

# **St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church**

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PASTOR: The Rev. James E. Person, 717-712-8191

Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Eve  
December 24, 2022

**Please silence all electronic devices.**

**WELCOME!** Please observe Silent Meditation during the Prelude.

**PERSONAL HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICES ARE NOW AVAILABLE.** Please see an usher if you have trouble hearing the service.

## **INTRODUCTION**

*In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.*

**GATHERING**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PRELUDE**– *Air on Greensleeves: What Child is This?*

*16th Century English Tune*

Stand **HYMN #283** *O, Come, All Ye Faithful*

Stand **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation.

C **Amen.**

P Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God  
our Savior, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P God of life,

C **you promise good news of great joy for all people,  
and call us to be messengers of your peace.**

**We confess that too often we hoard our joy,  
our resources, and our security.**

**We nurture conflict and build barriers.**

**We neglect the needs of our neighbors  
and ignore the groaning of creation.**

**Have mercy on us.**

**Where we are self-centered, open our hearts.**

**Where we are reluctant, give us courage.**

**Where we are cynical, restore our trust.**

**Renew us with your grace**

**and give us again the hope of eternal life in you.**

C **Amen.**

Hear the good news:

We are children of God and heirs of God's promises  
through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

In + Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed.

Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth  
shall know the salvation of God.

**C Amen.**

Stand **GREETING**

**P** Today Christ is born: Alleluia, alleluia! 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.**

**Hymn #289** *Angels We Have Heard On High*

**PRAYER OF THE DAY** - Let us pray . . .

**A** Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with  
the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we  
may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day  
wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus  
Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy  
Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

**FIRST LESSON- Isaiah 9:2-7**

*This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope  
based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise  
While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real  
basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the  
Lord of hosts will do this!*

A reading from Isaiah

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.

<sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.

<sup>4</sup>For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

<sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup>For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup>His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onward and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## **SECOND LESSON- Titus 2:11-14**

*The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity. Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior's final appearance.*

*A reading from Titus*

<sup>11</sup>The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup>He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## **Candle Lighting**

Stand **HYMN #281** *Silent Night*

## **GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-14**

*God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace*

The Holy Gospel according to St Luke the 2nd Chapter

C **Glory to you O Lord**

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph

also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

P The gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

### SERMON

**HYMN #279** *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**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.**

## **THE PRAYERS**

**A God of Grace**

**C hear our prayer.**

**A Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in  
Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the  
mercy of God.**

**C Amen.**

## MEAL

P The peace of Christ be with you always.  
C **And also with you.**

Stand **OFFERING PRAYER** - Let us pray . . .

A God of abundance,  
receive and bless these gifts we have offered.  
Join our hearts with the song of the angels,  
and gather us at your table of celebration.  
Strengthen us to share with all the world  
the abundance of your grace upon grace,  
poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.  
C **Amen.**

## THE 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.**

**PREFACE** - It is indeed right . . .

C **Holy, holy, holy Lord. God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna.  
Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he  
who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in  
the highest.**



## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### LORD'S PRAYER

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P      Glory to God in the highest!  
         Come to the table of peace.

Spoken **LAMB OF GOD**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

Stand **COMMUNION BLESSING**

### POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A      God our redeemer,  
you have fed us at this table  
with gifts of grace, truth, and life.  
As you have gathered us in joy,  
send us forth as messengers of your peace.  
Make us shine with the good news of your glory,  
born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C      **Amen.**

## SENDING

### BLESSING

P God bless you and keep you,  
+ Jesus grant you grace and truth,  
and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts,  
now and forever.

C **Amen.**

**HYMN #267** *Joy To the World*

### DISMISSAL

P Christ the Savior is born!  
Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

C **We will. Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** *Ding Dong! Merrily on High*

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