

**Christmas Eve**  
**December 24, 2020 5:30 P.M.**  
**St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA**

**ENTRANCE HYMN: OH, COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL**

*Oh, come all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant!*  
*Oh, come ye, oh come ye to Bethlehem;*  
*Come and behold him Born the king of angels: Refrain*  
*Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,*  
*Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

*The highest most holy, Light of light eternal, Born of a virgin, to mortal he comes; Son of the Father*  
*Now in flesh appearing! Refrain*

*Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation*  
*Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God in the highest: Refrain*

*Yea, Lord we greet thee, Born this happy morning Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!*  
*Word of the Father Now in flesh appearing: Refrain*

**CHRISTMAS DIALOG**

- P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
C: **Amen**  
P: The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory.  
C: **Oh, come, let us worship him.**  
P: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.  
C: **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.**  
P: Those who lived in a land of deep darkness--on them light has shined.  
C: **We have seen Christ's glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.**  
P: For a child has been born for us, a son given to us.  
C: **What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.**  
P: Today Christ is born; today salvation has appeared.  
C: **Glory to God in the highest! Alleluia!**

**PRAYER**

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 only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

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

The people who walk in darkness will see a great light. For those who live in a land of deep darkness, a light will shine. You will enlarge the nation of Israel, and its people will rejoice and the harvest and like warriors dividing the plunder. For you will break the yoke of their slavery and lift the heavy burden from their shoulders. You will break the oppressor's rod, just as you did when you

destroyed the army of Midian. The boots of the warrior and the uniforms bloodstained by war will be burned. They will be fuel for the fire.

For unto us a child is born, to us a son given. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**PSALM: Psalm 96 (Read responsively)**

O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

**Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day,**

Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples.

**For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; he is to be revered above all gods.**

For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the Lord made the heavens.

**Honor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.**

Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

**Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts.**

Worship the Lord in holy splendor; tremble before him; all the earth.

**Say among the nations, "The Lord is King! The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved. He will judge the peoples with equity."**

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it.

**Let the field exult, and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the Lord; for he is coming,**

For he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with his truth.

**HYMN: HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING**

*Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new Born King;  
Peace on Earth and mercy mild. God and sinners reconciled."*

*Joyful, all you nations rise; Join the triumph of the skies;  
With angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born king!"*

*Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold him come, Off-spring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see! Hail, incarnate deity!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel!  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born king!"*

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

The holy Gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you O Lord.**

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria. And everyone went to his own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea to Bethlehem, the town of David because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth

to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in bands of cloth and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign for you: You will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth lying in a manger.

Suddenly a great company of heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**HOMILY**

**Antonio**

**Pastor Mel**

**Special Music**

**Wesley Arnold**

**Coventry Carol**

**Choir**

**HYMN: O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM**

*O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see the lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep The silent stars go by;  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight.*

*For Christ is born of Mary, And gathered all above  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep Their watch of wond'ring love.  
O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the king, And peace to all the Earth!*

*How silently, how silently The wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts The blessings of his heav'n.  
No ear may hear his coming; But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive him, still The dear Christ enters in.*

With the whole church on earth, let us profess our faith in the Christmas Creed fitting for this occasion.

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, who flung the stars in their courses and set the world spinning.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ and the beauty of the gospel that began in Bethlehem.**

**I believe in Him whom the kings of the earth ignored and the proud can never understand; whose path was among the common people, whose welcome came from a hungry heart.**

**I believe in Him who proclaimed the love of God to be invincible, whose cradle was a mother's arms, whose home in Nazareth had love for its only wealth, who by his love and sacrifice on the cross brought sinners back and lifted human weakness to meet the strength of God.**

**I confess my everlasting need of God  
the need for forgiveness for my greed and selfishness,  
the need of life for an empty soul,  
the need of warmth for a heart grown cold.**

**I acknowledge the glory that is like Christ  
the steadfastness of friends,  
the blessedness of home,  
the beauty of compassion,  
the courage of those who dare to resist all bitterness and hatred.**

**Finally, I believe in the power of the Holy Spirit within us.**

**Amen**

#### **THE PRAYERS**

**P:** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

*A brief silence.*

**P:** For the increase of peace among the nations, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Christ the Lord, bring peace on earth.**

**P:** For the spread of the joyful news that the Savior has come, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Christ the Lord, bring joy to the world.**

**P:** For the poor and those who find no room, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Christ the Lord, bring help to the poor.**

**P:** For the renewal of the whole church in unity, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Christ the Lord, bring renewal to the church.**

**P:** For the light of Christmas to shine on us all, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Christ the Lord, bring us the light of your truth.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

**P:** Rejoicing in your birth and trusting in your mercy, O Christ, Light of the world, we commend all for whom we pray.

**C: Amen**

#### **Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Turn to those around you and share the peace.*

## HOLY COMMUNION

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 God thanks and praise.**

P: Thanks and praise be to You, our Father, almighty Creator, merciful Lord, God of promise and fulfillment. Of old, your faithful people waited for the day of your visitation, manifest at last when the time had fully come and You sent forth Jesus Christ, Your Son. Having seen His glory, now we wait for the day of consummation, when He will come again as Judge and King.

### **Words of Institution**

In the night in which He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his disciples saying, "Take and eat. This is my body broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And 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."

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Lord remember us in your kingdom and help us to pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive 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.**

*All baptized Christians who are accustomed to receiving the Body and Blood of Jesus in Holy Communion are invited to share in this sacred meal. In this days of the pandemic, each member will be using the single cup with the wafer and grape juice. We will partake of the communion elements simultaneously. First, peel off the thin cellophane layer to expose the wafer. "This is the body of Christ, broken for you." Now peel off the next layer to expose the grape juice. "This is the blood of Christ shed for you."*

*Post Communion blessing*

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you in his grace now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

You may be seated as we listen to the reading of the Incarnation Gospel, John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And 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.

**HYMN: SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT!**

*Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright  
Round your virgin mother and child. Holy infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.*

*Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;  
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heav'nly hosts sing Alleluia!  
Christ, the savior, is born! Christ, the savior is born!*

*Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from your holy face, With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord at your birth.*

**Es Ist Ein Ros Entsprungen**

**Choir**

**SENDING HYMN: JOY TO THE WORLD**

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive its King;  
Let every heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.*

*Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,  
Where fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

*No more let sin and sorrow grow Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make his blessings flow Far as the curse is found,*

*Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as the curse is found.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness And wonders of his love,  
And wonders of his love, And wonders, wonders of his love.*

**P:** Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, keep you in his light and truth and love now and forever.

**C:** **Amen**