

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

12/25/21

Christmas Morning



AS WE GATHER

Months of anticipation for the young children among us reach their long-awaited fulfillment with the exciting arrival of Christmas Day! Take that anticipation, multiply it again and again, and you can begin to fathom how it felt for God's people, who long awaited the coming of the Messiah. Isaiah and the other prophets had foretold that this Child, this Son, would come to bring salvation unto us. In the birth of Jesus Christ, this anticipation that stretched for hundreds—even thousands—of years reaches its fulfillment as God's Son is born into our world. Together may we marvel at the mystery that is Christmas, rejoicing with the angels that this Good News is delivered unto us. May we together receive this gift anew as Jesus Himself is present with us as we gather to worship Him!

LSB 387 Joy to the World

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Our help is in the name of the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.

If You, O LORD, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

Since we are gathered this Christmas morning to hear God's Word, to marvel at the mystery of the Word becoming flesh, and to receive Him as He comes to us in His body and blood, let us first consider our unworthiness before God and confess before Him and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed. We cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition; only God's Son, Jesus Christ, has set us free from our fears and failures, our sin and death, and He enables us to live forever as God's children. Let us then take refuge in the infinite mercy of our God and, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, say: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son, born into this world on Christmas, to live, suffer, die, and rise again for you. For Jesus' sake, your heavenly Father forgives you all your sins. As your pastor, it is my privilege to announce this message of grace unto you and, as Christ has commanded, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

LSB 379 O Come, All Ye Faithful

Introit

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.

Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things!
His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

The LORD has made known his salvation;
he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.
He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.
All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.
Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises!
***Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.***

Gloria in Excelsis

Glory be to God on High,
***and on earth peace, goodwill toward men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee,
we worship Thee. We glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great
glory. O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only-
begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that
takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away
the sin of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of
God the Father, have mercy upon us. For Thou only art holy; Thou only art
the Lord. Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory
of God the Father. Amen.***

Salutation and Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Old Testament Reading *Isaiah 52:7–10*

⁷How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." ⁸The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to Zion. ⁹Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. ¹⁰The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Epistle *Hebrews 1:1–6*

¹Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. ³He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. ⁵For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son"? ⁶And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse

Alleluia. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel *John 1:1–14*

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

¹In 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 were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed (Rear Cover of Maroon Hymnal)

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth...

LSB 361 O Little Town of Bethlehem

Sermon

Offertory

LBS 392 God Loves Me Dearly

Offering

LSB 393 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Prayer of the Church

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Wonderful Counselor, You govern all things with wisdom, righteousness, and truth. Grant to Your creation the joy of Your presence, that we may see You at work in our midst. Guide the nations of the earth to Your Son, that all would know Your salvation. Wherever the good news of great joy is announced this day, grant that lives are changed forever by the power of Your Holy Spirit. Let us pray to the Lord:

We rejoice that You have come unto us to draw us unto You.

Mighty God, Your power knows no limits. You reign over all things and yet, in Christ, You stoop down to save us. Give to us, Your Church, the power to declare Your mighty deeds throughout the world. Inspire us to fulfill our earthly callings so that, through our lives of joyful service, all would know of Your grace and mercy. Let us pray to the Lord:

We rejoice that You have come unto us to draw us unto You.

Everlasting Father, You embrace us and make us Your children through faith in Your only-begotten Son. Bless all those who, in any form of sickness or infirmity, need Your tender care. Heal the sick, bind up the brokenhearted, and grant Your saving power to all who rest in You. This day we especially pray for [... *names...*] that they rejoice in the message of Christ coming into this world for them. Let us pray to the Lord:

We rejoice that You have come unto us to draw us unto You.

Prince of Peace, You give to us what the world can never give. Drive out all fears and doubts. Deliver us from all enemies, seen and unseen. Grant us solace in Him whose blood has set us free that we would be Your people forever. Open our ears to the message of the angels: "Fear not! For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord!" Let us pray to the Lord:

We rejoice that You have come unto us to draw us unto You.

Fearing, loving, and trusting in You above all things, we entrust all of these prayers to Your mercy, O Lord, for the sake of Him whose birth we celebrate this day: Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Trusting in our God's promise, we are bold to sing:

***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.***

Words of Institution:

Our Lord Jesus Christ on the same night in which he was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His Disciples, saying' "Take eat; this is my body which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me."

After the same manner also He took the cup when He had supped, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it all of you, this is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of your sins. This do, as often as you drink of it, in remembrance of me."

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takes away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us, and grant us Your peace.

Amen.

The Distribution:

LSB 380 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

TLH 672 Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ

O give thanks unto the Lord for He is good!
And His mercy endures forever!

Post- Communion Prayer

We give thanks, Heavenly Father, that you have given us a foretaste of the feast to come. Keep us firm in the faith during our pilgrimage on earth. Open our eyes to see Your daily and eternal so that we may continue to give You all the praise. Strengthen us in faith until faith is turned to sight, when we shall celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

Benediction:

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

Amen

LSB 388 Go Tell it on the Mountain