

# Crèche Festival

**Saturday, December 3, 2022 – 5:30 p.m.**

**Sunday, December 4, 2022 – 8:00 a.m.**

**Sunday, December 4, 2022 – 10:30 a.m.**



**Welcome!**

**To our guests and visitors:**

We are glad that you are here with us today!

If you have no church home, why don't you consider joining us?  
Please speak to Pastor Parrish after the service and enjoy a special  
gift for visiting with us today!

As we prepare for worship, imagine how expectant parents, filled with questions and excitement, contemplate how a baby will change their lives. How does the birth of Jesus change our lives? Pray, “Come, Lord Jesus, be born in us today.”

**Processional Hymn      O Come, All Ye Faithful      LSB 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**

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

C:        **Amen.**

P:        To us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder.

C:        **Come, Lord Jesus, be born in us today.**

P:        His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
          Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

C:        **Come, Lord Jesus, be born in us today.**

P:        He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and of his kingdom there will be no end.

C:        **Come, Lord Jesus, be born in us today.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

P:        Lord Jesus, ready our hearts and homes that we may receive you with the kind of joy and awe Mary, Joseph and the shepherds experienced at the time of your birth. Be born in us today, that we may leave here glorifying and praising you.

C:        **Amen.**

## **A Meditation**

P: Congratulations! You're expecting a baby—today! Many of you may be surprised by this news. But didn't you come here today expecting to hear the birth announcement of the baby Jesus? Well, maybe you didn't expect him to actually be here in person. After all, Jesus was born some 2000 years ago, far away from here.

You just came to remember the event with a joyful celebration. Right? Perhaps you even came expecting a chance to truly reflect upon and give thanks for the incredible sacrifice Jesus made for you when he died on a cross so long ago, and you look forward to someday living with him in heaven.

But did you actually come expecting a baby to be born to you today? That changes everything. But it is indeed what you can and should expect. The birth of Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promise to send a Savior—his own Son—to bless people of every time and every nation.

And though his days on earth in human flesh were only a few years, he is with us still today. He is born to us today and every day, bringing renewal to our weariness; bringing light to our darkness; bringing his power to our weakness; bringing guidance for our questions and quandaries, and bringing salvation from every sin that holds us captive.

Jesus is Immanuel—God With Us. Therefore, as the angel Gabriel told Mary, (pointing to congregation) you are highly favored. The Lord is with you. Expect him. Cherish him. Pray, “Jesus, be born—in us— today.”

**Be Born in Us Today...Bringing Blessing**

### **Luke 1:26-35**

The angel Gabriel was sent from God ... to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, from the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you! But she was greatly troubled at the saying ... and the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High ... and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you ... therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God."

P: When Mary's fiancé, Joseph, heard the news about Jesus, he was afraid and wanted out.

### **Matthew 1:20-21**

"Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

P: They didn't feel prepared at all, but Mary and Joseph trusted that their baby was God's gift of a Savior promised long ago. But God's plan was right on schedule. Not like this shower gift that came late! God had said the Savior would be born in Bethlehem.

## **Micah 5:2**

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah ... from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.

## **Luke 2:1-5**

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, who was with child.

P: Mary and Joseph probably didn't understand everything that was happening, but one thing is for sure. When Jesus was born, he brought blessings to them, and to the whole world!

## **Hymn**

## **Once He Came in Blessing**

**LSB 333**

- 1      Once He came in blessing,  
All our sins redressing;  
    Came in likeness lowly,  
    Son of God most holy;  
Bore the cross to save us;  
Hope and freedom gave us.
  
- 2      Now He gently leads us;  
With Himself He feeds us  
    Precious food from heaven,  
    Pledge of peace here given,  
Manna that will nourish  
Souls that they may flourish.

3        Soon will come that hour  
          When with mighty power  
                Christ will come in splendor  
                And will judgment render,  
          With the faithful sharing  
          Joy beyond comparing.

4        Come, then, O Lord Jesus,  
          From our sins release us.  
                Keep our hearts believing,  
                That we, grace receiving,  
          Ever may confess You  
          Till in heav'n we bless You.

### **Be Born in Us Today ...Bringing Renewal**

P:        This gift can also remind us of how the baby born in Bethlehem is still with us today bringing renewal.

#### **Luke 2:6-7**

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 clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

P:        The baby Jesus would bring renewal. More than physical comfort, Jesus came to renew his people who are weary from sin and the pressures of a sinful world.

### **Isaiah 40:30-31**

Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not be faint. (Isaiah 40:30- 31)

P: He renews us in this life and promises eternal life with him with no more crying from anyone.

### **Revelation 21:4**

He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more. Neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.

### **Hymn**

### **Away in a Manger**

**LSB 364**

1. Away in a manger, no crib for his '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 poor baby wakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love you, 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.

**Be Born in Us Today...Bringing Light**



P: I believe I can shine some light on this subject. This night light can remind us that Jesus brings light to a world of uncertainty. That's right. Because of sin, we often let fear, selfishness and pride control us. That leads us to some dark places. So we need the light of Jesus to shine in our hearts and show us the goodness of God's plans for us. Remember the "night light" God sent the shepherds the night Jesus was born?

### **Luke 2:8-12**

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 great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of 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 clothes and lying in a manger."

P: But he gives us something even brighter. He shines in our hearts each day and gives us faith to see Jesus.

### **2 Corinthians 4:6**

For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

P: This night light will help us see our baby in a dark nursery, but Jesus' light will let us see his love in all our dark places.

- 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!”  
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!  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King!”
- 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.  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King!”

## **Be Born in Us Today...Bringing Power**

P: That's right. The angels that appeared to the shepherds made that perfectly clear.

### **Luke 2:13-14**

Suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of heavenly host praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased."

P: The power of God was wrapped in swaddling clothes that night. Jesus, the Son of God, was born to us. The Bible calls him King of kings and Lord of lords. That's why the shepherds wanted everyone to know about him.

### **Luke 2:15-20**

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.

P: Jesus has power over sin, the devil and even death. Jesus' power is stronger than anything else! And his power is at work in us, just like it was in the shepherds who went and told everyone the good news of Jesus. Jesus, you have the highest chair in this house. Let's praise him together with a song.

- 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.

**Be Born in Us Today...Bringing Guidance**

P: And with his children's Bible, we can teach him about Jesus. That's very important because the Bible doesn't just tell stories about Jesus. It's where we actually meet Jesus. Jesus has been with us since before the beginning of time. Some were able to see him when he came to earth, but even now, he is with us as our Lord and Savior, teaching and guiding us through his Word.

### **John 1:1-3, 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 were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

P: The Bible tells us that God's Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. We can't see Jesus the same way the shepherds did, but we see him right here in his Word which guides us to him.

### **Hymn**

### **What Child is This**

**LSB 370**

- 1 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?  
This, this is Christ the king, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mary!
  
- 2 Why lies He in such mean estate Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here The silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mary!

3 So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peasant, king, to own Him.

The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

Raise, raise the song on high, The virgin sings her lullaby;  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mary!

### **Be Born in Us Today...Bringing Salvation**

P: A baby does change everything. And baby Jesus brought us the biggest change of all. Jesus was born to bring salvation. That's a fancy way of saying he saved us. Now our lives will never be the same.

#### **Luke 1:67-70**

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people and raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old.

P: I learned in Sunday school that our sins deserve God's punishment. Yeah, but Jesus took that punishment for us by dying on a cross. Now God forgives all our sins. Not only that but Jesus rose from the dead. His victory over death won for us life forever in heaven with him. This cross is a gift to celebrate the day your baby brother will be baptized and become a child of God. It reminds us of our own baptisms when we became a part of God's family. A family changed forever! OK, baby brother, we're ready for you. You can be born anytime. And Jesus, we want you to be born in us—all of us—today.

#### **Children's Message**

## Offering

### Prayer of Blessing

**P:** God, bless these gifts that we bring in grateful response to all that You have first given to us. Change our Christmas expectations. Help us to anticipate the Messiah who will come with the Holy Spirit and with fire. Teach us how to make room in our hearts for the One who challenges, winnows, calls to repentance, and expects a response from us. In Jesus' name,

**C: Amen**

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**Pastor:** As we prepare our hearts and minds for Christ's coming, we turn to the Lord in prayer.

**Pastor:** O Wisdom from on high, guide Your Church throughout the world to repent—to turn each day to You, confessing our sins and being restored by You to bear the fruit of the Spirit. Move the leaders, pastors, teachers, and all the people of our Synod to bear fruits in keeping with repentance. We pray,

**People: hear us, coming Lord.**

**Pastor:** O Desire of nations, bless the leaders of nations, our president and Congress, our governors and local leaders. Move all leaders to cease envy and boastfulness, injustice and corruption. Guide our leaders to be honorable people who do not neglect the poor and who strive toward the flourishing of all human beings. Bless those who serve in our armed forces and lift up refugees and all victims of war. Bring peace between us and our enemies and let Your peace reign over this broken world. We pray,

**People: hear us, coming Lord.**

Pastor: O Dayspring from on high, come to the aid of all who are in need. As You humbly entered this world as a vulnerable baby, help all of us to enter humbly the lives of those who are sick, facing surgery, or dying, to offer comfort and hope, [*especially* . . .]. Bring healing according to Your will and peace to those whose suffering endures. Thank You for the work of doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals who work toward healing and restoration of wholeness. Guide scientists searching for cures for diseases that bring suffering to the world that their work might lead to healing for many. We pray,

**People: hear us, coming Lord.**

Pastor: O Key of David, let Your joy, forgiveness, and peace flow freely in and among the families of this congregation. Empower parents and grandparents to love their children and children to love their parents. Watch over all who travel and comfort families who are separated by many miles. Guide families to be places where Your love is demonstrated to strangers as well as to friends. We pray,

**People: hear us, coming Lord.**

Pastor: O Lord of might, empower us to hear the words of John the Baptist afresh today. Lead us to repent of those things that hinder our trust in You and fill us by the Holy Spirit to bear much fruit. We pray,

**People: hear us, coming Lord.**



Pastor: O Immanuel, You deliver Your people even from the grip of death. Comfort those who mourn and use us to express the hope that comes from trusting in You. Bring us to be with them on that great day to come, and until that day give us grace to endure life's difficulties, while also abiding in Your love. We pray,

**People: hear us, coming Lord.**

Pastor: You, O Lord, know the thoughts of our hearts and hear those prayers that come to You in sighs too deep for words. All our prayer we entrust to You in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**People: Amen.**

### **Lord's Prayer**

**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**

### **The Words of Institution**

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also, He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## **Pax Domini**

*pg 163*

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

## **Agnus Dei**

*pg 163*

**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.

## **Distribution**

**Handbell Choir “Prepare The Royal Highway” arr: Anna Laura Page**

**Distribution Hymn O Come, O Come Emmanuel LSB 357**

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear. **Refrain**

**ref** Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

2 O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,  
Who ord’rest all things mightily;  
To us the path of knowledge show,  
And teach us in her ways to go. **Refrain**

- 3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,  
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height  
In ancient times didst give the Law  
In cloud and majesty and awe. **Refrain**
- 4 O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,  
Free them from Satan's tyranny  
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save,  
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave. **Refrain**
- 5 O come, Thou Key of David, come,  
And open wide our heav'nly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery. **Refrain**
- 6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,  
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight. **Refrain**
- 7 O come, Desire of nations, bind  
In one the hearts of all mankind;  
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,  
And be Thyself our King of Peace. **Refrain**

### **Post-Communion Collect**

P We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## **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.**

## **Closing Hymn**

### **O Little Town of Bethlehem**

**LSB 361**

- 1 O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee 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.
  
- 2 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!

- 3 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.
- 4 O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin and enter in,  
Be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Immanuel!