



# The Nativity of Our Lord

December 24, 2021

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Fargo, ND

## AS WE GATHER

*Jesus wasn't just born; he was sent... sent by his Father to seek and to save the lost. Parents are happy just that a child has arrived safely! They rarely have many plans beyond just getting back from the hospital and enjoying their new bundle of joy. But there are plans for Jesus long past the event of his birth. There is a mission for Jesus anchored in ancient prophecy and in the plan of the Father in heaven that will be played out in his life, death and resurrection. And the church celebrates that plan! Christmas Eve is about welcoming the savior of the world! For he has come to bring us all back to God.*

*Prelude, including "O Come, All Ye Faithful," arr. by HH Hopson*

**Opening Hymn** "I Am So Glad When Christmas Comes" (LW 56)

**I am so glad when Christmas comes,  
The night of Jesus' birth,  
When Bethl'em's star shone as the sun  
And angels sang with mirth.**

**The little Child of Bethlehem,  
The King of heav'nly grace,  
Came down from His exalted throne  
To save our fallen race.**

**He's now returned to heav'n above,  
God's Son He is alway;  
He ne'er forgets His little ones  
But hears them when they pray.**

**I too would sing my Savior's praise,  
My joy, my crown, my Lord;  
For He has made me His own child  
By Water and the Word.**

**I love this precious Christmas eve  
And my dear Savior mild  
And shall not forget the truth:  
He loves me as His child.**

**I am so glad when Christmas comes:  
Let anthems fill the air!  
He opens wide for ev'ry child  
His paradise so fair.**

### **Invocation and Opening Sentences**

P: 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.**

P: Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of Lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

**C: In fulfillment of his own purpose, he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creation.**

P: What shall we render to the Lord for all his benefits to us?

**C: Let us lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.**

P: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

**C: His steadfast love endures forever.**

(James 1:17-18; Psalm 116:12-14; Psalm 106:1)

### **Psalm 96**

P: Sing to the LORD a new song;

**C: Sing to the LORD, all the earth.**

P: Sing to the LORD, praise his name;

**C: proclaim his salvation day after day.**

P: Declare his glory among the nations,

**C: His marvelous deeds among all peoples.**

P: For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise;

**C: He is to be feared above all gods.**

P: For all the gods of the nations are idols,

**C: but the LORD made the heavens.**

P: Splendor and majesty are before him;

**C: strength and glory are in his sanctuary.**

P: Ascribe to the LORD, O families of nations,

**C: ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.**

P: Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;

**C: bring an offering and come into his courts.**

P: Worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness;

**C: tremble before him, all the earth.**

P: Say among the nations,

**C: "The LORD reigns."**

P: The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved;

**C: He will judge the peoples with equity.**

P: Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;

**C: let the sea resound, and all that is in it;**

P: let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them.

**C: Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy;**

P: they will sing before the LORD, for he comes,

**C: he comes to judge the earth.**

P: He will judge the world in righteousness

**C: and the peoples in his truth.**

**C: 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.**

### Hymn of Praise “*Angels We Have Heard on High*” *LSB 368*

#### Salutation and Collect of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray...

**C: O God because you once caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light, grant that we who have known the mystery of that Light here on earth may come to the full measure of its joys in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

#### First Reading

*Isaiah 9:2-7*

R: The First reading for Christmas Eve is from Isaiah, chapter nine.

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as men rejoice when dividing the plunder. For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end.

He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and

forever.

The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Second Reading**

*Titus 2:11-14*

R: The Epistle Reading is from Titus, chapter two.

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Special Music** “*On This Day Earth Shall Ring,*” arr. by HH Hopson

*On this day earth shall ring With the song children sing  
To the Lord, Christ our King, Born on earth to save us;  
Him the Father gave us.*

*Ideo-o-o, Ideo-o-o, Ideo gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*His the doom, ours the mirth; When he came down to earth  
Bethlehem saw his birth; Ox and ass beside him  
From the cold would hide him.*

*Ideo-o-o, Ideo-o-o, Ideo gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*On this day angels sing; With their song earth shall ring,  
Praising Christ, Heaven’s King, Peace and Love he gave us.  
Ideo-o-o, Ideo-o-o, Ideo gloria in excelsis Deo! Deo!*

*(Please rise)*

**Holy Gospel**

*Luke 2:1-20*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

**C: 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 cloths 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 to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Suddenly a great company of the 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.”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**Creed** “*Second Article of the Apostle’s Creed with explanation*”

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

*What does this mean? I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in*

everlasting righteousness, innocent, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

**Hymn of the Day** “A Great and Mighty Wonder” *LSB 383*

**Sermon** “He Came Seeking to Save the Lost” *Luke 19:10*

**Hymn of Response** “Once He Came in Blessing” *LSB 333*

**Prayers of the Church**

**Lord’s Prayer**

**Offering** (Please *sign and pass* the green Fellowship book found at the center end of each pew.)

*Special Music: “Wexford Carol,” arr. by Richard Walters*

**Hymn** “Gentle Mary Laid Her Child” *LSB 374*

*Lighting of the candles:*

*Tip only unlit candles to receive the flame from those already lit to avoid spilling wax.*

*The sanctuary lights will be turned down for the singing of Silent Night.*

**Closing Hymn** “Silent Night” *LSB 363*

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 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 Thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

P: As the light of these candles illumines our faces, so the light of Christ is seen in the child lying in the manger at Bethlehem, on the face of the Savior suffering our death in the cross, and soon to be revealed again when He comes from His throne on high to be the Judge of all. He is our light here on earth and the eternal light who enlightens heaven, where there is no need of candle or sun. Rejoice on this night for the light of the world has come, the light who transforms us to shine with the brightness of His glory.

C: **“With unveiled faces we reflect the Lord's glory and are being transformed into His likeness, with ever increasing glory, which comes from the Lord.”**

*(2 Corinthians 3:18)*

P: “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and then cover its light. Instead, they set the lamp on its stand, set up high, so that it lights everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine in the world, that people may see your good works and give praise to your Father in heaven.” *(Matthew 5:14-16)*

P: O, give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: **His steadfast love endures forever.**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

***Please extinguish your candle.***

***The candles will be collected on the way out of sanctuary.***

**Acknowledgments:** All scripture quotations are from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version*, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. (CmasEve-Special-PW)

***Worship Assistants:***

Officiant ..... Pastor Bernie Worrall  
Organist ..... Dr. Katie Rolf  
Special Music..... Sammi Hintz, soloist  
Jonathan Schulz, violin  
(4:15) Vocal Quartet: Sammi Hintz, Diane Heagle, Pastor Schulz, Jacob Schulz  
(6p) Adult Choir, directed by Dr. Katie Rolf  
Usher Teams ..... (4:15) Hass/Esping; (6) Diers  
Videographer ..... (6) Jacob Schulz