

“Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.”

~Luke 2:10-11

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

Christmas Day – December 25, 2022

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Rev. Katie McNeal, Presiding Minister

Maizy Fisher, Director of Music Ministries

*We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning!
Know that you are welcome here just as you are*

*If you are looking for a church to call home, why not consider making this one your own?
If this is your first time visiting us, please fill out the visitor information card stapled to
your bulletin.*

*Everything you need to follow worship can be found in this bulletin. As you are
comfortable, please rise when there is an * and join in the congregational responses,
noted in **bold**.*

*All songs are marked with numbers. The red book in the pew has all the songs. Look for
the large number in the upper corner of the page to find the correct song.
Hand sanitizer is available in each pew.*

*If you need a restroom, restrooms are located on the bottom floor at the far side of the
building from the elevator. Restrooms may be accessed either via the stairs in the rear of
the sanctuary, the stairs by the Greeting Area, or the elevator.*

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME

Family of faith, Merry Christmas and welcome to worship! Just last night we gathered together to celebrate Christmas Eve. We lit candles. We told the story of Jesus. We sang along with the angels. Many of you were here with us. And now, just a few hours later, we are back! Christ has been born. God is good, and our joy overflows.

Some of us may be a little extra tired or squirmy or joyful this morning. Some of us may be eager to return home to family, and some of us may be eager to be here with our church family. Know that however you feel today, whatever joy or struggles, whatever energy or weariness you bring into this space, God welcomes all of it, and we do too. We're so glad you're here.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

I have good news!

I have good news!

Christ is born!

Christ is born!

Joy is alive!

Joy is alive!

God is here!

God is here!

Thanks be to God.

Thanks be to God.

Amen.

Amen.

***SHARING THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

***SONG *Cold December Flies Away* (ELW 299)**



1 Cold De - cem - ber flies a - way at the rose - red splen - dor.
 2 In the hope - less time of sin shad - ows deep had fall - en.
 3 Now the bud has come to bloom, and the world a - wak - ens.



A - pril's crown - ing glo - ry breaks while the whole world won - ders
 All the world lay un - der death. Eyes were closed in sleep - ing.
 In the lil - y's pur - est flow'r dwells a won - drous fra - grance.



at the ho - ly un - seen pow'r of the tree which bears the
 But, when all seemed lost in night, came the sun whose gold - en
 And it spreads to all the earth from the mo - ment of its



flow'r. On the bless - ed tree blooms the red - dest flow'r. On the tree blooms the
 light brings un - end - ing joy, brings the end - less joy of our hope, high - est
 birth; and its beau - ty lives. In the flow'r it lives, in the flow'r, and it



rose here in love's own gar - den, full and strong in glo - ry.
 hope, of our hope's bright dawn - ing, Son be - lov'd of heav - en.
 spreads in its heav'n - ly bright - ness sweet per - fume de - light - ful.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

God of hope,

You came into a world that is far from peace and bad at love, and still you are here. So as we gather together on this Christmas morning, we pray that you will grant us strength and your spirit of joy in our hearts, so that we might fight for peace, love with zeal, and live in gratitude. In your Holy and loving name, we pray, Amen.

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

Blessed be God's name forever. Amen.

God, we forget the birth of your son Jesus Christ all too quickly, getting caught up in our own busyness, bad news, and worry. Despite our forgetfulness, you claim us and we are yours. So in your boundless mercy hear our voices, as we confess our sins.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of life,

**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. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

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.

Amen.

A REFLECTION ON JOHN 1:1-14

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

SONG *Once in Royal David's City* (ELW 269)



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,
2 He came down to earth from heav-en who is God and Lord of all,
3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love;
4 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing by,



where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:
and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;
for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;
we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;



Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
with the poor and meek and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.
there his chil - dren gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.

BUILDING THE SCENE

GOSPEL READING: Luke 2:15-21

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

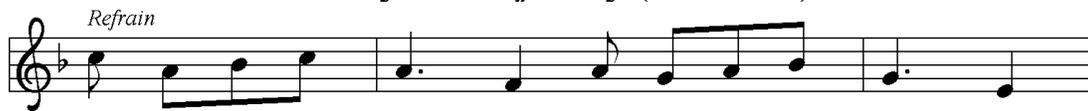
¹⁰But the angel said to [the shepherds], "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" ¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. ²¹After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

The gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ

REFLECTION

***HYMN OF THE DAY *That Boy Child of Mary* (ELW 293)**



That boy - child of Mar - y was born in a sta - ble,



a man - ger his cra - dle in Beth - le - hem.



- 1 What shall we call him, child of the man - ger?
- 2 His name is Je - sus, God ev - er with us,
- 3 How can he save us, how can he help us,
- 4 Gift of the Fa - ther, to hu - man moth - er,



What name is giv - en in Beth - le - hem?
 God giv - en for us in Beth - le - hem.
 born here a - mong us in Beth - le - hem?
 makes him our broth - er in Beth - le - hem.

5 One with the Father,
 he is our Savior,
 heaven-sent helper
 in Bethlehem.

6 Gladly we praise him,
 love and adore him,
 give ourselves to him
 in Bethlehem.

***APOSTLES' CREED**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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**

Friends, we gather now for a time of prayer. In a few moments, I will invite you to lift up both the concerns weighing heavy on your heart as well as deep joys and celebrations. When prompted, please speak your prayers out loud, and as we listen to one another, may we know that God is listening too. Through song and spoken words, let us pray:

***Sung Response: What Child is this Who laid to rest On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom Angels greet with anthems sweet, While shepherds watch are keeping?***

God of love, as we look inwards, toward our own community and personal lives, we are keenly aware of our deep need for you, as well as the countless ways you have already blessed us. We offer our prayers for those whom we know and our local community to you now... *(pause for spoken prayers)*

***Sung Response: So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh, Come Peasant, King to own
Him The King of Kings salvation brings, Let loving hearts enthrone Him.***

God of comfort, our world is crying out from near and far, groaning in pain. Thus we come to you, voicing concerns for our world, your good creation and the people in it. We offer our prayers for those whom we have not yet met and our world to you now... *(pause for spoken prayers)*

***Sung Response: This, this is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and
Angels sing Haste, haste, to bring Him laud, The Babe, the Son of Mary.***

God of abundance, you have given us absolutely everything we have—from the magic of snowfall and tall strong evergreens, to the smell of good food and the sound of laughter. We give you thanks for all that we have in you. Guide us to use the gifts given to us to share your love in this world. We pray you take and use these gifts. Use them for your good so that others may be strengthened like the roots of an evergreen, fed like bellies that never go hungry, and filled with your joy born this Christmas morning. And as you work, mold in us ever more generous hearts. In deep gratitude we pray,

Amen.

***SETTING THE TABLE**

On this day, as we remember Jesus born into this world, we remember that in this one part of the good news of Jesus Christ is all of our experience of Christ – as baby, as teacher, as prophet, as redeemer, as Messiah. And so as we remember Jesus born into this world as a fragile baby, we remember also Jesus' death, resurrection, and ascension. As we celebrate the wonder that God would come among God's people as Emmanuel, God with us, we remember the Jesus knew not just life and joy, but also death and suffering. And we remember the supper he shared with his disciples and the promise of forgiveness and new life present in the bread and wine of that meal and of this meal we gather together to share now.

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh
you have opened the eyes of faith
to a new and radiant vision of your glory,
that, beholding the God made visible,
we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.

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

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray.

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**

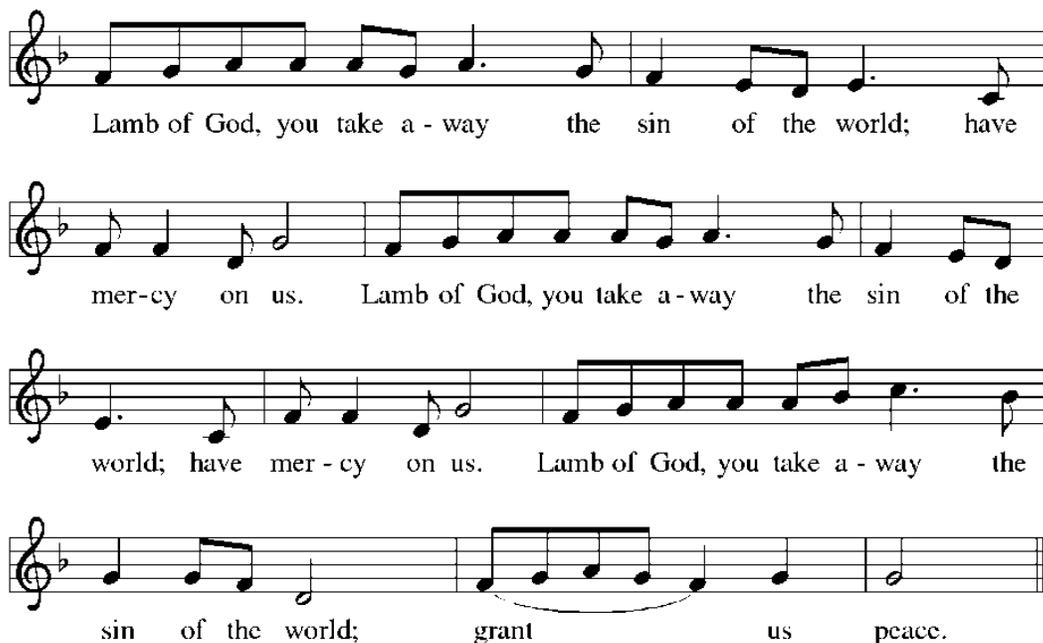
*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life, and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. In response to Jesus' invitation, all are welcome to come forward and experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine. Those who do not receive the bread and wine are invited to come forward for a blessing.

Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available upon request. Communion may also be brought back to the pews for those who are unable to come forward.

COMMUNION SONG *Lamb of God*



The image shows the musical notation for the Communion Song 'Lamb of God'. It consists of four staves of music in a single system, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff contains the lyrics 'Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have'. The second staff contains 'mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the'. The third staff contains 'world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the'. The fourth staff contains 'sin of the world; grant us peace.' The word 'grant' is underlined with a curved line.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN *Let Our Gladness Have No End* (ELW 291)



1 Let our glad - ness have no end, Hal - le - lu - jah!
 2 Proph - e - sies in days of old, Hal - le - lu - jah!
 3 See the love - liest bloom - ing rose, Hal - le - lu - jah!
 4 In - to flesh is made the Word, Hal - le - lu - jah!



for to earth did Christ de - scend. Hal - le - lu - jah!
 God has sent the one fore - told. Hal - le - lu - jah!
 from the branch of Jes - se grows. Hal - le - lu - jah!
 our true ref - uge and our Lord. Hal - le - lu - jah!

Refrain



On this day God gave us Christ, the Son, to



save us; Christ, the Son, to save us.

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

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.
Amen.

***BLESSING**

May God the Creator nourish you and keep you
 may God the Savior grant you grace and truth,
 may God the Spirit send peace upon your hearts,
 + now and forever.
Amen.

***SENDING SONG *Go Tell it on the Mountain* (ELW 290)**

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;



Refrain

be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
 rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
 and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

***DISMISSAL**

Glory to God in the highest!
Peace to God's people on earth!
 Christ the Savior is born!
 Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Altar flowers are from John and Ruth Ann Tully with wishes for the happiest of holidays.

Today's Music

Cold December Flies Away. Text: Catalonian carol; tr. Howard Hawhee, b. 1953, Music: Catalonian carol. Augsburg Fortress / Public Domain.

Once in Royal David's City. Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-1895, Music: Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805-1876. Public Domain.

That Boy-Child of Mary. Text: Tom Colvin, 1925-2000, Music: Malawi traditional; adapt. Tom Colvin. Hope Publishing Company (ASCAP).

Let Our Gladness Have No End. Text: Bohemian carol, 15th cent.; tr. unknown, Music: Bohemian carol, 15th cent.. Public Domain / Augsburg Fortress.

Go Tell It on the Mountain. Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872-1925, stanzas, alt. Music: African American spiritual. Public Domain.

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John 1 Poetic Reflection by Sarah (Are) Speed for A Sanctified Art, *From Generation to Generation* © 2022

Midrash Reflection of the Shepherd by Sarah Are for A Sanctified Art, *The World's Child*