

Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

December 24, 2020

Christmas Eve



2606 Chimney Rock Road—Hendersonville, NC 28792

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Website: www.mtpisgahlutheran.com

Church Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM M-TH

9:00 AM—1:00PM on Friday

Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church & Preschool

Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

December 24, 2020

Christmas Eve

Serving Today

Pastor Jonathan Christensen
Lois Schweinler, Choir Director

Robert Hamrick, Organist
Mike & Bea Luecke, Duet
Lois Schwenler, Solo

Elders **Rudy Eidam**

John Zagone

Lectors

Greeter

Order of Evening Prayer

Prelude

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

Ruth E. Mackie

Hymn

366 It Came upon the Midnight Clear



1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, That glo-rious song of old,
2 Still through the clo-ven skies they come With peace-ful wings un-furled,
3 All you, be-neath your heav-y load, By care and guilt bent low,
4 For lo, the days have come to pass By proph-ets seen of old,



From an-gels bend-ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold:
And still their heav'n-ly mu-sic floats O'er all the wea-ry world.
Who toil a-long a drea-ry way With pain-ful steps and slow:
When down in-to the cir-cling years Came Christ as was fore-told.



"Peace on the earth, good-will to all, From heav'n's all-gra-cious king."
A-bove its sad and low-ly plains They bend on hov-'ring wing,
Look up, for gold-en is the hour, Come swift-ly on the wing,
His word of peace shall to the earth God's an-cient prom-ise bring,



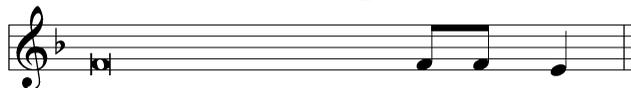
The world in sol-ern still-ness lay To hear the an-gels sing.
And ev-er o'er its ba-bel sounds The bless-ed an-gels sing.
The Prince was born to bring you peace; Of Him the an-gels sing.
And all who take this gift will hear The song the an-gels sing.

Service of Light

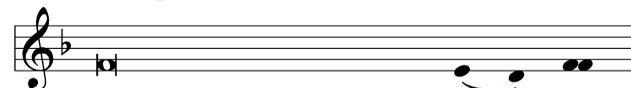
Stand. The Advent Wreath and the Christ Candle is lit.



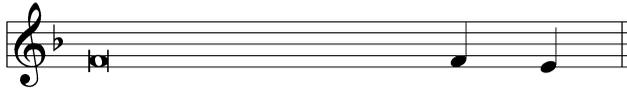
L Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,



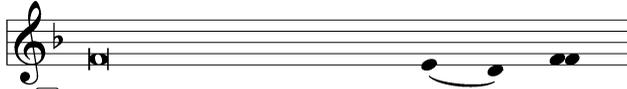
C the light no darkness can o-ver-come.



L Stay with us, Lord, for it is eve-ning,



C and the day is almost o - ver.



L Let Your light scatter the dark - ness



C and il - lu - mine Your Church.

Phos Hilaron

LSB 244



L Joy - ous light of glo - ry:



C of the im - mor - tal Fa - ther; heav - en - ly, ho - ly,



bles - ed Je - sus Christ. We have come to the



set - ting of the sun, and we look to the eve - ning light.



We sing to God, the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it:



You are wor - thy of be - ing praised with pure voic - es for -



ev - er. O Son of God, O Giv - er of life:



the u - ni - verse pro - claims Your glo - ry.

Thanksgiving for Light

LSB 245

L Blessèd are You, O Lord our God, king of the u - ni - verse,
who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of
fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ;
may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path;
for You are mer - ci - ful, and You love Your whole cre - a - tion
and we, Your creatures, glo - ri - fy You, Father, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it.

C A - men.

Psalmody

The Pastor sings voices I and II.

Psalm 141

LSB 245

C Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,
the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

I O Lord, I call to You; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice
when I cry to You. **C** Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,



the lift-ing up of my hands as the eve-ning sac-ri-fice.



II Set a watch be-fore my mouth, O Lord, and guard the door of my lips.



I Let not my heart in-cline to an-y e-vil thing;



let me not be oc-cu-pied in wick-ed-ness with e-vil-do-ers.



II But my eyes are turned to You, O God; in You I take ref-uge.



Strip me not of my life. **C** Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and



to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it; as it was in



the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A-men.



Let my prayer rise be-fore You as in-cense,



the lift-ing up of my hands as the eve-ning sac-ri-fice.

L Let us pray.

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.

C Amen.



1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing From ten - der stem hath
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, The rose I have in
 3 This flow'r, whose fra-grance ten - der With sweet-ness fills the
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, Who felt our hu - man



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing As proph-ets long have
 mind; With Mar - y we be - hold it, The vir - gin moth - er
 air, Dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor The dark-ness ev - 'ry
 woe; O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry, Who dost our weak - ness



sung, It came, a flow - 'ret bright, A - mid the
 kind. To show God's love a - right, She bore to
 where. True man, yet ver - y God, From sin and
 know: Bring us at length we pray To the bright



cold of win - ter, When half - spent was the night.
 us a Sav - ior, When half - spent was the night.
 death He saves us And light - ens ev - 'ry load.
 courts of heav - en, And to the end - less day.

Readings

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 9:2–7

A The Old Testament Reading is from Isaiah, chapter 9.

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. ³You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. ⁴For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Hymn

361 O Little Town of Bethlehem



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is giv'n!
4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;
While mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won-d'ring love.
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of His heav'n.
Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
No ear may hear His com - ing; But in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.
And prais - es sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!
Where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.
O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Epistle Reading

Titus 2:11–14

A The Epistle is from Titus, chapter 2.

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹²training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who 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.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Psalm

Psalm 96 Tone C



- ¹Oh sing to the LORD a | new song;*
sing to the LORD, | all the earth!
- ²**Sing to the LORD, | bless his name;*
tell of his salvation from | day to day.**
- ³Declare his glory among the | nations,*
his marvelous works among all the | peoples!
- ⁴**For great is the LORD, and greatly | to be praised;*
he is to be feared a- | bove all gods.**
- ⁵For all the gods of the peoples are worthless | idols,*
but the LORD made the | heavens.
- ⁶**Splendor and majesty are be- | fore him;*
strength and beauty are in his sanctu- | ary.**
- ⁷Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the | peoples,*
ascribe to the LORD glo- | ry and strength!
- ⁸**Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due his name;*
bring an offering, and come in- | to his courts!**
- ⁹Worship the LORD in the splendor of | holiness,*
tremble before him, | all the earth!
- ¹⁰**Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns!
Yes, the world is established; it shall nev- | er be moved,*
he will judge the peoples with | equity."**
- ¹¹Let the heavens be glad, and let the | earth rejoice,*
let the sea roar, and all that fills it; ¹²let the field exult, and every- | thing in it!
**Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy ¹³before the LORD, | for he comes,*
for he comes to | judge the earth.**
He will judge the world in | righteousness,*
and the peoples in his | faithfulness.

Gospel Reading

Luke 2:1–20

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

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.
²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And 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, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And 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.

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰And 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. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths 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, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

¹⁵When 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."

¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

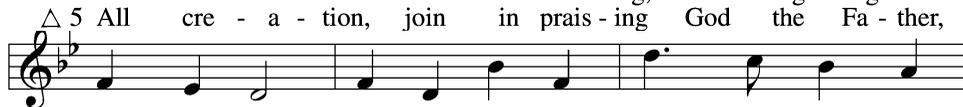
L In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

C But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.

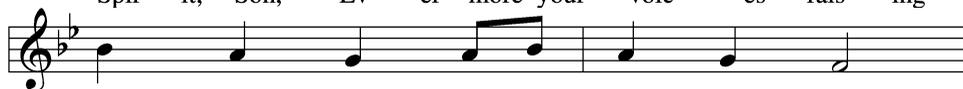
Sit
Hymn **367 Angels from the Realms of Glory**



1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er
 2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, Bright - er vi - sions
 4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, Watch - ing long in
 5 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,



all the earth; Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
 flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing,
 beam a - far; Seek the great De - sire of na - tions,
 hope and fear, Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,
 Spir - it, Son, Ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing



Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth.
 Yon - der shines the In - fant Light.
 Ye have seen His na - tal star.
 In His tem - ple shall ap - pear.
 To the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship;
 Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the refrain, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Sermon

Solo, Lois Schweinler

The First Noel

Kenon D. Renfrow

Stand

Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth.

And 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.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy Christian Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life † everlasting. Amen.

Magnificat

Refrain

My soul mag-ni - fies the Lord, and my spir - it re -
 joic - es in God, my Sav - ior. My soul mag-ni-fies the
 Lord, and my spir - it re - joic - es in God, my Sav - ior.

- 1 For _____ He has re - - - - - garded
- 2 For the Mighty One has done great things to me,
- 3 He has shown strength with His arm;
- 4 He has filled the hungry with good things,
- 5 Glo - ry be to the Father and to the Son

- 1 the lowliness of His hand-maiden.
- 2 and holy is His name;
- 3 He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
- 4 and the rich He has sent emp - - - - - ty a - way.
- 5 and to the Ho - ly Spirit;

- 1 For be - hold, from this day
- 2 and His mercy is on those who fear Him
- 3 He has cast down the mighty from their thrones
- 4 He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy
- 5 as it was in the be - - - - - ginning,

- 1 all generations will call me blessed.
- 2 from generation to gen - er - ation. *Refrain*
- 3 and has exalt - - - - - ed the lowly.
- 4 as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed for - ever.
- 5 is now, and will be forever. A - - - - - men. *Refrain*

Prayer

LSB 249

Litany

The response begins as the leader's petition ends so that the word "Lord" is sung simultaneously.



L In peace let us pray to the Lord:



C Lord, have mer - cy.

L For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L 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.

L For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For the synodical and district leaders of our Church, for all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For all public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:

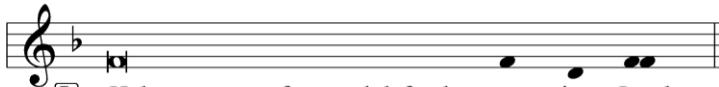
C Lord, have mercy.



L For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:

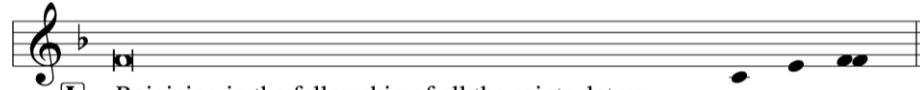


C Al - le - lu - ia.



L Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.

Silence for individual prayer may follow.



L Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord:



G To You, O Lord.

Sit

Hymn

364 Away in a Manger



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask Thee to stay



The lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet head.
But lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing He makes.
Close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.



The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
I love Thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,
Bless all the dear chil - dren in Thy ten - der care,



The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
And stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is night.
And take us to heav - en to live with Thee there.

Stand

Collect For Peace

L Most merciful God, You gave Your eternal Word to become incarnate of the pure Virgin. Grant Your people grace to put away fleshly lusts, that they may be ready for Your visitation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 251

- L** Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:
C **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.**

Sit

Duet, Mike and Bea Luecke

When Love Was Born

Mark Schultz

The Lighting of the Candles

LSB 252

- L** As the light of these candles illumines our faces, it symbolizes the light of Christ, a child in the manger at Bethlehem, a Savior suffering our death on the cross and soon to come from His throne on high as 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, for the light of the world has come, who transforms us with the brightness of His glory.

The pastor takes the light from the Christ candle and gives it to the acolytes and ushers. They pass the light on to the congregation. Lights are dimmed.

Hymn

363 Silent Night, Holy Night sts. 1–3, 1g



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,
 1 *Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,*



all is bright Round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
 at the sight; Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
 love's pure light Ra - diant beams from Thy ho - ly face
ein - sam wacht Nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.



Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, Sleep in heav - en - ly
 Heav'n - ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
 With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy
Hol - der Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, Schlaf in himm - li - scher



peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.
Ruh, Schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.

Benedicamus

LSB 252

- P** The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
C and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.
P Let us bless the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

LSB 252

- P** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.
C Amen.

The Congregation extinguishes their candles and exits the dimly-lit sanctuary in anticipation of the coming of our Lord.

Acknowledgments

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