



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



2nd Sunday of Advent

December 4, 2016

10:30 Holy Communion

Today we read the account of Jesus' birth from Matthew's gospel. While this is a Christmas text, we'll discover that it means something far deeper than we usually consider. From where does Jesus come? What does that mean for us? And how do we connect to Immanuel, God with us?

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 Light the Candle
(For music turn to Hymn 57 in the Songbook binder)

- 1. Light the candle as a symbol
of the Light that leads the way;
For each candle is a symbol
of the hope that's ours to-day.
As we strike the match
and light the wick,
come Spirit shine bright.
Grant that all may see from the darkness
Your Gift, Your Truth, Your Light.
Emmanuel, son of the Father,
Come to us now, Savior and Lord.**
- 2. Light the candle as a symbol
of the Light that leads the way;
For each candle is a symbol
of the peace that's ours today.
As we strike the match
and light the wick,
come Spirit shine bright.
Grant that all may see from the darkness
Your Gift, Your Truth, Your Light.
Your Gift, Your Light.**

Text and music: Maureen Griepentrog; Copyright 1991 Treble C Music; CCLI #2982867

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.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God;
who comes to wake us from sleep.
who leads us into the light of grace.

C: Amen.

P: Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.

(A moment of silence for reflection)

P: God of all time,

C: we confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us. We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of justice and peace. In your mercy forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your light and to seek the things that will endure until Christ comes again in glory. Amen.

P: Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. In Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven and all things are made new. Rejoice in this good news!

C: Amen

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

† WORD †

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

A: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. You call us to prepare your way, for the kingdom of heaven is near. Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath. Baptize us with the fire of your Spirit, that we may be a light shining in the darkness welcoming others as Christ has welcomed us, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.

C: Amen

As the second 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**

First Reading Isaiah 7:13-17

¹³Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

¹⁷The LORD will bring on you and on your people and on your ancestral house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria."

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 2 (*Read responsively*)

L: Why is this strife among nations?

Why this pointless scheming?

**C: Kings stand against God,
nobles plot together
against the Lord's anointed:**

L: "Let us break these fetters,
let us cast off these chains!"

**C: High above the earth
God laughs in mockery,**

L: speaking in anger
striking them with terror:

**C: "On Zion, my holy mountain,
I anoint my king."**

L: I will repeat the Lord's decree:

"You are my son,
today I give you birth.

**C: Ask and the nations are yours,
even the far-off lands.**

L: You will strike them with an iron rod,
shatter them like clay pots.”

**C: Kings, come to your senses;
rulers, take heed.**

L: Serve the Lord with joy,
tremble in awe,
bow at God’s feet,

**C: for if you provoke God’s anger,
you will perish in a flash.
How much better
to find shelter in God!**

Gospel Acclamation (Matthew 1:23b)

**C: Alleluia. They shall name him Emmanuel, which means, God is
with us. Alleluia.**

Gospel Reading Matthew 1:18-25

The gospel is announced:

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

C: Glory to you O Lord.

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,”

which means, “God is with us.” ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

After the reading:

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came
(For music turn to Hymn 265 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
with wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:
“All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favored lady.” Gloria!**
2. **“For know a blessed mother thou shall be,
all generations laud and honor thee;
thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
most highly favored lady.” Gloria!**
3. **Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;
“To me be as it pleaseth God,” she said.
“My soul shall laud and magnify God’s holy name.”
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!**
4. **Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
in Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk through-out the world will ever say:
“Most highly favored lady,” Gloria!**

Text: Basque carol, para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924; Music” Basque carol, arr. C. Edgar Pettman, 1865-1943 and John Wickham

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.**

Prayers of the Church

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: We share that peace with one another.

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

† MEAL †

Offering & Special Music *In the Bleak Midwinter* text by Christina Rossetti (c. 1872), music by Gustav Holst

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: 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.

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. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, though whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. 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.**

Invitation to Communion

P: Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you. Share in the feast of salvation.

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)

254 *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus (Red Hymnal)*

272 *Lo, How a Rose (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 for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world, announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: 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 We Will Wait

(for music, turn to Hymn 56 in the Songbook binder)

1. **We will wait with ever watchful eyes.**
We will wait with ever serving lives.
We will wait with ever open hearts.
We will greet You.
2. **We will greet You with ever thank-ful tears.**
We will greet You with ever lessening fears.
We will greet You with ever hopeful joy.
We will welcome You.
We will welcome You! We will sing!
We will welcome You! We will sing!
3. **We will welcome You as prophesied.**
We will welcome You into our lives.
We will welcome lessons that You teach.
We will sing for You.

4. We will sing while we wait here on earth.
 We will sing to greet You at Your birth.
 We will sing to welcome You, the gift.
 We will follow You.
 We will welcome You. We will sing!
 We will welcome You! We will sing!

Text and music: Julie Hennies Clark, Larry Olson, David Lee Brown; Copyright 1992 Julia Hennies Clark/Dakota Road Music; CCLI # 1941957

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	Sam Ehrlinger
Altar Care	Linda Thompson
Communion Assistants	Sue Kaufmann and Linda Flood
Nursery Care	Kristi Bullwinkle
Counters	Bruce Boncke and Art Fields
Coffee Hour	Marcia Zavacki

Worship assistants for next Sunday, December 11

Greeters and Ushers	John and Linda Thompson
Acolyte	Scott Wilmot
Nursery Care	Beth Perdan
Counters	Beth Perdan and Bettina Kalish
Coffee Hour	Judy Sax and Babette Huber

Scripture readings from the *New Revised Standard Version Bible* copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States. Psalm from *The Psalter* copyright 1994, Liturgical Training Publications. Variable worship texts from *Sundays and Seasons 2017* copyright 2016 Augsburg Fortress.

St. John's Lutheran Church
888 County Road 9, Victor, NY 14564
stjohnsvictor.com (585) 924-5192
The Rev. Jonathan Deibler, Pastor
Heidi Griffith, Music Director