

Worship Service: Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24, 2022 @ 7pm

Worship Leader: Pastor Dennis Serfas

Pianist/Organist: Elaine Serfas & Colleen Bowen

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Prelude Music - Kai Finnestad

WELCOME

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH – The Christ Candle

God with us. Love-shine, your moment has come. In the dark of the womb you waited. Bathed in the balm of the star, you rest. Into a world sorely in need of your light, you are born. When you knock on our door looking for room, may we welcome you. Like the herald of your birth, call us to share your good news first with those who are poor, excluded and afraid.

Congregation: The light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot put it out.

Light the Christ candle and all four Advent candles.

The love of heaven has come to Earth. The call of Christ begins in a baby's cry. Listen and respond.

Congregation: We light the Christ candle. May it light the way.

GATHERING SONG: ELW#283 'Oh Come, All Ye Faithful' (vs.1,2,3)

PRAYER

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.**

CHILDREN'S HYMN: ELW#278 'Away in a Manger' (vs.1)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE – May Janzen

CHILDREN'S HYMN: ELW#278 'Away in a Manger' (vs.2,3)

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

This poem 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!

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. ³You 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. ⁴For 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. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For 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. ⁷His 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. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

CHRISTMAS CAROL MEDLEY

1. ELW#289 'Angels we have Heard on High' (vs 1,3)
2. ELW#300 'The First Noel' (vs 1,2)

PSALM 96

¹Sing to the LORD! a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

²**Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD; proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**

³Declare God's glory among the nations and God's wonders among all peoples.

⁴**For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised, more to be feared than all gods.**

⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.

⁶**Majesty and magnificence are in your presence; power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**

⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

⁸**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name; bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.**

⁹Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

¹⁰**Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is king! The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peoples with equity."**

¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

¹²**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O LORD, for you come to judge the earth**

¹³You will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with your truth.

CAROL: ELW#267 'Joy to the World' (vs 1,2,4)

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.

¹¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He 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. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

CHRISTMAS CHOIR

GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-14

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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. ⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And 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!"

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

SERMON: Pastor Dennis

SPECIAL MUSIC

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ's coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family, praying God of Grace, and responding **hear our prayer.**

...

Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

CHRISTMAS OFFERING HYMN: OSB#141 'Mary's Little Boy Child'

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.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

As you go on your way, may God go with you. May God's light go before you to show you the way; May God's presence go behind you to encourage you; Beside you to befriend you; Above you to watch over you; And within you to give hope, peace, joy and love. In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. **(Sung) Amen. Amen. Amen.**

SENDING SONG: ELW#281 'Silent Night'

DISMISSAL

Christ is born! Go tell it on the mountain and everywhere. **Thanks be to God.**

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