



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



2nd Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2019

10:30 Service of the Word

Today we read the account of Jesus' birth from Matthew's gospel. While this is a Christmas text, we'll discover that it doesn't talk about Jesus' birth at all. Instead, the story is more about Joseph and the dilemma he faces as struggles with what to do with Mary. We'll discover something of what it meant to be a faithful Jew and also see forward to what the life of the unborn baby will say about God being 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.

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 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)

A: Why is this strife among nations?

Why this pointless scheming?

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

A: “Let us break these fetters,
let us cast off these chains!”

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

A: speaking in anger
striking them with terror:

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

A: 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.**

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

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

A: 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 Blessed Be the God of Israel
(For music see Hymn 552 in the Red Hymnal)

**1. Blessed be the God of Israel,
who comes to set us free,
who visits us and redeems us,
and grants us liberty.**

**The prophets spoke of mercy,
of freedom and release;
God shall fulfill the promise
to bring our people peace.**

**2. Now from the house of David
a child of grace has come,
a Savior who will lead us
to our eternal home.
Before him goes the herald,
forerunner in the way,
the prophet of salvation,
the harbinger of day.**

**3. On all by death imprisoned
the sun begins to rise,
the dawning of forgiveness
upon the sinner's eyes,
to guide the feet of pilgrims
along the paths of peace;
oh, bless our God and Savior
with songs that never cease!**

Text: Michael Perry, 1942-1996, based on Luke 1:68-79. Music: Hal Hopson, B. 1933. Text copyright 1973 Jubilate Hymns, admin. Hope Publishing Company, music copyright 1983 Hope Publishing Company
Text and music: African American Spiritual

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 & Anthem

Emmanuel Soon Will Appear – by Nancy Price and Don Besig

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 Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn
(For music turn to Hymn 242 in the Red Hymnal)

- 1. Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn,
for angels herald its dawning.
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born,
behold! The Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor,
to bring all hearts together,
he opens wide the heav'nly door
and lives now inside us forever.**

2. **To us, to all in sorrow and fear,
Emmanuel comes a-singing,
his humble song is quiet and near,
yet fills the earth with its ringing;
music to heal the broken soul
and hymns of loving-kindness,
the thunder of his anthems roll
to shatter all hatred and blindness.**

3. **In darkest night his coming shall be,
when all the world is despairing,
as morning light so quiet and free,
so warm and gentle and caring.
Then shall the mute break forth in song,
the lame shall leap in wonder,
the weak be raised above the strong,
and weapons be broken asunder.**

4. **Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night,
though dark the winter and cheerless,
the rising sun shall crown you with light,
be strong and loving and fearless.
Love be our song and love our prayer
and love our endless story;
may God fill ev'ry day we share
and bring us at last into glory.**

Text and music: Marty Haugen, Copyright 1983 GIA Publications, Inc.

Dismissal

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

C: God's Work. Our Hands.

IT'S LIKE JESUS
IS THE **BEST** AND
HIGHEST BEING
IMAGINABLE!

HE HAS GREATER
AUTHORITY THAN YOU
CAN IMAGINE.

AND THEN HE
OFFERS HIS LIFE
FOR OURS.

UNIMAGINABLE!



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COLOSSIANS 1:11-20

Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers	Jim and Karen Spawton
Acolyte	Jacob Kurilovitch
Nursery Care	Laura Stoup
Counters	Tim Brown and Bill Hagerman
Coffee Hour	Becky Nohe, Ella Schuller, Joy Lethbridge

Worship assistants for next Sunday, December 15, 2019

Greeters and Ushers	Sally Mansfield and Helen Crown
Acolyte	Jonathan Buch
Altar Care	Linda Thompson
Communion Assistants	Sarah DeMuzio and Tricia Kolczynski
Nursery Care	Judy VanDeVelde
Counters	Nancy and Ivan Shuler
Coffee Hour	Liz Brown and Linda Thompson

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