

*The Nativity of Our Lord
Christmas Day*



December 25, 2022 10:00 am

During the Christmas season, the Lectionary readings invite us to reflect on the Incarnation of God: Jesus, God's Word made flesh. In the person of Christ, God enters human history and identifies with the human condition. Traditional colors of the season include white and gold, symbolizing joy in the light of day. The use of the color gold on the Christmas Wreath symbolizes God's purity and life for all.

Christmas Day
December 25, 2022 – Observed January 1, 2023, Due to Weather

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Pre-Service Music

Welcome

Arise in body or spirit

**CELEBRATION OF LIGHT ON THE CHRISTMAS WREATH
THE CHRIST CANDLE & CHRISTMAS GOOD NEWS**

- P** 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.”
- C** **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, goodwill to all people.”**
- P** To us a child is born.
- C** **To us a son is given.**
- A** This morning Christ appears.
- C** **This morning salvation comes.**
- P** Today we proclaim together.
- C** **“Glory to God in the highest. Peace to God’s people on earth!”**
- A** Our God, the Lord Almighty, shows us gentle loving kindness in ways that are mysterious to us.
- C** **We are given a baby, but this child is indeed the Mighty God.**
- P** The grace of our Savior Jesus Christ, Word made flesh, born of Mary, be with you all.
- C** **And also with you.**



1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, Je - sus, the Light of the world;
 2 Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; Je - sus, the Light of the world;
 3 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Je - sus, the Light of the world;
 4 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Je - sus, the Light of the world;



“Glo - ry to the new-born king,” Je - sus, the Light of the world.
 join the tri - umph of the skies; Je - sus, the Light of the world.
 Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord! Je - sus, the Light of the world.
 Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness! Je - sus, the Light of the world.

Refrain

We'll walk in the light, beau-ti-ful light, come where the dew-drops of mer-cy are bright.



Shine all a-round us by day and by night, Je - sus, the Light of the world.

Prayer of the Day

- A** Let us pray, All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace.
- C** 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

The prophet invites the people to give God no rest until God reestablishes Jerusalem. In turn, they will receive names full of promise: The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD, A City Not Forsaken.

📖 A reading from **Isaiah**:

⁶Upon 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,
⁷and give him no rest
until he establishes Jerusalem
and makes it renowned throughout the earth.
⁸The 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;
⁹but those who garner it shall eat it
and praise the LORD,
and those who gather it shall drink it
in my holy courts.

¹⁰Go 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.
¹¹The 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.”
¹²They 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.**

God Reigns! Earth Rejoices!

Fm B^b/F Fm B^b Fm/C C Fm

1 God reigns! Earth re - joic - es! O - ceans shout God's might!
 2 Fires will blaze the path - way; stars will mark the place,
 3 E - vil walks be - side us, crush - es with its grief;
 4 Light dawns for the right - eous, joy for God's own heirs;

B^b/F Fm B^b Fm/C C Fm

Clad in truth and joy, God's throne is our de - light.
 when God comes in glo - ry, meets us face to face.
 yet in God the faith - ful find their sure re - lief.
 love all loves ex - cel - ling; grace be - yond com - pare.

C/E Fm C

Clouds roll a - side, and night be - comes as day.
 Moun - tains will shake, and worth - less i - dols fall;
 Shack - les will break, and chains of bon - dage cease;
 Daugh - ters and sons, God's maj - es - ty pro - claim!

Fm B^b/F Fm B^b Fm/C C Fm

God will dwell a - mong us; God will show the way!
 Zi - on will re - joice, for God is Lord of all!
 for - mer lam - en - ta - tions now are songs of peace.
 Let your hearts de - clare the Lord's most ho - ly name!

Second Reading

Titus 3:4-7

God saves us not because of what we do. Rather, God is a God of mercy and salvation who graciously cleanses us in baptism and renews our lives through the Holy Spirit.

☒ A reading from **Titus:**

⁴When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he 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. ⁶This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so 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.**

Arise in body or spirit.

Gospel Acclamation

Emmanuel

W&P 36

**Emmanuel. Emmanuel,
his name is called Emmanuel:
God with us, revealed in us;
his name is called Emmanuel.**

Gospel Reading

Luke 2: 8-20

The world's deep night is shattered by the light of God's new day. The glory of God is revealed to poor shepherds, who share the good news with others.

☐ The Holy Gospel, according to **Luke**.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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!”

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.**

Children's Time

All children [including infants] and youth who desire to come forward for the children's sermon are welcomed and encouraged to do so. Parents/caregivers are welcome to accompany their child during the children's message. There may be a time of dance and celebration that is offered.

Message

*Silence for reflection. After reflection,
Arise in body or in spirit to sing the hymn.*



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the
 2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -
 3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;
 sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;
 last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to
 what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the
 Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
 name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.
 gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

You may sit or kneel for prayer.

Prayers

A Pondering the mystery of the Word made flesh, let us bring before the throne of God our prayer on behalf of the church, the world, and all people in need.

A brief silence.

A The church in every land makes a joyful noise to herald your coming, O God. We give thanks for poets, musicians, and hymn writers who give voice to our praise, and for all who lead the church's worship, especially *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David and Roseanne, our synod companions Grace Lutheran Church, Vassar; Lebanon Lutheran Church, Whitehall; Saint Edwards Catholic Church, Lake Odessa; Saint Francis of Assisi episcopal Church, Shelbyville; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* God of our salvation,

G **thank you for hearing us.**

A This day dawns with new hope for all living things, and from ocean depths to mountain peaks the earth rejoices. Inspire in us an urgent zeal to protect the planet and renew its resources. God of our salvation,

G **thank you for hearing us.**

A Bring heavenly peace to this world and an end to armed conflict. Raise up leaders in every nation who will honor human rights and establish equal justice for all people. Give courage to all who speak out against oppression and advocate for the powerless. Be with those who safeguard the world, including *Parker Stancil (Freedlund), Cody and Myrina Crawford (Clements), Cynthia Rudesill (Hansen), Joel Taggart (Varkula), Julia Ehredt (Schreiner, Halstead), and Seth Domke (Domke).* God of our salvation,

G **thank you for hearing us.**

A Guard the lives of any in danger, especially those who work to protect others. Lead any who are in desperate circumstances to sanctuary, help, and safety. Grant rest to the weary and soothe those who are troubled especially *Frances Ann, Veronica Baarson, Bob Bolton, Keith Busheé, John Charles, Cherie Clements, Victor Crowder, Bob & Bonnie Ehredt, Greg Franks, Bill Frutiger, Mike Gibbons, Amanda Haddix (pregnancy), Larry Hansen, Henry Heil, David Hills, Mike Kemper, Norma Ludlow, Alexis Markwart, Mattea Markwart, Terri Neeb, Ken Plourde, Annette Poholski, Randy Post, Roy Richards, The Family of Jeannette Rose, Cynthia Rudesill (pregnancy), Al Throop, Lindsay Varkula (pregnancy), and Maryellen Wammock.* God of our salvation,

G **thank you for hearing us.**

A Bless all who gather to worship on this holy day. Be present at our tables and celebrations, and watch over those who travel. Sustain charities, outreach ministries, and food pantries that give generously to people in need. God of our salvation,

G **thank you for hearing us.**

A In Christ we have beheld your glory, full of grace and truth. We give thanks for those in every generation who reflect the light of Christ. May their witness shine forth in our time.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray. God of our salvation,

C **thank you for hearing us.**

P Confident that you establish righteousness and justice in the world, we commend to you all for whom we pray; through your Son and our redeemer, Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

Arise in body or spirit.

Offering Prayer

A 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.

C **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.**

Sharing the Peace of God

P The peace of the newborn Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

(We share the peace of Christ with one another.)

Great Thanksgiving

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so with the church on earth, all creation and the host of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Je - sus, Je - sus, oh, what a won - der - ful child.

Je - sus, Je - sus, so ho - ly, meek, and

mild; new life, new hope the child will bring.

Lis - ten to the an - gels sing: "Glo - ry, glo - ry,

glo - ry," let the heav - ens ring!

Table Prayer

- ☐ Holy God,
Creator of all and Source of life,
at the birth of time
your word brought light into the world.
- ☑ **In the fullness of time,
you sent your Word, born of Mary,
to shine in our darkness and to make us your daughters and sons.
Come, and give us life.**

- ☐ In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.



- ☑ **Remembering, therefore, his birth and life among us,
his death and resurrection, we await his coming again
when all things will be restored in him.
Come, and give us life.**
- ☐ By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup,
that, held and nourished by you,
we may live as your children, shining with the light of your Son.
- ☑ **Come and give us life. Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church, both now and forever. Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

- ☐ Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- ☑ **Our Father in heaven, holy be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

☐ Joy to the world! The Lord is come.

☑ Thanks be to God.

Communion

Angles, from the Realms of Glory

ELW 275



1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.



Refrain



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.



Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

ELW 272

Prayer after Communion

- A** On this day, O God, you gave us Christ the Son to save us.
- C** **As you sent the one foretold, send us now with good news for all people. Let the gladness of this feast have no end as we share with others the joy that fills us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Mission Minutes

Arise in body or spirit.

Blessing

- P** Christ, who by his incarnation has filled us with grace and truth, give you peace this Christmas and always. Almighty God, Father, \dagger Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
- C** **Amen**

Sending Song

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

ELW 288

Dismissal

- P** Glory to God in the highest!
- C** **Peace to God's people on earth!**
- A** Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Assisting Minister – Vickey Argo

Lector – Jamie Heise

Musician – Chris Bush

Pastor – Ken Scheck

Fellowship – Diane Neeb

The Way God Speaks

It all begins with a word. The author of John's gospel invites us to step back in time, all the way back to the very beginning, to the space before and beyond the binary poles of night and day, sea and sky, flying birds and swimming fish. When all creation was yet a formless void, God coaxed order and beauty into being with just the sound of a word. By a word, the world was created, and by *the* Word, the world is reconciled and restored.

God speaks—through the messengers on the mountains, “in many and various ways by the prophets” (Hebrews 1:1), and through John, the witness in the wilderness. God tells the world that it is created for good, that all things are made from and for love, and that “grace upon grace” (John 1:16) continues to abound and overflow from the trusted voice and hand of our creator. Are we listening?

The narratives of Advent and Christmas include a host of unlikely voices: divine messengers, childless women, shepherds, stargazers from foreign nations, a locust-eating prophet clothed in camel hair. All are preparing us to hear the hopes and dreams of God's kingdom from the voice of a carpenter and, later, from some fishermen and tax collectors.

Who are the many and various voices through which God is speaking today? Who are the witnesses to God's saving work in both the darkness and the light? It might not be the voices we would think. Can we trust that God speaks to us through a variety and diversity of voices, even the ones that disarm or challenge us the most?

Listen. Listen to the witnesses. Listen to the powerless and overlooked. Listen to the voices speaking words of liberation and love, despite desperate circumstances. These are the words of the Word creating a new world, the words of eternal life for all the children of God.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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Stewardship Information

Attendance: 55	Views: 210	Weekly Giving: \$3,105.00	Budget Amount: \$4,163.28
Renew: \$2,177.00	Surplus	Social Activities: \$40.00	Miscellaneous: \$40.00
ELCA Youth Gathering: \$84.50		Food Pantry: \$40.00	Outreach: \$230.00

WELCOME TO CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE. We hope that you can feel the presence of God in your midst. We are pleased that you come among us and sing a **NEW SONG** to God.

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY AT 10 AM. We will have our Christmas and Epiphany Lesson and Carols worship service. Start out the New Year with worship!

We have raised the funds for our Replace, Repair, Renew Campaign. THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTNERSHIP! Look for Council's next phase of fundraising, as we are facing a deficit. Thanks for your generosity and support as we further the mission of Jesus Christ.

The nursery is available during the 10:45 worship service. Aurora Collins is the Nursery Attendant. She would love to have some little ones visit her. Please spread the word that Grace provides childcare during this worship service.

Adult Forum continues to study the Psalms in the Gathering Area. We will begin again on January 8th at 9:30 am. Hope to see you there!

Giving Tree for 2022 is up. Please come select a tag or two, or share a donation earmarked 2022 Giving Tree, and someone will shop for you. You may also call the church to find out what is still needed or check the Grace Facebook page for more ideas.

Noisy Offering As we begin a new year, we are going to resume collection of our noisy offering. Noisy Offering is taken every second Sunday.

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY THAT IS SHARED WITH GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH THROUGH YOUR contributions to the MINISTRY OF JESUS CHRIST. As the year comes to a close, we would like to remind you that anything that is received beyond January 1, 2023, must be declared by the church for 2023.

Christmas Family Adoptions. Thank you for all your help in providing for 5 families in need.

Devotionals from the Community Outreach Committee **are available in the Gathering Area.**