



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



The Nativity of Our Lord

-Christmas Day-

December 25, 2016

8:30 & 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.

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

† 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 Angels We Have Heard on High

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.

2. **Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heav'nly song? *Refrain***

3. **Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn king. *Refrain***

Prayer of the Day

A: 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

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*)

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

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

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

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

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

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

A: 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.**

A: 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.**

A: 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

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.

After the reading:

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon

“A Minor Revelation” from *The Manger is Empty* by Walt Wangerin Jr.

Hymn of the Day Once in Royal David's City
(for music, see Hymn 269 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ, her little child.**
2. **He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and meek and lowly,
live on earth our Savior holy.**
3. **And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love;
for that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heav'n above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.**
4. **Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him; but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;
there his children gather 'round,
bright like stars, with glory crowned.**

Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1818-1895; Music: Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805-1876

Nicene Creed

A: 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

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.

† MEAL †

Offering and 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

A: Let us pray: God with us:

C: you came as a baby to a manger. You slept on straw and greeted shepherds. You come again in bread and wine. Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things. And then, through these gifts, help us to bless the lives of others in the strength of your holy name. 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. You will receive bread from the communion assistant. You may receive wine from either the common cup or in an individual glass. If you would like to receive in a glass please pick one up from the tray as you approach the altar rail. White grape juice is available in the individual glasses for those who do not wish to take wine. As we commune together everyone is invited to sing the following hymns:

Lamb of God (Page 39 of the Blue Hymnal)

294 *In the Bleak Midwinter (Red Hymnal)*

278 *Away in a Manger (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:

On this day, O God, you gave us Christ the Son to save us. As you sent the one foretold, send us now with good news for all people. Let the

gladness of this feast have not end as we share with others the joy that fills us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

Blessing

P: Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn Good Christian Friends, Rejoice
(For music turn to Hymn 288 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Good Christian friends, rejoice**
 With heart and soul and voice;
 Give ye heed to what we say:
 Jesus Christ is born today;
 Ox and ass before him bow,
 And he is in the manger now.
 Christ was born today!
 Christ was born today!

2. **Good Christian friends, rejoice**
 With heart and soul and voice;
 Now ye hear of endless bliss:
 Jesus Christ was born for this!
 He has opened heaven's door,
 And we are blest forevermore.
 Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born for this!

3. **Good Christian friends, rejoice**
 With heart and soul and voice;
 Now ye need not fear the grave;
 Jesus Christ was born to save!
 Calls you one and calls you all
 To gain his everlasting hall.
 Christ was born to save!
 Christ was born to save!

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: God's Work. Our Hands.

Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers

Acolyte Ben Deibler

Altar Care Linda Thompson

Communion Assistants

Nursery Care

Counters John and Linda Thompson

Coffee Hour *No coffee hour today*

Worship assistants for next Sunday, January 1, 2017

Greeters and Ushers Linda Flood and Sue Kaufmann

Acolyte Julia Bullwinkle

Nursery Care

Counters

Coffee Hour Burdie Gillern

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St. John's Lutheran Church

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