

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

The Nativity of Our Lord
Faith Lutheran Church, ELCA
December 24, 2024



We welcome you to this Christmas Eve celebration of the holiest of communions—God coming to us as a baby, born in a manger. So come, you who have much faith and you who have little; you who have been here often and you who have not been here long; you who have tried to follow and you who have failed. Come, because it is the Lord who invites you. The angels tell the shepherds, “To *you* is born this day a Savior.” Christ is born anew within us tonight.

Music at the Gathering

Infant Holy Polish Carol

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming harmonized by Michael Praetorius

Still, Still, Still setting by Daniel Burton

Once in Royal David's City setting by Daniel Burton

Away in a Manger setting by Daniel Burton

Nancy McKenney, cello



We stand.

The Christmas Proclamation

This contemporary version of an ancient proclamation places the birth of Christ into human history yet avoids a literalistic accounting of time. The last phrase makes it clear that the nativity of Jesus is not only then but now, today, in our own time.

Many ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth and then formed man and woman in his own image; long after the great flood, when God made the rainbow shine forth as a sign of the covenant; twenty-one centuries from the time the promise was given to Abraham and Sarah; thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt and Miriam danced in freedom; eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the judges; one thousand years from the anointing of David as king, in fulfillment of the times and years and months and days discerned by the prophets; in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad; the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the foundation of the city of Rome; the forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus; while the whole world enjoyed a span of peace, Jesus Christ, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father, desiring to sanctify the world by his most merciful coming, being conceived by the Holy Spirit and nine months of growth in the womb of his mother—now in our own times is the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, God made flesh.





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!

Greeting

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

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.**

Canticle of Praise ELW 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

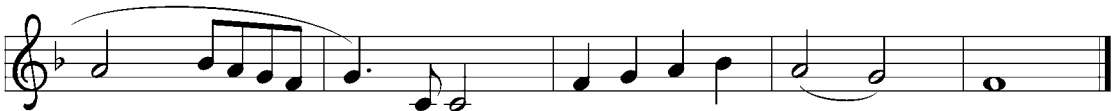
ri - a



in ex - cel - sis

De - o;

glo



ri - a

in ex - cel - sis

De - o.

Prayer of the Day

We sit.

First Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7 *Light shines; a child is born for us*

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 or Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalmody Psalm 96 (*cantor sings verses; assembly sings refrain*)

To - day is born our Sav - ior, to - day is
born our Sav - ior, to - day is born our Sav -
ior, _____ Christ _____ the Lord.

Second Reading

Titus 2:11-14 *The grace of God has appeared*

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.

We stand with the presiding minister to greet the reading of the gospel.

Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu -
ia, al - le - lu - ia.

(cantor) 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. (Repeat alleluia)

Gospel

Luke 2:1-20 *God with Us*

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

¹ In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph 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. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And 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. ⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And 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!” ¹⁵ When 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.” ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what

had been told them about this child;¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.²⁰ The 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.**

We sing the acclamation; then we sit.

Sermon Pastor Dana Lockhart

We stand.

Hymn of the Day ELW 270 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new - born king;
2 Christ, by high - est heav’n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail the heav’n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!



peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled.”
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin’s womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris’n with heal - ing in his wings.

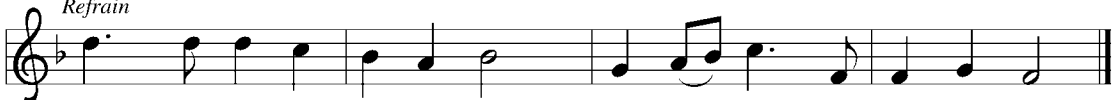


Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, “Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!”
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Refrain



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new - born king!”

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, True God from true God, Of one Being with the Father; Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge on baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen

Prayers of Intercession

God of grace, **receive our prayer**

Peace

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

We share the peace of Christ with one another and then sit.

Choral Offering *Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head*

Appalachian folk song, arranged by James S. Cole

Parish Choir, Nancy McKenney, cello

(refrain) Jesus, Jesus, rest your head, you have got a manger bed. All the evil folk on earth sleep in feathers at their birth. (refrain)

Have you heard about our Jesus? Have you heard about his fate? How his mother went to the stable on that Christmas Eve so late? Winds were blowing, cows were lowing, stars were glowing, glowing, glowing. (refrain)

To the manger came the Wise Men, bringing things from hin and yon for the mother and the father and the blessed little Son. Milkmaids left their fields and flocks and sat beside the ass and ox. (refrain)

Offering Song

ELW 286

Your Little Ones, Dear Lord



1 Your lit - tle ones, dear Lord, are we, and
2 With songs we has - ten you to greet, and
3 Oh, draw us whol - ly to you, Lord, and
4 Un - til at last we too pro - claim, with



come your low - ly bed to see; en - light - en ev - 'ry
kiss the ground be - fore your feet. Oh, bless - ed hour, oh,
to us all your grace ac - cord; true faith and love to
all your saints, your glo - rious name; in par - a - dise our



soul and mind, that we the way to you may find.
sweet-est night that gave you birth, our soul's de - light.
us im - part, that we may hold you in our heart.
songs re - new, and praise you as the an - gels do.

Offering Prayer

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right...join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord! God of hosts, by all a - dored!

Heav'n and earth can - not con - tain all the glo - ry of your name!

Hail, ho - san - na, God most high! Blest is he who now draws nigh

in the name of God the King! Hal - le - lu - jahs glad we sing:

Hail, ho - san - na! Prais - es due be for - ev - er, Lord, to you!

Eucharistic Prayer

...the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

...with hope for his coming. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

...peace on earth. **Come Holy Spirit.**

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.

Breaking of the Bread and Invitation to Communion

The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

Music During Communion

What Child Is This

setting by Daniel Burton

Nancy McKenney, cello

After all have communed, we stand.

Post Communion Prayer

Candle Lighting

After all candles have been lit, we join in singing the carol, "Silent 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,

Hol - der 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.

Blessing



Sending Hymn ELW 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
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
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
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
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
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
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.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Dismissal

Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude *Joy To the world* Christopher Uehlein

Serving Tonight

Assisting Minister

Cantor

Organist/Pianist

Ushers

Greeter

Sacristan

Livestream Operator

Ministers

Pastor

Pastor Emeritus

Parish Administrator

Director of Music

Youth Assistant

Faith Learning Center Director

Sexton

Ray Hughes

Leslie Hughes

Kathy Egnor

Jim & Judy Knauss

Carolyn Carden

Jonathan Delap

All Members of Faith

The Reverend Dana Lockhart

The Reverend Ron Luckey

Amanda Nord

Kathy Egnor

Paige Barricklow

Courtney Hearld

Neil McComb





Worship Servants for Next Sunday (December 29)

10:00

Assisting Minister	Leslie Hughes
Cantor	Teri Applegate
Ushers	Phyllis Hasbrouck & Charlie Hamilton
Greeter	Diana Shappley
Sacristan	Phyllis Hasbrouck & David Templar
Counters	Judy Page & Elaine Billington
Livestream Operator	Debbie Rosenberg