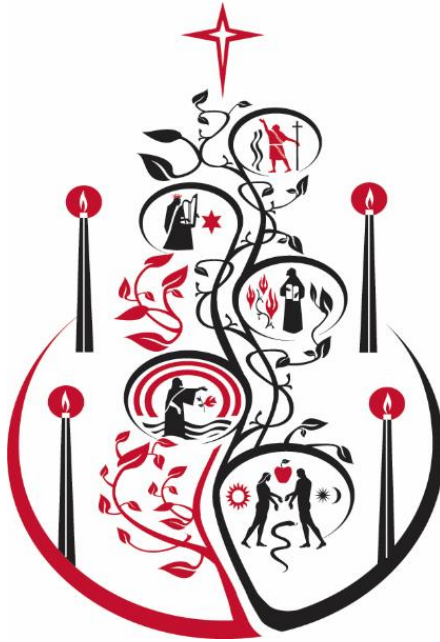




St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



The 4th Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2019

10:30 Service of the Word

Today our Sunday school children present their Christmas program. Many of us set up Christmas trees in our homes. The children's program will help us to see that those trees can be more than just decorations but actually rich symbols of our faith.

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 Away in a Manger
(For music see Hymn 277 or 278 in the Red Hymnal)

- 1. Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the starts in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**
- 2. The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**
- 3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.**

Text: North American, 19th century. Music: James R. Murray, 1841-1905

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 O 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**

Children's Christmas Program

Please join in singing the following hymns:

All Things Bright and Beautiful

(For music see Hymn 767 in the Blue Hymnal)

**Refrain All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all.**

1. Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors,
God made their tiny wings. *Refrain*

2. The purple headed mountains,
the river running by,
the sunset, and the morning
that brightens up the sky. *Refrain*

3. The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden,
God made them ev'ry one. *Refrain*

4. God gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is God Almighty,
who has made all things well. *Refrain*

Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1818-1895, alt. Music: English tune, 17th cent. adapt. Martin Shaw, 1875-1958

This Little Light of Mine

(For music see Hymn 677 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **This little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine;
let is shine, let it shine, let is shine.**

2. **Ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'a let it shine;
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'a let it shine;
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'a let it shine;
let is shine, let it shine, let is shine.**

**3. Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'a let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'a let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'a let it shine;
let is shine, let it shine, let is shine.**

Text and music: African American Spiritual

Brightest and Best of the Stars (Vs. 1)
For music turn to Hymn 303 in the Red Hymnal

**1. Brightest and best of the stars in the morning,
dawn on our darkness and lend us your aid.
Star of the east, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant redeemer is laid.**

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783-1826, alt., Music: James P. Harding, 1850-1911, adapt.

Angels We Have Heard on High (Vs. 1)
For music turn to Hymn 289 in the Red Hymnal

**1. Angles we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.**

Refrain

**Glo-ria in excelsis Deo;
Glo-ria in excelsis Deo.**

Text: French carol; tr. H.F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864. Music: French Carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1887-1958

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light
For music turn to Hymn 815 in the Red Hymnal

**1. I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.**

Refrain **In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

**2. I want to see... the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path,
and show me the way to the Father. *Refrain***

**3. I'm looking for... the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run... with patience the race,
we shall know the joy of Jesus. *Refrain***

Text and music: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934, copyright 1970,1975 Celebration

What Child Is This? (Vs. 1-2)
(For music turn to Hymn 296 in the Red Hymnal)

**1. What Child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthem sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing,
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary!**

**2. Why lies he in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The babe, the son of Mary!**

Text: William Dix; Music: English Ballad, 16th century

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.

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 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 hearth 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.**

Dismissal

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

C: God's Work. Our Hands.

Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers	John and Gay Card
Acolyte	Abbie Bullwinkle
Nursery Care	Beth Perdan
Counters	Bruce Boncke and Art Fields
Coffee Hour	Sue Kaufmann

Worship assistants for next Sunday, December 29, 2019

Greeters and Ushers	Phyllis and Dick Henderson
Acolyte	Creed White
Nursery Care	Bill and Katy Stimmel
Counters	Babette Huber and Burdie Gillern
Coffee Hour	

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