

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
1100 EAST SUPERIOR STREET, DULUTH, MN

December 24, 2020

5:00 p.m.

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD: CHRISTMAS EVE



In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

PRELUDE *A Nativity Triptych: Once He Came in Blessing ~*

Let All Together Praise Our God ~ Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

German chorales, arr. John Eggert

prerecorded by Jeanette Paulson, oboe; Karen Sande, organ

WELCOME

WELCOMING THE LIGHT

GATHERING HYMN #283 *O Come, All Ye Faithful*



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

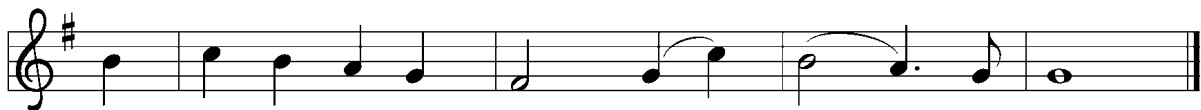


come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain



Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

APOSTOLIC GREETING

Rejoice, rejoice believers for Christ is born today!
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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

You have made this holy night shine with a brightness that transforms our lives and your world. You humble yourself to live as one of us inviting us to make your story our own. May our lives join with Mary and Joseph, the shepherds and the angels to proclaim your love and your peace throughout the earth. We pray through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

WORD

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

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

Pastor Dianne O. Loufman

FIRST READING *Isaiah 9:2-7*

read by Steve Samuelson

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.

ANTHEM *All Praise to Thee*

text: Martin Luther; music: Elaine Hagenberg
Soli Deo Gloria Virtual Choir; Karen Sande, piano

All praise to Thee, eternal God, who, clothed in garb of flesh and blood,
Dost take a manger for Thy throne, while worlds on worlds are Thine alone. Alleluia.

Thou comest in the darksome night to make us children of the light,
To make us in the realms divine, like Thine own angels, round Thee shine. Alleluia.

A little Child, Thou art our Guest that weary ones in Thee may rest;
Forlorn and lowly is Thy birth that we may rise to heav'n from earth. Alleluia. Amen.

SECOND READING *Titus 2:11-14*

read by Jake Samuelson

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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION HYMN #289 *Angels We Have Heard on High*



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



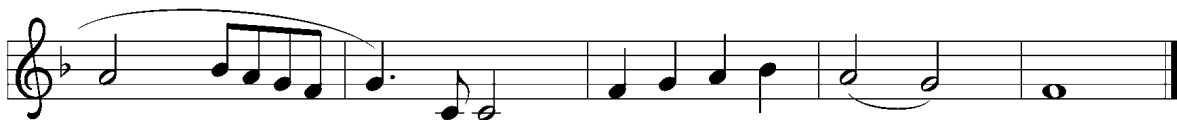
and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



Glo - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo -



ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

GOSPEL *Luke 2:1-20*

The Holy Gospel according to Luke
Glory to you, O Lord.

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 swaddling clothes, 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 swaddling clothes 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!”

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

SERMON

Pastor Dianne O. Loufman

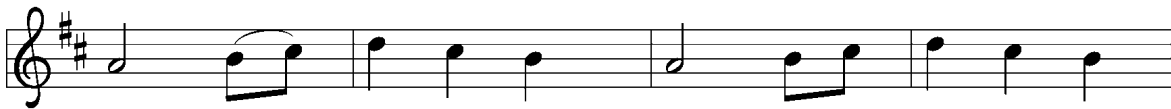
HYMN OF THE DAY #300 *The First Noel*



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . . a star shin - ing
 3 And by the light of that . . . same star three . .
 4 This star drew near to the . . . north-west, o'er . .
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . . men three, full . .



cer-tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
 in . . . the east . . be - yond . . them far; and to the
 wise . . men came . . from coun - try far; to seek for a
 Beth - le - hem . . it took . . its rest; and there it
 rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . so it con -
 king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . o - ver the
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . gold, . . . and

Refrain



night that was so deep.
 tin-ued both day and night.
 star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
 place where Je - sus lay.
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We proclaim the unexpected: the birth of God-with-us, Immanuel, who scatters the darkness and brings all into light.

Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth?

Sing verse 1 of Hymn #295 Of the Father's Love Begotten

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary? **Sing verse 2**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting? **Sing verse 4**

This is our faith, the faith of the church. We profess it through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Sing verse 5**



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -
2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the vir - gin,
4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his
5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
prais - es sing; pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him
Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that
bore the Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's re -
and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be
and un - wea - ried prais - es be: hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, and that fu - ture years shall see,
deem - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,
si - lent, ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring
min - ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
ev - er - more and ev - er - more! A - men

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Breath of Heaven,
You are Holy.

THE PEACE

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

OFFERING

You are invited to use our digital offering plate. Simply send a text to 218-325-9525 with amount you would like to contribute. Enter a simple number (with no decimal). You'll be sent a text with a link to register. Click on the link and enter your card information. Thank you for supporting God's mission through FLC.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *The Infant King*

Basque Noel, arr. David Willcocks

Mary Dontje, Aine Miller, Suzanne Rauvola, Brad Anderson, and Michael Fuchs, singers

Sing lullaby! Lullaby baby, now reclining, Sing lullaby!

*Hush, do not wake the Infant King. Angels are watching, stars are shining
Over the place where he is lying. Sing lullaby!*

Sing lullaby! Lullaby baby, now a-sleeping, Sing lullaby!

*Hush, do not wake the Infant King. Soon will come sorrow with the morning,
Soon will come bitter grief and weeping: Sing lullaby!*

Sing lullaby! Lullaby baby, now a-dozing, Sing lullaby!

*Hush, do not wake the Infant King. Soon comes the cross, the nails, the piercing,
Then in the grave at last reposing: Sing lullaby!*

Sing lullaby! Lullaby! is the babe a-waking? Sing lullaby!

*Hush, do not stir the Infant King. Dreaming of Easter, gladsome morning,
Conquering Death, its bondage breaking: Sing lullaby!*

OFFERING PRAYER

How silently the wondrous gift is given. Open our hands and our hearts to receive this Child. Bless our offerings of gratitude as outpourings of your light that they might be used to share in word and deed with all who hunger for the good news you bring. Through the Christ child we pray. **Amen.**

FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY

I will bring her into the wilderness and speak tenderly to her. Hosea 2:14

As we travel through the uncertainties of this time, we remember the journey of Mary and Joseph, no place in the inn, the wilderness of the stable, and the visiting shepherds and kings. We take bread remembering that as God sustained this holy family, God sustains us. We break off a piece of bread, touching, tasting and seeing, remembering our God - Breath of Heaven come to earth. **Amen.**

HYMN #277 *Away in a Manger*



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord
2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -



Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked
Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look
ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
your ten - der care and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us, as our Savior taught us, so we 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,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

SHARING OF THE LIGHT

Jesus said: "You are the light of the world. Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify God in heaven."

HYMN #281 *Silent Night, Holy Night!*



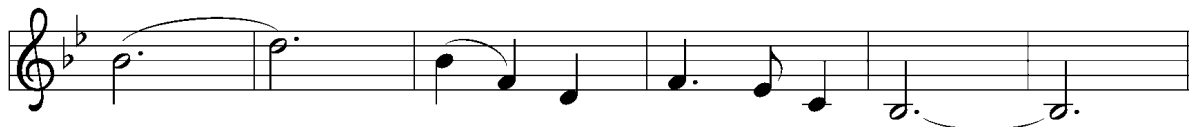
Stil - le Nacht, hei - li-ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,
1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.
all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,



Hold - er Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher
Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your



Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.
peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

INVITATION TO JOIN US IN SINGING *SILENT NIGHT* IN THE PARKING LOT

You are invited to gather tonight at 6:30 p.m. to sing *Silent Night* in the Superior Street parking lot. Bring a light, wear a mask, and stand physically distanced from others or stay in your car. Park in the main lot if you plan to stay in your car; otherwise, park on the street or in the far lot and walk in to join us. Choir members will lead the singing, but bring the words if you don't know them all.

Let's come together safely for this moment to celebrate Christmas
and like the angels, send our voices forth into the night!

BLESSING

The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.

Almighty God,
who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary,
proclaimed joy through the angels,
sent the shepherds with good news,
and led the magi by a star,
bless you this day ☩ through the Word made flesh. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN #267 *Joy to the World*



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *In Dulci Jubilo*

J. S. Bach
Karen Sande, organ

MINISTERS All People of First Lutheran Church
PASTOR The Rev. Dianne O. Loufman
PASTORAL INTERN Logan McLean Strike
PROGRAM STAFF Ann Beck, Pastoral Associate
Karen Sande, Director of Music
Michael Fuchs, Director of Choral Activities
Bryan Gatten, Director of Contemporary Worship
MUSICIANS Jeanette Paulson, oboe; Suzanne Rauvola, Mary Dontje, Aine Miller, Brad
Anderson, and Michael Fuchs, singers; Soli Deo Gloria Virtual Choir
VIDEOGRAPHERS Shania Krause, Sam Weston
DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER Stacie Curnow

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First Lutheran Church, dedicated to the mission of Jesus Christ, welcomes YOU into this community of faith, where we share life in its entirety, with all its joys and sorrows. We believe all people are created in the image of God and are offered God's love, grace, and forgiveness, regardless of religious tradition, age, gender identity, race, education, economic status, sexual orientation, family structure, mental or physical abilities. We acknowledge the indigenous culture of this land.
We extend a special welcome in Christ's love.

faithlovecommunity
First Lutheran Church

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