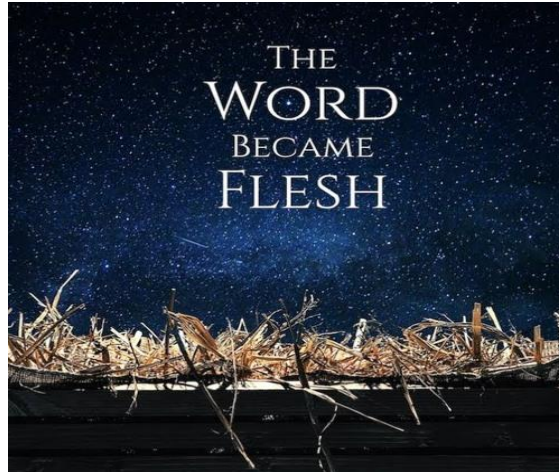


WELCOME
HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
TWIN LAKES, WI
THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD—CHRISTMAS DAY
DECEMBER 25, 2020



“WE BEHELD HIS GLORY”

AS WE GATHER

Glory is the theme of both John’s account and Luke’s familiar details of the Savior’s birth. They are not mutually exclusive but speak of the same event. The surprise is that glory is not where we would have expected it or what we would have expected it to be. Hidden in the manger is the Word made flesh, the same creating Word that spoke all things into being. Hidden in the flesh of a baby is the glory of the God who becomes His people’s Savior. Hidden in the faith that trusts this Word are eyes to see and ears to hear the glory as of the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth. In the Word made flesh, God has displayed His glory, and that glory appeared in order to give us the right to become the children of God.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC: 9:40-10:00 George Kelm

WELCOME

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING 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:

**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]**

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 43:4; 124:8*

Pastor: I will go to the altar of God,

People: to God my exceeding joy.

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the LORD,

People: who made heaven and earth.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Recalling our sin and God's mercy, let us examine our lives and consciences.

Silence for self-examination

People: I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

Pastor: The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. In the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I, a called

and ordained servant of the Word, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of the Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

✠ WORD ✠

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. O Word of God made flesh of the Virgin, full of grace and truth, enlighten the hearts and minds of Your people that we may feast upon Your Word by faith and be reborn by Your power as the children of God; whom with the Father and the Son You are one God and one Lord, both now and forevermore.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 52:7–10 (The Lord comforts His people.)*

⁷How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.” ⁸The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice;

together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to Zion. ⁹ Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. ¹⁰ The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CHOIR ANTHEM

“The First Noel”

Traditional

EPISTLE *Hebrews 1:1–6 (Now He has spoken through His Son.)*

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. ³ He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴ having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. ⁵ For to which of the angels did God ever say, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”? Or again, “I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son”? ⁶ And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, “Let all God's angels worship him.”

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL *John 1:1–14* (*The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.*)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. ⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹ The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the one and only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

SERMON HYMN “O Jesus So Sweet, O Jesus So Mild”

[LSB 546]

**1 O Jesus so sweet, O Jesus so mild!
For sinners You became a child.
You came from heaven down to earth
In human flesh through human birth.
O Jesus so sweet, O Jesus so mild!**

**2 O Jesus so sweet, O Jesus so mild!
With God we now are reconciled.
You have for all the ransom paid,
Your Father's righteous anger stayed.
O Jesus so sweet, O Jesus so mild!**

**3 O Jesus so sweet, O Jesus so mild!
Joy fills the world which sin defiled.
Whate'er we have belongs to You;
O keep us faithful, strong, and true.
O Jesus so sweet, O Jesus so mild!**

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Timothy Oswald

CONFESSION OF FAITH – THE CHRISTMAS CREED
(sung to the tune of “O Little Town of Bethlehem” LSB 361)

**In God the Father we believe,
The Lord of Hosts His Name.
All things from Him their form receive;
By His strong Word they came.
By Him was all created
In earth and heav'n above.
He made them all, things great and small,
By His great pow'r and love.**

**In God's Son Jesus we believe,
Who came at God's own hour.
Whom Virgin Mary did conceive,
By Holy Spirit's pow'r.
He suffered and was buried,
Was raised at God's own call,
To reign on high, and to draw nigh,
At last as Judge of all.**

**In Holy Spirit we believe,
And in Christ's Church on earth.
The saints, united, faith receive,
A gift of precious worth.
He sanctifies and keeps us,
By His empow'ring love.
Forgiven, we from grave set free,
Shall live with God above.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

CHOIR ANTHEM “A Communion Hymn for Christmas”
Clarkson/Fettke

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts. *Colossians 3:1*

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

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *Psalms 136*

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all Times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

HYMN

“Hark! What Mean Those Holy Voices”

[TLH 83 vv. 1,2,5]

**1 Hark! what mean those holy voices
Sweetly sounding thro' the skies?
Lo, th'angelic host rejoices,
Heav'nly hallelujahs rise.**

**2 Listen to the wondrous story
Which they chant in hymns of joy,
Glory in the highest, glory!
Glory be to God Most High!**

**5 Hasten, mortals, to adore Him,
Learn His name and taste His joy,
Till in heaven ye sing before Him,
"Glory be to God most high!"**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24;
Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

Pastor: 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.”

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Pastor: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.**

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

(TUNE: *LSB 793*)

**In His temple now behold Him:
Lamb of God for sinners slain.
Show us mercy, dear Lord Jesus,
Free us from sin's dreadful reign.
Grant Your peace to ev'ry nation.
Shine Your light on us again.**

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+DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION+

By communing, a person says publicly that they -

- are baptized and confirmed*
- believe Christ's words*
- repent of their sins*
- fully agree with all that the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod teaches.*

How to receive –

- anyone may come to the altar but keep hands folded if not receiving Communion*
- the center of the tray has a cup with just a drop of wine for those who must minimize alcohol*
- smile, exude your joy, but keep a reverent demeanor as others commune*

**DISTRIBUTION HYMN “From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”
[LSB 358 vv.1,2,3,8,9,10,13,15]**

**1 "From heav'n above to earth I come
to bear good news to ev'ry home:
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,
Whereof I now will say and sing:**

**2 "To you this night is born a child
Of Mary chosen virgin mild;
This little child of lowly birth
Shall be the joy of all the earth.**

**3 "This is the Christ, our God Most High,
Who hears your sad and bitter cry;
He will Himself your Savior be
From all your sins to set you free.**

**8 Welcome to earth, O noble Guest,
Through whom the sinful world is blest!
You came to share my misery
That You might share Your joy with me.**

**9 Ah, Lord, thou You created all,
How weak You are, so poor and small,
That You should choose to lay Your head
Where lowly cattle lately fed!**

**10 Were earth a thousand times as fair
And set with gold and jewels rare,
It would be far too poor and small
A cradle for the Lord of all.**

**13 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
A quiet chamber set apart
For You to dwell within my heart.**

**15 Glory to God in highest heav'n,
Who unto us His Son has giv'n!
While angels sing with pious mirth
A glad new year to all the earth.**

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

(LSB, p. 181)

**Thank the Lord and sing His praise;
Tell ev'ryone what He has done.
Let ev'ryone who seeks the Lord
Rejoice and proudly bear His name.
He recalls His promises
And leads His people forth in joy
With shouts of thanksgiving.
Alleluia, alleluia.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, Creator of all things, we give You thanks that on this day You gave Your Word in flesh to be our Savior and Redeemer. Grant us eyes to see His glory and ears to hear His voice that we may behold that glory and not depart from its light even to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: 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.
Numbers 6:24–26

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN “Joy to the World” *[LSB 387]*

**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 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 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 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 of His love.**

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Preacher: Rev. Dr. Timothy Oswald
Liturgist: Rev. Maurice Lind
Choir Director: Gail Feick
Organist: George Kelm

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