



# ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

## OUR MISSION:

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

### Introduction

*Today, 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 evil.*

*Joy!*

**The Nativity of our Lord  
December 24, 2018 at 4 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

4 p.m.

December 24, 2018

\*Please stand if able Symbols: P: Pastor; A: Assisting Minister; C: Congregation

## SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

*We welcome all to this celebration of Christ birth into the world and in our hearts.  
You are also welcome to join us for worship and service at any time.*

### GATHERING

*On this Christmas Eve we gather to proclaim what 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." 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 the world.*

**PRELUDE**

Emily Schuttenberg

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Rev. Gary Haddock

**\*LITANY**

Vicar Frank Waugh

P: We come to celebrate the good news of a great joy! **C: Glory to God in the highest!**

P: Unto us is born a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. **C: Glory to God in the highest!**

P: A multitude of the heavenly host appears, praising God:

**C: Glory to God in the highest! Let us worship the Lord!**

**\*THE GATHERING HYMN**

**"O Come, All Ye Faithful"**

**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)**

**\*APOSTOLIC GREETING**

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.**

**\*CAROL**

**“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 all, from heav’ns all gracious king.”  
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heavenly music floats O’er all the weary world.  
Above its sad and lowly plains, they bend on hov’ring wing  
And ever o’er its Babel sounds, the blessed angels sing.

**\*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 Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

*The congregation is seated.*

**WORD**

**FIRST LESSON**

Isaiah 9:2-7

Jason Gardner

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

*The congregation remains seated.*

**CAROL**

**“Away in a Manger”**

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.

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.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

**SECOND LESSON**

Titus 2:11–14

Jason Gardner

A: Word of God. Word of Life. C: Thanks be to God.

*Peace on Earth*

**The congregation remains seated.**

**CAROL**

**“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”**

Hark the herald angels sing "Glory to the newborn King!  
Peace on earth and mercy mild , God and sinners reconciled."  
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies  
With the angelic host proclaim: "Christ is born in Bethlehem"  
Hark! The herald angels sing "Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ by highest heav'n adored, Christ the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time behold Him come, offspring of a Virgin's womb  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, hail the incarnate Deity  
Pleased as man with man to dwell Jesus, our Emmanuel  
Hark! The herald angels sing "Glory to the newborn King!"

**SHARING THE NEWS OF CHRIST’S BIRTH**

Melanie Sigmon / Rev. Gary Haddock

**\*THE GOSPEL**

Luke 2:1-20

**CHILDREN’S SERMON**

**\*CAROL**

**“What Child Is This?”**

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 Christians, 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 a song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe the Son of Mary!



**\*THE 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**

Jason Gardner

P: Rejoicing with all the faithful, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

*At the end of each petition: Assisting Minister will say:*      A: Hear us, oh God.  
*Congregation will say:*    C: **Your mercy is great.**

*The prayers conclude:*

P: Hear the prayers of your people, glorious God, for the sake of the one who took on our nature and form to redeem the whole world, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C: Amen.**

**The congregation is seated.**

**MEAL**

**THE OFFERING / OFFERTORY**

Emily Schuttenberg

**\*PRESENTATION OF GIFTS AND OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

**“Doxology”**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, you heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Jason Gardner

**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.**

## **\*EUCHARISTIC PRAYER (XI)**

P: We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, whom you sent in this end of the ages to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will. He is your Word, inseparable from you, through him you created all things, and in him you take delight.

He is your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin's womb. He there took on our nature and our lot and was shown forth as your Son, born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary. He, our Lord Jesus, fulfilled all your will and won for you a holy people; he stretched out his hands in suffering in order to free from suffering those who trust you.

He is the one who, handed over to a death he freely accepted, in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one, to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous, to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection, taking bread and giving thanks to you, said:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. In the same way 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.

Remembering, then, His death and resurrection, we take this bread and cup, giving you thanks that you have made us worthy to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your church; gather into one all who share this bread and wine; fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth, that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ; through whom all glory and honor are yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever. **C: Amen.**

## **\*THE LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Lord, 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 COMMUNION**

*The congregation comes forward to receive communion.*

*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.*

## **CAROL**

### **"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 wondering love.  
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the King, and Peace to all the earth!**

**COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION MUSIC**

Emily Schuttenberg

**\*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**

Jason Gardner

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 given below.**

“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)

**\*BENEDICTION**

P: May the Word, born this night, be new and abundant life for you. The blessing of almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **C: Amen.**

**\*SENDING HYMN**

“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.

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.

**\*DISMISSAL** P: Go in peace. 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.

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

### 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.



### LITURGY- THE WORK OF THE PEOPLE

**Senior Pastor:** Rev. Gary Haddock

**Assisting Minister:** Jason Gardner

**Children’s Sermon:** Melanie Sigmon

**Deacons:** Tiffany Caudill, Tanya Stephenson

**Tabulators:** Dotty Isenhour, Chris Cloninger, Nick Setzer

**Tech Team:** Carol Schaefer, Camille Patrick, Tamarah Hefner,

Randy Sherrill, Terry Hefner, Tim Sigmon, Barry Bumgarner

**Associate for Pastoral Care:** Vicar Frank Waugh

**Pianist:** Emily Schuttenberg

**Communion Assistants:** Rebecca Haddock, Camille Patrick

**Altar Guild:** Dotty & Ken Isenhour, Hilka Cox

St. Mark’s Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 550, 3216 W. Main Street, 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)