



**Salem Lutheran Church
St. Timothy Lutheran Church**

Fremont, Nebraska

Christmas in July

July 25, 2021

Salem 8:30 a.m. St. Timothy 10:30 a.m.

GATHERING

WELCOME

Merry Christmas! Welcome to Salem Lutheran Church. We welcome all of you to worship today, especially those of you who are worshipping with us on Big Dog radio 98.9, KHUB 1340, or viewing on Spectrum cable or Facebook Live. If you are joining us on Facebook, please take a moment now to share a greeting in the comments so that we know you are worshipping with us today.

This morning we welcome Gloria Breithaupt at the piano and thank her for sharing her musical talents with us today. We also thank Lu Ann Ehmcke, from Sinai, who will be joining Gloria today for the prelude and postlude for piano duets.

For the special service of Christmas, we celebrate the entrance of God in human form into the world so long ago, and we pause to reflect upon the presence of God in our lives. We hope and pray that your time here this morning fills your spirit with peace and joy for your week to come.

CHIMES

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG

From Heaven Above

vs. 1 & 12

ELW 268

1 From heav'n above to earth I come to bear good news to ev'ry home! Glad tidings of great joy I bring to all the world, and gladly sing:

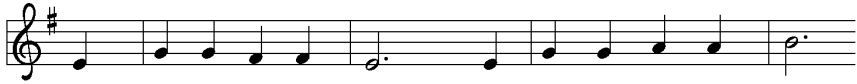
12 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy child, prepare a bed, soft, undefiled, a quiet chamber in my heart, that you and I may never part.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

KYRIE ELW 203



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
 Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
 Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

HYMN OF PRAISE

***Lo How A Rose E'er Blooming* vs. 1 & 3 ELW 272**

1 Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung! Of
Jesse's lineage coming as seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r
so bright, amid the cold of winter, when half-spent was the night.

3 This flow'r, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
dispels with glorious splendor the darkness ev'rywhere. True man,
yet very God, from sin and death he saves us and lightens ev'ry
load.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING**Isaiah 62:6-12****OT 604**

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the LORD, take no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth.

The LORD has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have labored; but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the LORD, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts. Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples. The LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, "See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him." They shall be called, "The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD"; and you shall be called, "Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 97

(Spoken)

The LORD is king! Let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be glad.

Clouds and darkness surround the LORD, righteousness and justice are the foundations of God's throne.

Fire goes before the LORD, burning up enemies on every side.

Lightnings light up the world; the earth sees and trembles.

The mountains melt like wax before the Lord of all the earth.

The heavens declare your righteousness, O LORD, and all the peoples see your glory.

Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight in false gods! Bow down before the LORD, all you gods.

Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice, because of your judgments, O LORD.

For you are the LORD, most high over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods.

You who love the LORD, hate evil! God guards the lives of the saints and rescues them from the hand of the wicked.

Light dawns for the righteous, and joy for the honest of heart.

Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous, and give thanks to God's holy name.

SECOND READING

Titus 3:4-7

NT 969

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

O Little Town of Bethlehem

vs. 1 & 3

ELW 279

1 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.

3 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.

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

**MESSAGE, PROVIDED THROUGH THE CHRISTMAS HYMNS
WE SING**

***Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* vs. 1 & 2 ELW 288**

1 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today; ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now. Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

2 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this! He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore. Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

***Angels We Have Heard On High* vs. 1 & 3 ELW 289**

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.

3 Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing; come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king.

Refrain

***Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* vs. 1 & 3 ELW 270**

1 Hark! The herald angels sing. "Glory to the new born 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!"

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

Silent Night

vs. 1 & 3

ELW 281

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.

HYMN OF THE DAY

The First Noel

vs. 1 & 4

ELW 300

1 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.

4 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**

***THE CHRISTMAS CREED (Martin Luther, 1546)**

Let us confess our faith in the Father who gave us a Child, and who sends his Spirit to us.

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, who sent His Son as my Savior on Christmas Day. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, announced by the angels, worshipped and adored by the wise men, who lived to suffer, die and rise again, to free me from sin, death, and the power of the devil. I believe in the Holy Spirit, who has brought me to faith in the Christ of Christmas, and by whose continuous work in my heart, I am ever led to lay before the feet of Christ the treasures of my love, and live under Him as my King, both now and forevermore. Amen.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Gathered with all who seek the Christ child, let us pray for the church, the world, brothers and sisters at St. Timothy Lutheran Church, and all who are in need.

Loving God, you come among us in Christ Jesus. Grant to your whole church the humility to recognize our sinfulness, and direct us to work toward unity. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Lord of all the earth, all of creation rejoices in you. Endow us with wisdom to care for all that you have made as we give thanks for the beautiful intricacy of your creative work. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

O Lord, you love mercy and justice. Grant to the leaders of all nations good judgment that leads them to work for justice, peace, and equality for all. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Merciful God, you promise to be with us always. Make your comforting presence known to new parents, families, those who live alone, those who are sick, those who are hungry, and all who grieve (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Merciful God, with the shepherds you call us to not be afraid. Free us from our fears so that we share the great joy of your love with everyone. Bless our ministries to the wider community (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Gracious God, you guard the lives of the faithful and you have revealed your love to us through the lives of your saints (*especially*). Inspired by their witness, embolden us to share your love in word and deed. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Into your gracious hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your steadfast mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

***OFFERTORY**

***Of the Father's Love Begotten* vs. 1 & 4 ELW 295**

1 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.

4 Let the heights of heav'n adore him; angel hosts, his praises sing; pow'rs, dominions, bow before him and extol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be silent, ev'ry voice in concert ring evermore and evermore.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

Let us pray. Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being.

For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you.

For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love.

For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. **Amen.**

***LORD'S PRAYER** (sung to Away In A Manger)

Our Father in heaven, all praise to your name!
Your kingdom among us, your will done the same
By mortals and angels. Come, Lord, reign alone;
Oh, hear us and bless us from heaven's high throne.

The bread that we yearn for provide us each day;
As we forgive others, our sins take away;
In times of temptation, to lead us be near;
From evil deliver your children most dear.

For yours is the kingdom; o'er all things you reign.
And yours is the power; all things you maintain.
To you be the glory, resounding again
From all of creation, forever! Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
Amen.

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God.**

***SENDING SONG**

Joy To The World

vs. 1 & 4

ELW 267

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.

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.

***THREEFOLD AMEN AND CHIMES**

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