnal*

*Refrain*

**Go tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and everywhere;  
go tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born!**

**1. While shepherds kept their watching  
o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens  
there shone a holy light. *Refrain***

**2. The shepherds feared and trembled  
when lo, above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain***

**3. Down in a lonely manger  
the humble Christ was born;  
and God sent us salvation  
that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain***

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872-1925, stanzas, alt. Music: African American spiritual

We Three Kings of Orient Are

*(For music see Hymn 646 in the Blue Hymnal)*

**1. We three kings of Orient are;  
bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain  
moor and mountain,  
following yonder star.**

***Refrain:* Oh, star of wonder, star of night,  
star with royal beauty bright;  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light!**

**2. Born a king on Bethlehem's plain,  
gold I bring to crown him again;  
king forever,  
ceasing never,  
over us all to reign. *Refrain***

3. Frankincense to offer have I;  
incense owns a deity nigh;  
prayer and praising,  
gladly raising,  
worshipping God Most High. *Refrain*
4. Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume  
breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
sorrowing, sighing,  
bleeding, dying,  
sealed in the stone-cold tomb. *Refrain*
5. Glorious now behold him arise,  
King and God and Sacrifice;  
heav'n sings  
alleluia:  
alleluia the earth replies. *Refrain*

Text and music: John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820-1921, alt.

## Joy to the World

*For music turn to Hymn 267 in the Red Hymnal*

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her king;  
let ev'ry heart prepare him room  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.
2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
repeat the sounding joy  
repeat the sounding joy  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
3. No more let sin and sorrow grow  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.
4. He rules the world with truth and grace



**and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love  
and wonders of his love  
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748. Music: English melody, 18<sup>th</sup> century; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

*Apostles' Creed*

A: Let us confirm our faith with the Apostles' Creed

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Prayers of Intercession*

P: With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

*The pastor will begin the prayer with a petition and then invites the congregation to add additional petitions and thanksgivings. Please conclude your petition with: Lord in your mercy,*

*The congregation will respond: **Hear our prayer.***

*The pastor concludes the prayer:*

P: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

Peace

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

**C: And also with you.**

A: Let us share that peace with one another.

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

† THANKSGIVING †

Offering & Special Music

Hymn of Thanksgiving As the offering is brought forward:

Lord Let My Heart Be Good Soil

*For music turn to Hymn 713 in the Blue Hymnal*

**Lord, let my heart be good soil,  
open to the seed of your Word.**

**Lord, let my heart be good soil,  
where love can grow and peace is understood.**

**When my heart is hard, break the stone away.**

**When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.**

**When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.**

**Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart,**

**Lord, let my heart be good soil.**

Text and music: Handt Hanson, b. 1950, Copyright 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing/Changing Church, Inc.

Thanksgiving Prayer

A: Let us pray: Savior of the nations, come.

**C: Make your home here in us. Feed us with your love, that our  
faith shine ever new and our lives reveal your light. Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

A: 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.**

**† SENDING †**

***Blessing***

P: May Christ, the Sun of righteousness, shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path. Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

***Sending Hymn*** Bethlehem Highway  
(For music turn to Hymn 45 in the Songbook binder)

**Chorus: There is hope on Bethlehem highway  
for the ones who will journey there.  
And the hope is the child in a manger  
bringing us love beyond compare**

**1. It's a lifeline for the needy,  
It's sight to those who can't see.  
It's a freedom for the faithful  
in a child of prophecy. Chorus**

**2. Let the an-gels go before us.  
Let the darkness become light.  
Now the savior lives among us.  
Now truth has come to life. Chorus**

Text and music: David Lee Brown and James Hersch; Copyright 1992 Dakota Road Music, used with permission

***Dismissal***

A: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

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

**Worship assistants TODAY:**

Greeters and Ushers	Rob and Laura Stroup
Acolyte	Jaden White
Nursery Care	Beth Perdan
Counters	Ethan and Alyssa Minkel
Coffee Hour	Sue Kaufmann

**Worship assistants for next Sunday, December 25, 2016**

Greeters and Ushers	Volunteer
Acolyte	Ben Deibler
Nursery Care	Volunteer
Counters	John and Linda Thompson
Coffee Hour	No Coffee Hour

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