

CHRISTMAS EVE

Christmas Light in Darkness

December 24, 2020

5:30 & 7 PM Worship



AS WE GATHER

The Nativity of Our Lord

Christ takes our birth away from us and absorbs it into His birth, and gives us His, that in it we might become pure and new, as if it were our own, so that every Christian may rejoice and glory in Christ's birth as if he also, like Christ, had been born bodily of Mary. Whoever does not believe this, or doubts it, is no Christian. That is the great joy of which the angel speaks. This is the comfort and exceeding goodness of God that, if a man believes this, he can boast of the treasure that Mary is his true mother, Christ his Brother, and God his Father. For all these things are true and happen when we believe. This is the principal thing and the principal treasure in every Gospel, before any doctrine of good works can be taken out of it. Christ must above all things become our own, and we become His, before we can take hold of works. But this cannot occur except through the faith that teaches us rightly to understand the Gospel and properly to lay hold of it. This is knowing Christ correctly, so that the conscience is happy, free, and satisfied. Out of this grow love and praise to God, who in Christ has given us such superabundant gifts free of charge. This gives courage to do, avoid, and suffer everything as is well pleasing to

God, whether in life or in death, as I have often said. This is what Isaiah means: “To us a Child is born, and to us a Son is given” (Isaiah 9:6)—to us, to us, to us is born, and to us is given. Therefore, see to it that you do not find pleasure in the Gospel only as a history, for that does not last long; also not only as an example, for that does not stick without faith. But see to it that you make this birth your own and trade places, so that you are freed from your birth and receive His. This happens when you believe.

From the Church Postil, sermon for Christmas Day on Luke 2:1-14 (*Luther’s Works* 75:216)

Luther, Martin. *Day by Day: 365 Devotional Readings with Martin Luther*. Concordia Publishing House. Kindle Edition.

† PREPARATION †

PRELUDE “See amid the Winter’s Snow” Abby Bridgett 7pm

OPENING HYMN “Angels from the Realms of Glory” *LSB* 367

1 Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o’er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation’s story,
Now proclaim Messiah’s birth. Refrain

ref Come and worship, come and worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

2 Shepherds in the field abiding,
Watching o’er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
Yonder shines the Infant Light. Refrain

3 Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations,
Ye have seen His natal star. Refrain

4 Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In His temple shall appear. Refrain

5 All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
To the eternal Three in One. Refrain

INVOCATION and OPENING PRAYER

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

C Amen.

P Arise, shine, for your light has come!

C And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you!

P The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

C On those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

P To us a child is born. To us a son is given.

C And the government will be upon his shoulders, and he will be called

P Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

C We proclaim the praises of him,

P Who called us out of darkness

C Into his marvelous light!

Confession and Absolution

P The Holy Spirit has shone the light of God's love into our hearts, giving us faith to believe that the darkness of our sin has indeed been dispelled by the coming of Christ in the flesh. Let us, therefore, go to God's throne of grace, confessing our sins.

C Wonderful Counselor, we confess that we have listened to the advice of the dark world around us. We have let the gloom of the nations and the difficulties of our personal lives blind us to the light of your love. Forgive us. Mighty God, we confess that we have ascribed too much power to the forces of evil in this world of sin. We have failed to recognize you as

glorious Lord over all. Forgive us. Everlasting Father, we confess that in our daily dilemmas we have forgotten the great forgiving love that prompted Christ to become one of us to die for us. We have not always sought to live in your light. Forgive us. Prince of Peace, we confess that we have not recognized the peace that you have brought to our discordant lives. It does not fill our hearts and minds. Forgive us.

P To us a Child is born; to us God's Son is given! Christ's eternal reign has broken through to our time and place with the brilliant light of his mercy and forgiveness. All your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Arise, shine, for your light has come! And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you!

HYMN OF PRAISE "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

LSB 361

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.

2 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!

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.

4 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;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel!

COLLECT

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray.

O God, You make us glad with the remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

† WORD †

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 9:1-7

But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,

as they are glad when they divide the spoil. For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CAROL “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” *LSB 380*

1 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!”

ref Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”

2 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 Immanuel!

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 man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 110: 1 The

LORD says to my Lord:
“Sit at my right hand,
until I make your enemies your footstool.”
The LORD sends forth from Zion
your mighty scepter.
Rule in the midst of your enemies!
Your people will offer themselves freely
on the day of your power,
in holy garments;
from the womb of the morning,
the dew of your youth will be yours.
The LORD has sworn
and will not change his mind,
“You are a priest forever
after the order of Melchizedek.”

CAROL “Angels We Have Heard on High”

LSB 368

1 Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains.

Ref Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

- 2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly song?
- 3 Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

SCRIPTURE

2 Timothy 1:8-10

Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:1-20 (KJV)

Reader: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second Chapter;

People: Praise to You, O' Lord!

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths 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, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You O' Christ.

Explanation of the Lord's Prayer

The Second Petition

Pastor: Thy kingdom come. What does this mean?

All: The kingdom of God certainly comes by itself without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may come to us also.

Pastor: How does God's kingdom come?

All: God's kingdom comes when our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity.

The Third Petition

Pastor: Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. What does this mean?

All: The good and gracious will of God is done even without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also.

Pastor: How is God's will done?

All: God's will is done when He breaks and hinders every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, which do not want us to hallow God's name or let His kingdom come; and when He strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word and faith until we die. This is His good and gracious will.

KIDS' TIME

SERMON HYMN

"Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

LSB 374

- 1 Gentle Mary laid her child
Lowly in a manger;
There He lay, the undefiled,
To the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place,
Can He be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race
Who have found His favor.
- 2 Angels sang about His birth,
Wise Men sought and found Him;
Heaven's star shone brightly forth
Glory all around Him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight,
Heard the angels singing;
All the plains were lit that night,
All the hills were ringing.
- 3 Gentle Mary laid her child
Lowly in a manger;
He is still the undefiled
But no more a stranger.
Son of God of humble birth,
Beautiful the story;
Praise His name in all the earth;
Hail the King of glory!

SERMON

Arise & Shine

OFFERING

“It Came Upon A Midnight Clear”
“O’ Holy Night”

Sarah Lampitt 5:30pm
Abby Bridgett 7pm

PRAYERS

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs. Merciful and gracious God, we give You thanks and praise for Your great Light with which You have visited us in the person of Your Son Jesus, the Son of Mary, our Savior from sin and death. As Your Church proclaims joy to the world at the coming of the Savior may every heart be filled with faith, comfort, and joy to receive Him. Light of the world,

C Hear our prayer, and shine on our darkness.

Pastor: Grant to Your whole Church the pure light of Your saving Word and inspire all who are called to preach and teach Your Word to do so with joy and complete faithfulness. Light of the world,

C Hear our prayer, and shine on our darkness.

Pastor: As this world still sits in the darkness of sin and the shadow of death, make the light of Christ to shine brightly in every corner that many may be drawn to Your salvation and gift of life. Light of the world,

C Hear our prayer, and shine on our darkness.

Pastor: Hold the governing authorities of our land and of every nation in Your strong arms, directing them in ways of justice and mercy that provide for the greater liberty and freedom of people all over the world. Light of the world,

C Hear our prayer, and shine on our darkness.

Pastor: Visit, heal, and relieve all who are lonely, homebound, hospitalized, or recuperating from illness - those within our congregation and those named in our hearts. (*Silence to pray*). Assure them of Your gracious presence and grant them peace. Light of the world,

C Hear our prayer, and shine on our darkness.

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray,
trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: 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*

THANKSGIVING FOR THE LIGHT

*[As the hymn is sung, the Pastor will light the candles of the ushers, who
light the candles of people sitting by the aisles, who in turn light those
next to them, tipping unlit candles toward lit ones. Lights may be
extinguished as the candlelight increases.]*

(Please tip only your unlit candle to receive the flame.)

HYMN "Silent Night, Holy Night"

LSB 363

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.

- 2 Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!
 Christ, the Savior, is born!
 Christ, the Savior, is born!
- 3 Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
 Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
 Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

CHRISTMAS THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Angels we have heard on high,

People: **Gloria in excelsis deo.**

Pastor: Like the holy angels worshiping before You,

People: **may we ceaselessly adore You.**

Pastor: To Your gracious presence by Your greatest Gift, Jesus,

People: **we give all praise and glory. Amen.**

BENEDICTION God's Christmas Peace and Light be yours because of the Christ-child born in Bethlehem; and the blessing of God almighty, Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit, be and abide with you forever.

People: **Amen.**

You May Extinguish Your Candles

Silence for Prayer

Have a Blessed & Mighty Christmas Celebrating the Birth of the Christ-Child.

Join Us for worship -
Christmas Day @ 10 am with Holy Communion

Many thanks and praise to the LORD for all who helped out this evening using their God given gifts in worship to the Christ-child. Many combined hours and talent were exercised on the front lines and behind the scenes to edify our worship this evening. Again, thank you for all your talents and time.

Rev. Mike Redeker - Preacher
Rev. Josh Schmidt - Liturgist
Marilyn Smith - Organist and Accompanist
Acolytes - Kenny Dimmick, Shyloh Dimmick
Abby Bridgett - Solo