



The Nativity of Our Lord

December 25, 2020

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Seymour Indiana

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

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Welcome to Worship! St. John's Gospel teaches us about the life of the Word of God. The Word was in the beginning with God. The Word was God. The Word became flesh, and his name is Jesus. Jesus comes into our dark and death-filled world and makes all things new, as far as the curse is found. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it. This is the joy and gift of Christmas, and no one and nothing can take that from you.

A **Nursery** is available below the entrance on Walnut St. and a Comfort Room is in the Atrium. The Nursery is not staffed at this time.

Cell Phones: *Please remember to silence cell phones and electronics during worship.*

About Holy Communion: If you are not a confirmed member of the Lutheran Church, please contact an Elder or Pastor before Communing. An usher will dismiss your row to move forward to the person serving the bread, and then to the person serving the individual cup. You may then dispose of the cup and return by the center aisle.

Large Print bulletins and **Hearing devices** are available from an usher.

+ DIVINE SERVICE III, Page 184 +

THE PRELUDE: "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come" - F. W. Zachau

THE HYMN: "Now Sing We, Now Rejoice"

Hymn 386

- 1 Now sing we, now rejoice, Now raise to heav'n our voice;
He from whom joy streameth Poor in a manger lies;
Not so brightly beameth The sun in yonder skies.
Thou my Savior art! Thou my Savior art!
- 2 Come from on high to me; I cannot rise to Thee.
Cheer my wearied spirit, O pure and holy Child;
Through Thy grace and merit, Blest Jesus, Lord most mild,
Draw me unto Thee! Draw me unto Thee!
- 3 Now through His Son doth shine The Father's grace divine.
Death was reigning o'er us Through sin and vanity
Till He opened for us A bright eternity.
May we praise Him there! May we praise Him there!
- 4 Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'nly ground?
Where the angels singing With all His saints unite,
Sweetest praises bringing In heav'nly joy and light.
Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!

THE INVOCATION, CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION: Page 184

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

THE EXHORTATION:

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

THE CONFESSION OF SINS

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

THE ABSOLUTION

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

THE HYMN OF PRAISE: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Hymn 380

1 Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With the_angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

ref Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail the_incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel!

3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth.

THE PRAYER FOR THE DAY: (We pray together) **Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

THE WORD OF THE MONTH: (We speak together) **The Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. Isaiah 7:14**

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 52:7-10 (Page 613)

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

L: This is the Word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God!**

THE EPISTLE READING: Hebrews 1:1-6 (Page 1001)

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son"? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."

L: This is the Word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God!**

THE ALLELUIA AND VERSE, Page 190 C Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

THE GOSPEL: John 1:1-14 (Page 886) C: (sing) Glory be to Thee, O Lord!

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 were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord. C: **(sing) Praise be to Thee, O Christ!**

THE NICENE CREED: Page 191

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE HYMN: "Of the Father's Love Begotten"

Hymn 384

- 1 Of the Father's love begotten Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending He,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see Evermore and evermore.
- 2 Oh, that birth forever blessèd, When the virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, Bore the Savior of our race,

And the babe, the world's Redeemer, First revealed His sacred face
Evermore and evermore.

3 This is He whom seers in old time Chanted of with one accord,
Whom the voices of the prophets Promised in their faithful word.
Now He shines, the long-expected;
Let creation praise its Lord
Evermore and evermore.

4 O ye heights of heav'n, adore Him; Angel hosts, His praises sing.
Pow'rs, dominions, bow before Him And extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent,
Ev'ry voice in concert ring
Evermore and evermore.

5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Father, And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving And unending praises be,
Honor, glory, and dominion,
And eternal victory
Evermore and evermore. Amen.

THE SERMON: "The Light Shines"

THE PRAYERS

+++ **HOLY COMMUNION:** Pages 194-202;

Preface

P The Lord be with you. C **And with thy spirit.**

P Lift up your hearts. C **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God. C **It is meet and right so to do.**

Sanctus

C **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;**

heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

THE PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

AGNUS DEI

C **O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.**

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

Before 1st Distribution: "Sing, O Sing, This Blessed Morn" John Carter

Distribution Hymns: 388, 381, 379

388 Go Tell It on the Mountain

- ref Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and ev'rywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born!
- 1 While shepherds kept their watching O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens There shone a holy light. Refrain.
- 2 The shepherds feared and trembled When lo, above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus That hailed our Savior's birth. Refrain.
- 3 Down in a lonely manger The humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation That blessed Christmas morn. Refrain.

381 Let Our Gladness Have No End

- 1 Let our gladness have no end, alleluia!
For to earth did Christ descend, alleluia!
- ref On this day God gave us
Christ, His Son, to save us;
Christ, His Son, to save us.
- 2 Prophesied in days of old, alleluia!
God has sent Him as foretold, alleluia! Refrain
- 3 See, the loveliest blooming rose, alleluia!
From the branch of Jesse grows, alleluia! Refrain
- 4 Into flesh is made the Word, alleluia!
He, our refuge and our Lord, alleluia! Refrain

379 O Come, All Ye Faithful

- 1 O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem; Come and behold Him
Born the king of angels: Refrain
- ref O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!
- 2 Highest, most holy, Light of Light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes; Son of the Father
Now in flesh appearing! Refrain
- 3 Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God
In the highest: Refrain
- 4 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

THE NUNC DIMITTIS

- C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word,
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a
light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,**

as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

THE THANKSGIVING

P O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good, C: and His mercy endureth forever.

THE SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you. C: And with thy spirit.

THE BENEDICAMUS

P Bless we the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

THE BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C Amen.

THE CLOSING HYMN: "Joy to the World"

Hymn 387

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry 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.
- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- 3 No more let sins and sorrows 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.
- 4 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.

THE POSTLUDE: "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come" - J. Pachelbel

Preacher: Vicar Fredstrom **Liturgists:** Pastor Blomenberg & Pastor Rodriguez

Lector: Pastor Bloch **Organist:** Mr. Paul Scheiderer

Special Music: Adult Choir

Acolyte: Evan Christopher **Ushers:** Max Whitsett, Larry Stahl, Robert Allman, Randy 'Dude' Dittmer, Dennis Klinge, Karl Anderson **Audio/Video:** Don Luecke, Kelly Luecke

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A blessed Christmas to each of you!

Special thanks to all who added beauty to our church through the gift of poinsettias. They provide a fitting reminder of loved ones and the Love that came to us in Christ.

The church office will be closed Friday, December 25 and Friday, January 1.

Join us for New Year's Eve worship Thursday, 12/31, at 7 pm.

Christmas Day Broadcast is sponsored in loving memory of Earl Goecker, by Hulda.

Christmas Day Altar Flowers are sponsored in memory of loved ones, by Janet Cooper & Beckie & Jerry Anderson and families.

Immanuel's mission is to connect people to the life, calling, and community of Christ. Founded in 1870, Immanuel is a member of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. We believe the Bible is God's inspired Word and that we are saved by grace, through faith in Jesus Christ, who died for our sins. Please take a brochure from the Information Center, or visit us on-line at www.immanuelseymour.com.