



Christmas Eve
WORSHIP

December 24, 2020
1:00pm

St. John's Lutheran Church
Grand Haven, MI

Prelude

Christmas Greeting

(Please rise)

Call to Worship: “O Come, All Ye Faithful” LSB 379

1 O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him
Born the king of angels: **Refrain**

Refrain O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!

2 Highest, most holy,
Light of Light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;
Son of the Father
Now in flesh appearing! **Refrain**

Public domain



Invocation:

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: On this special and holy night when we celebrate the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ, we approach His manger-throne in humility. As we once again confess our need for Him as our Savior, we take joy in receiving from Him the gift that He has come to give: forgiveness and new life.

(A time of personal reflection and confession to Christ)

Pastor: Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;

People: He is to be feared above all gods.

Pastor: He will judge the world in righteousness,

People: and the peoples in His faithfulness. *Psalm 96:4, 13 (ESV)*

Pastor: Most merciful God,

People: we confess that we don't deserve to receive the gift of Your Son, Jesus. We are sinners and all too often we have failed to live according to Your Law for us as Your people. For the sake of Your precious Son born to us in Bethlehem, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Pastor: The hope of the world is found in no one other than One born to us in Bethlehem. Christ was born to live for us and to carry our sins to the Cross of Calvary where He has removed each and every one of them as far as the east is from the west. Because of all that the Christ child has accomplished for us, we are forgiven. This is the grace of God - that Jesus came into the world not to condemn us, but to save us all!

People: Amen.

Hymn of Praise: "Now Sing We, Now Rejoice" LSB 386

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| 1 | Now sing we, now rejoice,
Now raise to heav'n our voice;
He from whom joy streameth
Poor in a manger lies;
Not so brightly beameth
The sun in yonder skies.
Thou my Savior art!
Thou my Savior art! | 3 | Now through His Son doth shine
The Father's grace divine.
Death was reigning o'er us
Through sin and vanity
Till He opened for us
A bright eternity.
May we praise Him there!
May we praise Him there! |
|---|--|---|---|

Salutation and Collect of the Day

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

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

People: Amen.

(Please be seated)

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. ³You 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. ⁴For 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. ⁵For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For 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. ⁷Of 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.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

(Please rise)

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:1-7

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to the gospels of St. Luke and St. John.

People: Glory be to You, O Lord.

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And 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, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And 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.

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. | |

Public domain

Luke 2:8-14

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths 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, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

Hymn: “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. **Refrain**

Refrain *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? **Refrain**

Luke 2:15-20

¹⁵When 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.” ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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

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

Public domain



John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. ⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. ⁹ The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴ And 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.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

(Please be seated)

Hymn for the Word: “A Great and Mighty Wonder” LSB 383

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 A great and mighty wonder,
A full and holy cure;
The Virgin bears the infant
With virgin honor pure! Refrain | 2 The Word becomes incarnate
And yet remains on high,
And cherubim sing anthems
To shepherds from the sky. Refrain |
|--|--|

Refrain:

Proclaim the Savior's birth:

“To God on high be glory

And peace to all the earth!”

- | |
|--|
| 4 Since all He comes to ransom,
By all be He adored,
The infant born in Beth'lem,
The Savior and the Lord. Refrain |
|--|

Public domain

Sermon: “Jesus - The FIRSTFRUIT of Jesse's Tree”~ John 1:1-14

Based on the Jesse Tree: Promises and Fulfillment in Christ Sermon Series from Concordia Publishing House

A Responsive Carol: “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!

Public domain

Offering

(Please place your tithes and offerings in one of the collection plates as you enter or exit the sanctuary.)

*We encourage our members to consider giving their tithes and gifts through the online opportunities offered on our website at www.stjohnsgrandhaven.com/about-us/mobile-donations-and-tithing. Members can also contribute their gifts via mail **or you can now drop off your offering in the special lock box hanging near the entrance to our church and school** between the hours of 9 a.m. and 8 p.m. ~ checks preferred. (If cash is given, please try to drop off your offering between the hours of 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.). Please remember that we rely on these gifts for all the ongoing ministries of St. John’s – both now and for the future.*

(Please rise)



Prayers

Pastor: On this most holy night when the Word became flesh for our salvation, let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people around the globe according to their needs.

For the Church, a visible sign of Christ's saving presence among us, for all pastors, that their lives echo the holy Word they preach, and for all who still walk in the darkness of unbelief, that they come to know Christ, the Light of the world. Let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the leaders of the nations, and especially our own nation, that they strive earnestly for peace on earth; for members of the armed services and all men and women stationed far from home, that they may know Your peace and strength to persevere in hope. Let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For those who are sick, and those who struggle as a result of grief and sorrow, that they would find strength and peace in the eternal hope found in the Prince of Peace born to us in Bethlehem. Let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Mercifully hear the prayers of Your people, Lord God, as we rejoice in the mystery of the incarnation. For into Your hands we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Pastor: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

People: 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.

Benediction

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

Closing Hymn: “Joy to the World” LSB 387

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev’ry heart prepare Him room
And heav’n and nature sing,
And heav’n and nature sing,
And heav’n, and heav’n and nature sing.
- 4 He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

Public domain

Silent Prayer Postlude

Minister	Pastor Kurt Wenzelburger
Organist	Priscilla Isabel
Vocalist	Dave Scalici



Join Us!
Christmas Day
9 a.m. Worship



