

*Welcome to Worship at the
Lutheran Church of the Resurrection*

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD—DECEMBER 24, 2021

—GATHERING—

WELCOME

MUSIC FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

“Silent Night” –setting, Gary Lanier

Mitchell Frey, trombone

”He Is Born” – setting, James D. Kimball

*Bell Quartet: Heather & Mark Boyer, Susie Glass, Catherine
Strate*

“Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day” –John Rutter

LCR Singers

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” ELW # 288

LCR Singers

“Hark! The Herald” –setting, Gary Lanier

Mitchell Frey, trombone

“Angels We have Heard on High” –setting, Sandra Eithun

*Bell Quartet: Heather & Mark Boyer, Hannah Hughes, Stacy
Hughes*

“I Wonder as I Wander” –John Jacob Niles

Rachel Thornton, soloist

“Do You Hear What I Hear” –arr. Simeone

LCR Singers, Ron Russell, drum; Mitchell Frey, brass

“Go Tell It on the Mountain” – setting, James D. Kimball
*Bell Quartet: Heather & Mark Boyer, Susie Glass, Catherine
Strate*

“Hark, the Herald Angels Sing” ELW # 270
LCR Singers

“Mary, Did You Know?” –setting, Jack Schrader-3:30
*LCR Singers, Tom Crawford & Matteus Lizdas, guitar, Virginia
Petersen, bass, Ron Russell, drums*

”Silent Night” – Dan Forrest
*LCR Singers, Jesse Pilz, violin; Heather Vincenty, viola;
Dwayne Wasson, cello*

“Sing Noel, Sing Hallelujah!” –M. W. Smith/ D. Hamilton
LCR Singers, Mitchell Frey, brass, Ron Russell, drum

“Go Tell it on the Mountain” ELW # 290
LCR Singers

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
who sends the word with angels,
who is made flesh among all peoples,
and who breathes peace on all the earth.

Amen.

In Christ, we are bold to name our sin and cry out for peace.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,

we confess our sin before you.

We replace compassion with competition.

We seek what is mighty while ignoring the meek.

We are quick to anger but slow to forgive.

We have not put on love in harmony with you.

Wrap us in the grace of your powerful Word.

Swaddle our hearts with your peace,

that all we do, in word or deed,

may reflect your love born among us.

Amen.

I bring you good news of great joy for all people:

God has come among us

in the child born of Mary, Christ the Lord.

✝ In Christ your sins are forgiven

and you are clothed in peace.

Amen.

ENTRANCE HYMN “Oh Come, All Ye Faithful” ELW # 283

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.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE

We light the Christmas Candle, thankful for the presence of God in the darkness of our lives and rejoicing in the gift of light. Creator God, you made the stars in the heavens. Thank you for the light that shines on us in Jesus, the bright Morning Star.

Glory to God in the highest! God the Son is born!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

HYMN OF PRAISE “Angels We Have Heard on High”

ELW#289

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. 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. Amen.

—WORD—

{FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7}

The poem in this 1st Reading promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in

God's passion for the people: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!

A reading from Isaiah:

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.

³ 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.

⁴ 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.

⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶ 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.

⁷ 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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

MUSICAL RESPONSE: “Lo, how a Rose e’er blooming” –
Michael Praetorius

(SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14)

The appearance of God’s grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity. Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior’s final appearance.

A reading from Titus:

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all,
¹² training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and
in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled,
upright, and godly, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope and
the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior,
Jesus Christ. ¹⁴ 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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL HYMN “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

ELW # 276

GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20

The Christmas Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2nd chapter:
Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ 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. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ 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.

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ 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: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵ 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." ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ 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.

MEDITATION "Holes in the Darkness" Pastor Dave Helfrich

HYMN OF THE DAY "What Child is This" ELW # 296

NICENE CREED ELW, page 104

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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

Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Love proclaims that a Savior has been born to us! Inspire your church throughout the world to proclaim the good news of Jesus' birth to all who seek salvation, hope, and new life.

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Love whispers to a weary world that the time for rest and restoration has come. Maintain healthy cycles of wake and sleep for all creatures. Where light pollution disrupts natural rhythms, encourage new practices.

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Love cries to a warring world that the time for peace is at hand. Direct those in power who make decisions on behalf of others, that they nurture and sustain all that is healthy, good, and holy.

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Love sings through the wails of a newborn baby. Respond to all who cry out in pain, despair, or need this night. Bring comfort to those for whom separation, grief, or loss makes the Christmas season especially difficult.

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Love murmurs words of comfort to a newborn child and exhausted parents. Bless new and expectant parents or caregivers, especially those who are alone or afraid this night. Pour out your love upon families of every kind.

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God's ever-present love is proclaimed through the faithful who came before us. We give you thanks for Mary, John the baptizer, Elizabeth his mother, Joseph the dreamer, and all who point toward your love.

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

EXCHANGE OF PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

—THANKSGIVING—

*In light of God's gift to us,
if you would like to give a gift to support
the ministries of Lutheran Church of the Resurrection,
you can text your donation amount to 678-616-9474.*

LCR Musicians also have a musical offering to glorify God

OFFERING “On This Still and Silent Night” –Jonathan Cook / James Koerts

HYMN RESPONSE “O Little Town of Bethlehem” ELW # 279

LORD'S PRAYER ELW, page 112

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

CANDLELIGHTING

Please join us by having each person with you light a candle during this reading and the singing of "Silent Night." The first person holds the lighted candle upright and other candles turned horizontally to get the flame. After the Blessing and before the final hymn, please extinguish your candle, keeping the candle upright until the wax cools and will not drip.

READING John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through Him, and without Him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in Him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through Him; yet the world did not know Him. ¹¹He came to what was His own, and His own people did not accept Him. ¹²But to all who received Him, who believed in His name, He gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen His glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

CANDLELIGHTING HYMN “Silent Night, Holy Night” ELW
281

—SENDING—

BLESSING

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.

In the name of the Father, the ✝ Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

SENDING SONG “Joy to the World

ELW # 267

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE “Go, Tell it on the Mountain”

—setting by Gary

Lanier

Mitchell Frey, trombone

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