



December 24, 2022

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Mrs. Alex Zaring



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT

December 24, 2022

Welcome to Worship! Tonight we celebrate a gift from God to us! God gives us not a wrapped package of things we want that will ultimately wear out. He gives us love that will never fail, life that will never end, hope that will never fade. It is the gift of Himself. May we gladly receive Him in faith and praise Him!

A **"Wee Wiggle Room"** is available below the entrance on Walnut St. and a Comfort Room is in the Atrium.

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

Holy Communion will be offered. The Common Cup will be offered to those who desire it and will be cleansed and rotated between persons. If you prefer an individual cup, please take one from the tray. Wine with alcohol removed is in the tray center. If you are not a confirmed member of the Lutheran Church, please contact an elder or pastor before communing.

+ DIVINE SERVICE, Page 151 +

THE PRELUDE: "The Herald Angels Sing" -Joel Raney

THE HYMN: "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Hymn 379

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 CONFESSION, ABSOLUTION, KYRIE: Page 151-153 (Stand, if you are able)
Invocation

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

C Amen.

Exhortation

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Confession of Sins

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Absolution

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

THE KYRIE

P In peace let us pray to the Lord. **C Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord. **C Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord. **C Lord, have mercy.**

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord. **C Lord, have mercy.**

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **C Amen.**

THE HYMN OF PRAISE: "Angels We Have Heard on High"

Hymn 368

1 Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.

ref Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heav'nly song?

- 3 Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

THE PRAYER FOR THE DAY: (We pray together)

O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 7:10-14

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, "Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test." And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

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

THE EPISTLE READING: 1 John 4:7-16

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

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

Please stand as the Gospel is carried into the midst of the congregation.

THE GOSPEL PROCESSIONAL: "Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming"

THE GOSPEL READING: Luke 2:1-20 C: (sing) Glory to You, O Lord!

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. And in the same region there

were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C (Sing): Praise to You, O Christ!**

THE GOSPEL RECESSIONAL: "Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming"

THE HYMN: "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!" Refrain

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! Refrain
- 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. Refrain

THE SERMON: "A Good Sign"

THE NICENE CREED: Page 158

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 PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

THE COMMUNION LITURGY: Pages 160-166;

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 Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary... evermore praising You and saying:

C Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r 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.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING, LORD'S PRAYER AND WORD'S OF OUR LORD

P The peace of the Lord be with you always. C Amen.

C 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.

Anthem: "Still, Still, Still" -Joseph Martin; **Distribution Hymns:** 387, 366, 364, 376, 358

387 Joy to the World

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.

Text: Public domain

366 It Came upon the Midnight Clear

- 1 It came upon the midnight clear, That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to all, From heav'n's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay To hear the angels sing.
- 2 Still through the cloven skies they come With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heav'nly music floats O'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains They bend on hov'ring wing,
And ever o'er its babel sounds The blessèd angels sing.
- 3 All you, beneath your heavy load, By care and guilt bent low,
Who toil along a dreary way With painful steps and slow:
Look up, for golden is the hour, Come swiftly on the wing,
The Prince was born to bring you peace; Of Him the angels sing.
- 4 For lo, the days have come to pass By prophets seen of old,
When down into the circling years Came Christ as was foretold.
His word of peace shall to the earth God's ancient promise bring,
And all who take this gift will hear The song the angels sing.

Text: Public domain

364 Away in a Manger

- 1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay, The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
- 2 The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky, And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
- 3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care, And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

Text: Public domain

376 Once in Royal David's City

- 1 Once in royal David's city Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby In a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

- 2 He came down to earth from heaven, Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable, And His cradle was a stall;
With the poor and mean and lowly Lived on earth our Savior holy.
- 3 For He is our childhood's pattern, Day by day like us He grew;
He was little, weak, and helpless, Tears and smiles like us He knew;
And He feels for all our sadness, And He shares in all our gladness.
- 4 And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His own redeeming love;
For that child so dear and gentle Is our Lord in heav'n above;
And He leads His children on To the place where He is gone.
- 5 Not in that poor, lowly stable With the oxen standing by
Shall we see Him, but in heaven, Set at God's right hand on high.
Then like stars His children, crowned, All in white, His praise will sound!

Text: Public domain

359 Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

- 1 Lo, how a rose e'er blooming From tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming As prophets long have sung,
It came, a flow'ret bright, Amid the cold of winter,
When half-spent was the night.
- 2 Isaiah 'twas foretold it, The rose I have in mind;
With Mary we behold it, The virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright, She bore to us a Savior,
When half-spent was the night.
- 3 This flow'r, whose fragrance tender With sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor The darkness ev'rywhere.
True man, yet very God, From sin and death He saves us
And lightens ev'ry load.
- 4 O Savior, child of Mary, Who felt our human woe;
O Savior, King of glory, Who dost our weakness know:
Bring us at length we pray To the bright courts of heaven,
And to the endless day.

Text: Public domain

358 From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

- 1 "From heav'n above to earth I come To bear good news to ev'ry home;
Glad tidings of great joy I bring, Whereof I now will say and sing:
- 2 "To you this night is born a child Of Mary, chosen virgin mild;
This little child of lowly birth Shall be the joy of all the earth.
- 3 "This is the Christ, our God Most High, Who hears your sad and bitter cry;
He will Himself your Savior be From all your sins to set you free.

- 4 "He will on you the gifts bestow Prepared by God for all below,
That in His kingdom, bright and fair, You may with us His glory share.
- 5 "These are the signs that you shall mark: The swaddling clothes and manger dark.
There you will find the infant laid By whom the heav'ns and earth were made."
- 6 How glad we'll be to find it so! Then with the shepherds let us go
To see what God for us has done In sending us His own dear Son.
- 7 Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes, And see what in the manger lies.
Who is this child, so young and fair? It is the Christ Child lying there.
- 8 Welcome to earth, O noble Guest, Through whom the sinful world is blest!
You came to share my misery That You might share Your joy with me.
- 9 Ah, Lord, though You created all, How weak You are, so poor and small,
That You should choose to lay Your head Where lowly cattle lately fed!
- 10 Were earth a thousand times as fair And set with gold and jewels rare,
It would be far too poor and small A cradle for the Lord of all.
- 11 Instead of soft and silken stuff You have but hay and straw so rough
On which as King, so rich and great, To be enthroned in royal state.
- 12 And so it pleases You to see This simple truth revealed to me:
That worldly honor, wealth, and might Are weak and worthless in Your sight.
- 13 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child, Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
A quiet chamber set apart For You to dwell within my heart.
- 14 My heart for very joy must leap; My lips no more can silence keep.
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue That sweetest ancient cradlesong:
- 15 Glory to God in highest heav'n, Who unto us His Son has giv'n!
While angels sing with pious mirth A glad new year to all the earth.

Text: Public domain

THE POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

**C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ryone what He has done.
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.
He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.**

THE POST COMMUNION COLLECT

THE CANDLE LIGHTING:

L: *Rejoice! Jesus, the Light of the World, has come to free us from the darkness of sin and death! Jesus said: "You are the light of the world....So let your light shine before others, that they may see your good works and give praise to your Father in Heaven." (Matthew 5:14-16) May God the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.*

C: Amen! Glory to God in the Highest! And peace to His people on earth!

(The pastor takes the light from the Christ candle to the ushers, who pass the light to the people. Tip only the unlighted candle. Do not tip the lighted candle.)

After all candles have been lighted, we join in singing the closing hymn.

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright,

Round yon 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 Heavenly host 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 Thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace

Jesus, Lord at Thy birth! Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth!

After the hymn is sung, please extinguish candles carefully and give to ushers as you leave.

THE POSTLUDE: "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come" -S. Drummond Wolff

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Preacher: Pastor Blomenberg **Lector:** Vicar Farney

Liturgists: Pastor Bloch, Pastor Fredstrom, Pastor Rodriguez

Organist: Mr. Paul Scheiderer **Special Music:** Adult Choir, Brass Ensemble, Handbells

Ushers: Kurt Fenneberg, Brent Kilgas, Ben Thompson, Brian Burbrink, Baron Bullard, Dale VonDielingen, Greg Wehmiller, Roger Wehmiller, Mitchell Kilgas, Will Borcharding, Dustin Nichols, Tony Combs, Gary Schneider, Jay Hubbard, Daniel Luecke, Jed Strange **Counting:** Craig Moore, Luke Nolting, Brian Rohr, Mark Nolting, Chad Cooper, Parker Wiethoff **Altar Guild:** Elinor Brown **Video/Audio:** Kevin Foster, Walter Batman

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*A blessed Christmas to each of you! Join us for worship tomorrow, Christmas Day,
at 9:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. as we praise God for the gift of Christ!*

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