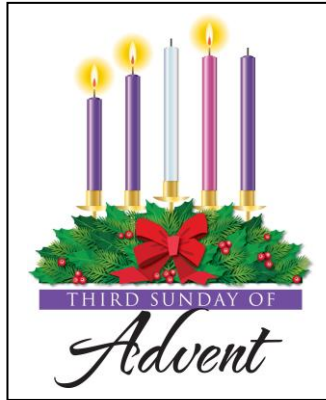


St. John Lutheran Church
700 Heritage Road Luxemburg, WI
Phone & Fax (920) 845-5250
E-mail address: stjohnlux@centurylink.net
Website: www.stjohnlux.com



Pastor Carl Brewer
Home Phone (920) 845-1717
Cell Phone (920) 536-1041
E-mail: brewercj@centurytel.net
Vicar Craig VanPay

December 13, 2020

THE PRELUDE

Organist: Raquel White

OPENING HYMN:

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

**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, good will to men,
From Heav’n’s all-gracious King.”
The world in solemn stillness lay,
To hear the angels sing.**

**For lo! the days have come to pass,
By prophets seen of old,
When down into the circling years
came Christ as was foretold.
When peace shall over all the earth,
The ancient promise bring.
And all who take the gift will hear
the song the angels sing.**

**Glory to God! Glory to God!
Glory to God in the highest.
Peace on the earth goodwill to men,
From heaven’s all gracious King,
And all who take the gift will hear
The song the angels sing.**

**Glory to God! Glory to God!
Glory to God in the high.
Glory to God! Glory to God!
Glory to God in the Highest.**

THE INVOCATION

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

***RESPONSIVE PSALM:** *Psalm 126*

- P** ¹When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.
- C** ²**Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then they said among the nations, “The LORD has done great things for them.”**
- P** ³The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad.
- C** ⁴**Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like streams in the Negeb!**
- P** ⁵Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy!
- C** ⁶**He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.**

***CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

- 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.**
- 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 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.**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Let us pray.
- C** **Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING: *Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11*

¹The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; ²to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³to grant to those who mourn in Zion to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified. ⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many

generations. ⁸For I the LORD love justice; I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. ⁹Their offspring shall be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed. ¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

EPISTLE READING: *1 Thessalonians 5:16–24*

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise prophecies, ²¹but test everything; hold fast what is good. ²²Abstain from every form of evil. ²³Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

Joy to the World

**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.**

**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.**

***HOLY GOSPEL:** *John 1:6-8, 19-28*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John

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

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. ¹⁹And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” ²¹And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” ²²So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” ²³He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.” ²⁴(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) ²⁵They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” ²⁶John

answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." ²⁸These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

*NICENE CREED

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.

SERMON HYMN

Manger Throne

by Julie Miller

**What kind of King would leave His throne
In Heaven to make this earth His home?
While men seek fame and great renown
In lowliness our King comes down**

*Refrain: Jesus, Jesus, precious One
How we thank You that You've come
Jesus, Jesus, precious One
A manger throne for God's own son*

**You left the sound of angels' praise
To come for men with unkind ways
And by this Baby's helplessness
The power of nations is laid to rest**

**Jesus, Jesus, precious One
How we thank You that You've come
Jesus, Jesus, precious One
A manger throne for God's own son**

**What kind of King would come so small
From Glory to a humble stall?
That dirty manger is my heart too!
I'll make it a royal throne for You.**

**Jesus, Jesus, precious One
How we thank You that You've come!
Jesus, Jesus, precious One
A manger throne for God's own son.**

**Jesus, Jesus, precious One
How we thank You that You've come!
Jesus, Jesus, precious One
A manger throne,
My heart is a throne for God's own Son.**

SERMON

OFFERING

*PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

*LORDS PRAYER [Tune: Midnight Clear]

**Our Father, Lord in heav'n's high throne,
Most holy be Your name.
Your kingdom come. Your will be done
One earth in heav'n the same.
Give us this day the food we need;
Forgiven may we be;
Into temptation do no lead;
From evil set us free
Yours is the kingdom; unto You
In grateful love we bow;
And Yours the pow'r; Lord, let us view
Your mighty presence now
The glory Yours, Your praise be sung
Through-out the world again
In ev'ry land, by ev'ry tongue
For-ever-more, Amen!**

*HOLY COMMUNION

[Tune: I Heard the Bells]

**C The night Lord Jesus was betrayed
He took the bread, and when He'd prayed,
He broke and gave them of the bread
And unto His disciples said:**

P "Take and eat; this is My body which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

**C Then, when the sacred meal was o'er,
Our blessed Savior spoke once more:
He offered thanks, and lifted up,
To give to all, the blessed cup:**

P "Drink of it all of you; this cup is the New Testament of My blood which is shed for you for the remission of sins. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

P The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen

***BENEDICTION**

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with His favor and give you His peace.

C Amen.

CLOSING SONG:

What A Glorious Night

The shepherds came to see the baby
Stood by his mother's side
Here lay the Savior inside a manger
Oh, what a glorious night!
Oh, what a glorious night!

Glorious! Glorious!
What a Glorious night
Glorious! Glorious!
What a Glorious night.

I hear the angels singing Alleluia!

Let the earth receive her King

I know that love has come

Sing it out

Jesus Christ is born!

Jesus Christ is born!

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

The shepherds wonder;
They couldn't hide it,
Told everyone in sight

All were amazed when they heard how
God came down on the glorious night,
God came down on this glorious night.

I hear the angels singing Alleluia!

Let the earth receive her King

I know that love has come

Sing it out

Jesus Christ is born!

Jesus Christ is born!

Yeah, yeah, yeah

I hear the angels singing Alleluia!

Let the earth receive her King

I know that love has come

Sing it out;

Jesus Christ is born!

I hear the angels singing Alleluia!

Let the earth receive her King

I know that love has come

Sing it out;

Jesus Christ is born!

I heard that Jesus Christ is born!

All is calm now all is quiet

A Star shining in the sky

Below in Bethlehem

The king is sleeping

Oh, What a Glorious Night!

Oh, What a Glorious Night!