



ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

OUR MISSION:

**TO PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL
TO MAKE DISCIPLES
TO EMBODY GOD'S LOVE**

Introduction

*At this vigil
celebration,
we join with
Christians
throughout
the world
to celebrate
the great mystery
of our faith:*

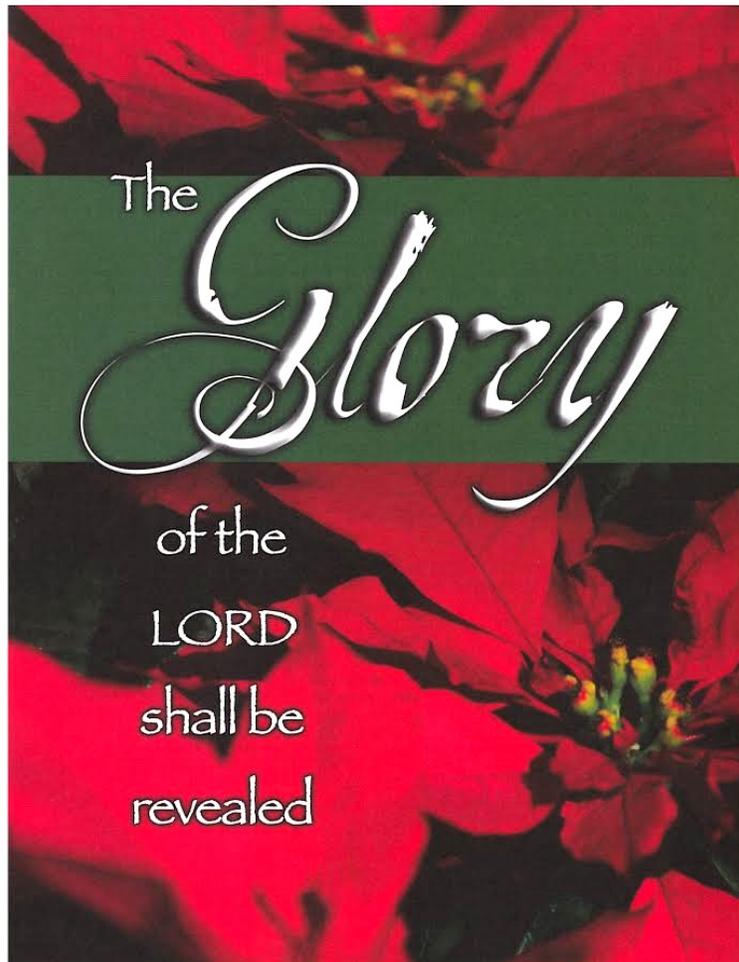
*God made manifest
in human flesh
a sign of God's love
for the world.*

*God comes to us
to do for us what
we can not do
for ourselves.*

*Bringing forgiveness
of sins, abundant life
now and for eternity,
and victory over
all evil forces.*

Joy!

**The Nativity of our Lord
December 24, 2018 at 10:30 p.m.
Christmas Eve Candlelight
A Service of Word and Sacrament**



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Nativity of our Lord

10:30 p.m.

December 24, 2018

*Please stand if able

Please turn off all electronic devices

Symbols: P: Pastor; A: Assisting Minister; C: Congregation

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

*We welcome all to this celebration of Christ's birth into the world and in our hearts!
Please join us for worship and service throughout the year.*

GATHERING

On this long winter evening we gather to proclaim the coming of the light. The prophet Isaiah announces that the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. In the familiar account of Christ's birth, the evening sky is bright with the heavenly host singing, "Glory to God in the highest." Amid our broken world we proclaim that the Prince of Peace is born among us. God comes to us as fully divine and fully human so that we may bask in and be bearers of divine light to all the world.

PRELUDE

"Mary, Did You Know?"

Praise Team

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Gary Haddock

***PROCLAMATION OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST**

P: Unknown ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth
And then formed man and woman in his own image.
Several thousand years after the flood,
When God made the rainbow shine forth as a sign of the covenant.
Twenty-one centuries from the time of Abraham and Sarah;
Thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt.
Eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the Judges;
One thousand years from the anointing of David as king;
In the sixty-fifth week according to the prophecy of Daniel.
In the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad;
The seven hundred and fifty-second year from the foundation of the city of Rome.
The forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus;
The whole world being at peace,
Jesus Christ, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father,
Desiring to sanctify the world by his most merciful coming,
Being conceived by the Holy Spirit,
And nine months having passed since his conception,
Was born in Bethlehem of Judea of the Virgin Mary.
This evening is the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh.



***GATHERING HYMN**

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Chancel Choir / Congregation

**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!**

**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***

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God ... in the highest. *Refrain***

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be ... all glory given!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing, *Refrain***

***APOSTOLIC GREETING**

Vicar Frank Waugh

P: Christ is born: Alleluia, alleluia! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence, and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

WORD

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

Kermit Nash

A: The Word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

The congregation remains seated.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Chancel Choir / Congregation

“O Little Town of Bethlehem ”

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.

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!

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.

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;
Oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

SECOND LESSON

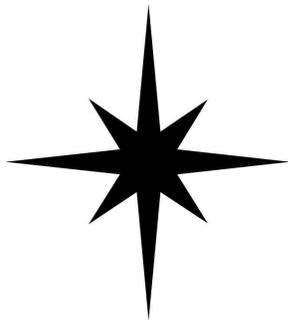
Titus 2:11-14

Kermit Nash

A: The Word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

The congregation stands.





***THE GOSPEL PROCESSIONAL**

Chancel Choir / Congregation

"The First Noel"

vs. 1, 2

The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night. *Refrain*

***THE GOSPEL**

Luke 2:1-20

Rev. Gary Haddock

Gospel Intro and Response

P: The holy gospel according to St. Luke: **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel Reading

Gospel Response

P: The gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

***THE GOSPEL RECESSIONAL**

Chancel Choir / Congregation

"The First Noel"

vs. 3, 4, 5

And by the light of that same star three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went.

Refrain

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

This star drew near to the northwest, o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
And there it did both stop and stay right over the place where Jesus lay. *Refrain*

Then entered in those wise men three, full rev'rently upon their knee,
And offered there in his presence their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. *Refrain*

The congregation is seated.

THE SERMON

Rev. Gary Haddock

SOLO

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

Tim Carpenter

Words printed for your meditation.

comp. Prudentius, 5th century

Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega; he the source, the ending he,
Of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,
Evermore and evermore!

O, that birth forever blessed when the Virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race,
And the babe, the world’s Redeemer, first revealed his sacred face,
Evermore and evermore!

This is he whom seers in old time chanted of with one accord,
Whom the voices of the prophets promised in their faithful word.
Now he shines, the long-expected. Let creation praise its Lord,
Evermore and evermore!

O ye heights of heaven, adore him. Angel hosts, his praises sing.
Powers, dominions, bow before him, and extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent; every voice in concert ring,
Evermore and evermore!

Christ, to thee with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unwearied praises be.
Honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory,
Evermore and evermore! Amen.

***NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
Begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
Was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
Who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church,
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Kermit Nash

P: Rejoicing in the good news of Christ's birth and dwelling in hope, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

At the end of each petition, the Assisting Minister will say "Hear us, O God."

The congregation replies: "Your mercy is great."

The prayers conclude:

P: Hear the prayers of your people ... **C: Amen.**

The congregation is seated.

MEAL

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"Christ is Born"

Chancel Choir

***PRESENTATION OF GIFTS**

***HYMN**

"What Child Is This"

Chancel Choir / Congregation

**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!**

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Kermit Nash

A: Holy God, your beauty shines forth from the manger and your love flows from the cross. As you gather us around this sacrament of your presence, warm us to extend your care among the hungry and all in need. In Jesus' name we pray. **C: Amen.**



***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Vicar Frank Waugh

***THE PROPER DIALOGUE** (*Spoken*)

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.

***THE PROPER PREFACE**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

***SANCTUS**

Holy, Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

***EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER (XI)**

P: We give you thanks, Father, ...in your holy church, both now and forever. **C: Amen.**

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Lord, teach us 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.

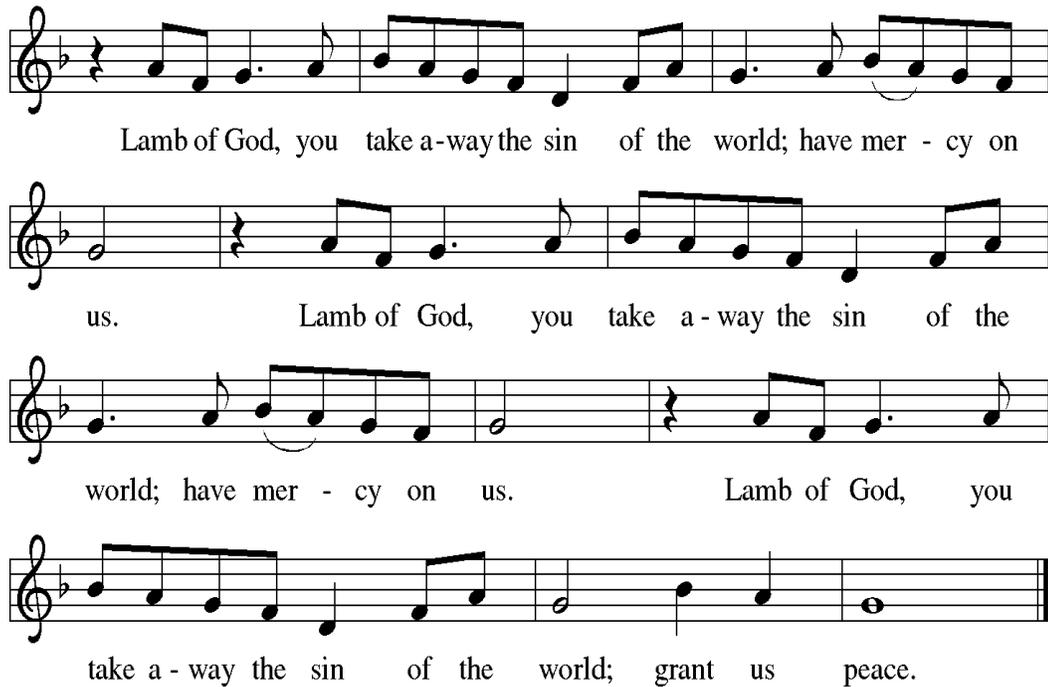
COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

A Note on our Communion Practices

We welcome all who commune in their home congregations to the Lord's Table. An usher will direct you to the center aisle for you to come to the front to receive communion. Communion is by Intinction-you will receive the host (wafer) at one station, and then dip it into a chalice of wine at another station. You will return to your seats by the outer aisle. If you are not mobile, please notify an usher by raising your hand, and communion will be brought to you. After communing all who wish, may go to the altar for prayer.

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

Ethan Campbell

*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **C: Amen.**

*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Kermit Nash

A: God of wonder, we have heard and participated in the good news of great joy! Send us out by the power of your spirit to share and tell the news of your love. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord, our Saviour, our Redeemer. **C: Amen.**

The congregation is seated.

SOLO

"O Holy Night"

Emily Schuttenberg



***CANDLE LIGHTING**

During the CANDLE LIGHTING, ushers will light the candles of those nearest the center aisle. Please pass on the light by holding your burning candle UPRIGHT allowing the next person to light his/hers from yours.

As candles are being lit, we will hum the melody. When all candles are lit, we begin singing "Silent Night" and raise candles according to the instructions throughout the song.

"Silent Night, Holy Night"

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.

(CANDLES ARE RAISED)

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

(CANDLES ARE LOWERED)

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.

(CANDLES ARE EXTINGUISHED)

SENDING

*BENEDICTION

- P: May the Word that Mary brought to birth carry you into new and abundant life. **C: Amen.**
P: May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms enfold you with love and strength. **C: Amen.**
P: May the Word that angels proclaimed in song bring harmony to our world. **C: Amen.**
P: And the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **C: Amen.**

*RECESSIONAL

"Joy to the World"

Chancel Choir/Congregation

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

*DISMISSAL

- P: Go in peace. God Emmanuel, Christ is with you. **C: Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Emily Schuttenberg

+ + +

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD and in honor of my wonderful wife Judy on our 56th wedding anniversary (December 23) by Jerry Craig.

+ + +

FLOWERS ON THE TABLE ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD and in memory of Josephine & George Setzer, Sr. by Joyce & George Setzer, Jr.

LITURGY- THE WORK OF THE PEOPLE

Senior Pastor: Rev. Gary S. Haddock

Associate for Pastoral Care: Vicar Frank Waugh

Assisting Minister: Kermit Nash

Acolyte: Ethan Campbell

Communion Assistants: Shawn Brown, Tim Carpenter

Organist: Emily Schuttenberg

Altar Guild: Dotty & Ken Isenhour, Jo Marilyn Hewitt

Tabulators: Dotty Isenhour, Chris Cloninger, Nick Setzer

Deacons: Teresa Rozzelle, Tanya Stephenson

Tech: Carol Schaefer, Camille Patrick, Tamarah Hefner, Randy Sherrill, Terry Hefner, Tim Sigmon, Barry Bumgarner

St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 3216 W. Main Street, P.O. Box 550, Claremont, NC 28610 (828-459-2161)
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8:30-4pm, Friday, 8:30-12:30pm (lisa@smarklc.org or deanna@smarklc.org)

ISAIAH 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

TITUS 2:11-14

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

LUKE 2:1-20

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 while 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 and family 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.

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 a 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!

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.