

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
Christmas Eve
December 24, 2020
Worship Where You Are

Gather, as you are able: a piece of bread or cracker, wine or juice, a Bible, a candle or flashlight, a bowl of water, and a cross (if you don't have one, draw one or make one!)

GATHER

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Pre-Service Concert of Joy

The First Noel: Genuine Brass

I Saw Three Ships: Piano Duet; Merry Carey and Laura Chen

Hark the Herald Angels Sing: String Trio; Kurt Muth, Kimberly Lafranzo, Andrea Lafranzo

Twas in the Moon of Wintertime: Handbell Quartet; Matt Greising, Sue Hilderbrand, Dotty Johnson, Jon Miller

Come Lord Jesus Come: St. Mark's Festival Choir, Melk Abbey, Austria

Welcome/Announcements

Call to Worship

L: This holy night invites us:

C: Come to Bethlehem!

L: A baby long expected

C: Come to Bethlehem!

L: Is soon to be arriving.

C: Come to Bethlehem!

L: Now gather at the manger

C: Come to Bethlehem!

Gathering Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ELW 283

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

Venite adoremus,
venite adoremus,
venite adoremus Dominum.

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

2 The 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*

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, sts. 1, 3-4; tr. unknown, st. 2

Prayer of the Day

L: God Incarnate,

C: You come again to us on this blessed night to take on human form and live among us. Bring us with awe and wonder before your holy nativity and be born anew in our hearts. Amen

WORD

Psalm 96

P: O sing to the Lord a new song, sing to the Lord, all the earth.

C: Sing to the Lord, bless his holy name; tell of his salvation from day to day.

P: Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples.

C: For great is the Lord, and greatly t praised; he is to be revered above all gods.

P: Say among the nations; "The Lord is King! The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved. He will judge the peoples with equity."

C: Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the earth exult, and everything in it.

Hymn of Praise

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing ELW 270 vs. 1

1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"

The Children's Message

Pastor Charisse Jensen

Hymn of Praise

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing ELW 270 vs. 3

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 we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth,
born to give us second birth.

Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"

The Holy Gospel

Luke 2: 1-20

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 2nd Chapter

Part 1: In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Song of Praise

Away in the Manger

ELW 277 vs. 1-2

- 1 Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
- 2 The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
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.

Text: North American, 19th cent.

Part 2: In that region there were Shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "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. This will be a sign for you: you will find the child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God, and Saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

Song of Praise

Angels We Have Heard on High

ELW 289 vs. 1-2

- 1 Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo.

- 2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heav'nly song? *Refrain*

Part 3: When 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." So, they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the Shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. 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 our Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Sermon

Pastor Patrick Fish

Hymn of the Day

Joy to the World

ELW 267

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| <p>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.</p> <p>2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.</p> | <p>3 No more let sin and sorrow 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.</p> <p>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.</p> |
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Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Prayers of the Community

L: As we gather with all those who come to the manger, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need

A brief silence

L: The familiar story of your birth comes to us newly each year, O Lord. Awaken your light within us that it might shine through us to all with whom we interact. Emmanuel,

C: Hear our prayer

L: In the midst of celebration and excitement, may we seek out our quiet moments where we can ponder the gift of your son, Emmanuel,

C: Hear our prayer

L: As animals made way for a baby's bed, so creation graciously shares this planet with us. Make us responsible occupants and faithful stewards of the earth. Emanuel,

C: Hear our prayer

L: Bless all who suffer with loneliness, illness, or other difficulties on this night. Give your spirit's healing presence so to all who need it, especially...Emmanuel,

C: Hear our prayer

L: For all who are mourning the loss of loved ones this holiday season, we pray your comfort. Assure them of your promise that all will be united in your eternal kingdom. Emmanuel,

C: Hear our prayer

L: Our eyes await the fulfillment of your promises, the answer to all our prayers; your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ, **Amen**

Sharing the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

Offering of Our Gifts

Offering Anthem:

Still, Still, Still (Austrian Carol)

St. Mark's Festival Choir
Melk Abbey, Austria

Offertory Prayer

P: We bring these gifts before you, rejoicing in the holy birth and grateful for your presence. May the world be blessed by the gift of your son to all people, and may all people know your love through us, for the sake of Jesus our Lord, **Amen**

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you,

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts,

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise.....We praise your name and join their unending hymn.

Holy, Holy

C: **Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Eucharistic Prayer

P: 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.*

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever. Amen.

P: Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

C: **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen**

The Distribution

- *At St. Mark's, all people are welcome at God's table. No exceptions.*
- *We believe Jesus is in, with and under the elements. There's a profound mystery and power in Holy Communion.*
- *We believe that Christ is present in your bread and wine/grape juice in your homes.*
- *As you eat your bread. As you drink your wine. Hear those words Jesus spoke to you: FOR YOU. Jesus is FOR YOU.*
- *In this Sacrament, receive God's forgiveness of sin and taste God's grace again. May it fill you and help you remember that on that last night, Jesus was thinking of you.*

At Home Instructions

For those with loved ones, commune yourselves.

Use the words we use when communing our saints:

Bread: Body of Christ given for you

Wine/Grape Juice: Blood of Christ shed for you.

For those alone watching worship, the presiding pastor will take a moment to virtually offer you the elements of Christ's body and blood.

When the pastor offers the body of Christ for you, receive the body.

When the pastor offers the blood of Christ for you, receive the blood.

Communion Hymn

What Child Is This

ELW 296

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!

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!

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!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898

Post Communion Prayer

(Lights are extinguished, candles are lit, silent night is sung. on the third verse of Silent Night please raise your candles)

1 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.

3 Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from your holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

2 Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885

Christmas Blessing and Dismissal

P: Christ is born!
Go tell it on the mountain and everywhere.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Ending credits plus

Worship Assistant: Jon Jensen

Worship Musicians: Melissa (Young) Christman-flute/vocals/percussion

Heather (Young) Hudson - vocals/percussion

Courtney Young - Trumpet/vocals

Bruce Young - Vocals

Kristin Young - Keyboards/vocals/music director

