

For Our 10:45 a.m. Divine Service

Christmas Day

Dec 25, 2022

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“Be Born In Us: Bringing Salvation”

PRELUDE - Joy to the World - Traditional

PASTOR GREETING

OPENING HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

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:

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,

Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God, glory in the highest:

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;

Jesus, to thee be glory given!

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

INVOCATION

P In the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Today we celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. The prophet Zechariah foretold the coming of the promised King, Who would bring salvation to His people: “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is He" (Zechariah 9:9).

C Jesus, You are our righteous King. Through Your birth, life, death and resurrection, You have brought to us the gift of salvation.

P The Name we love, the Name of Jesus, means "God saves" or "salvation." An angel told Joseph to take Mary as his wife and said, "She will bear a Son, and you shall call His Name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21).

C Jesus our Lord, You came to save us. Hear our prayers and accept our praise as we rejoice today in Your birth.

P The apostle Peter, on trial for preaching the good news about Jesus, said, "There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other Name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

C Jesus, You alone are the way of salvation.

P The apostle Paul wrote about Jesus' saving work: "And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the Name that is above every name,

C So that at the Name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:8-11).

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P Let us confess our sins to God and ask His forgiveness.

C Almighty God, we confess that we do not always live according to Your Word and will. We do not walk in love as Jesus did. Even though we have received Your gracious gift of salvation, we often hesitate to share the good news of Jesus with others. Forgive our sins and lead us by Your Spirit to walk in your ways.

P Today we celebrate the grace of God, revealed in the gift of His Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. The Holy Child of Bethlehem was born among us to suffer, die and rise to bring us forgiveness of sins and eternal

life. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

C We rejoice in the birth of Jesus our Lord! There is no other Name by which we can be saved.

HOLY SCRIPTURE

Old Testament Reading ... Isaiah 12:2-4

Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; 'For Yah, the Lord, is my strength and song; He also has become my salvation.' "

Therefore with joy you will draw water From the wells of salvation. And in that day you will say: "Praise the Lord, call upon His name; Declare His deeds among the peoples, Make mention that His Name is exalted.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading ... 1 Thessalonians 5:8-11

But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God

Choir Anthem

Gospel Reading ... John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. This man came for a witness, to

bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

COLLECT

P Almighty God, on this joyful day we offer our thanks and praise for the gift of Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. The Holy Child of Bethlehem was born among us to bring us salvation through His humble birth, His perfect life and His suffering, death and resurrection. We confess Jesus as Lord and we love His holy Name, the Name by which we are saved. As we celebrate His birth, help us to walk in love as our Lord walked and, in the power of the Holy Spirit, to share with others the good news of salvation through faith in Jesus. Hear our prayers and accept our praise in His holy Name. Amen.

Sermon: “Be Born In Us: Bringing Salvation” Psalm 85:7

HYMN

What Child is This

What child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary’s lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies He in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The babe, the son of Mary!

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;
Come, peasant, king, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
The babe, the son of Mary!

NICENE CREED (In Unison)

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very
God of Very God, Begotten, not made, Being of one substance with the
Father, By whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our
salvation came down from heaven And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost
of the Virgin Mary And was made man; And was crucified also for us
under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; And the third day He
rose again according to the Scriptures; And ascended into heaven, And
sitteth on the right hand of the Father; And He shall come again with
glory to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have
no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord and Giver of Life, Who
proceedeth from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the
Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spoke by the Prophets.

And I believe one holy Christian and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, And I look for the resurrection of the dead, And the life of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER *(Pastor)*

PRAYERS

P Gracious Lord, on this day of Your birth, there are those who are not able to rejoice and celebrate. Watch over all who are sick or suffering through grief and loss. Shield them with Your mighty power and bring them comfort and hope through the promises of Your Word. Holy Child of Bethlehem,

C Be born in us today. Lead us in the power of the Holy Spirit to love and serve others in Your Name.

P Gracious Lord, through Your birth, life, death and resurrection, You brought to us the gift of salvation. Through faith in Your Name, we live as children of light. Holy Child of Bethlehem,

C Be born in us today. Help us to live according to Your Word and will. Lead us to encourage and build one another up in faith.

P Gracious Lord, You are the Word made flesh. You came to bring us light and life. Through You we have received grace and truth. Holy Child of Bethlehem,

C Be born in us today. You sent John to bear witness to You as the Lamb of God. Help us in the power of the Holy Spirit to be bold witnesses to You, so that others will believe in You and receive the gift of salvation through faith in Your holy Name.

P Gracious Lord, on this day of your birth, hear our prayers and accept our praise.

C Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Chanted in Unison)*

Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed by 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.

HOLY COMMUNION

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PAX DOMINI

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you.
C And also with you.
A Amen!

THE DISTRIBUTION

THE GENERAL DISMISSAL OF COMMUNICANTS

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (In Unison)

We give You thanks merciful Father that You have kept Your Word and have fed us, Your unworthy servants, with the precious body and blood of Your dear Son Jesus Christ. We pray that by His grace we may walk worthy of our holy calling and learn to adorn the teaching of God our Savior by our words and deeds, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

TLH 87

Joy to the World, the Lord is come

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.
2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy,

Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3. No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

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.

BENEDICTION

P “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.

C All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made ...

P And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory,

C Glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:1-3, 14).

P “The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace” (Numbers 6:24-26).

C Amen.

POSTLUDE – Hear the Glad Tidings – O.L. Russell

RECESSIONAL

FELLOWSHIP GREETING

Officiant: Pastor Randy Boelter

Organist: Bruce Sininger



Sunday, December 25th

**HOLY COMMUNION WILL BE
CELEBRATED THIS MORNING**

We confess that in the bread and wine we truly receive Jesus' body and blood which were given and shed for the forgiveness of our sins and for the strengthening of our faith. Fellow Lutherans and those who have communed with us before may join us at the Lord's Table. If you are uncertain as to what you receive in the Holy Supper or hold to a different confession, we ask that you speak to pastor or one of the elders **before** coming to His Holy Table. This practice is instituted to do a responsible ministry to all who come to the Holy Supper, and to ensure that the Sacrament is taken to the soul's health of each communicant.

We ask all who desire to commune at our altar to examine their lives and hearts by answering the following questions tonight as God's Word directs:

1. Am I sorry for my sins? Psalm 51. Only penitent sinners should receive the reconciliation of God in Christ in the Sacrament with us.
2. Do I believe that I receive the true Body and Blood of Jesus in, with and under these forms of bread and wine? Jesus says: "This IS." I Cor. 10:16. We are to take Jesus at His Word of promise and receive the Supper in BOTH KINDS as Jesus instructs.
3. Do I believe that with the Body and Blood of Christ, I truly receive the actual remission of my sins? Jesus says: "...FOR the remission of your sins." Matthew 26:28.
4. Is there anyone with whom I need to reconcile before I receive the pardon of Christ in this sacrament? Matthew 5:23-24. Refusing to reconcile with other believers is an indication of an unloving heart that is not acceptable to God and not worthy to receive His heavenly, gracious gifts.
5. Do I promise to amend my sinful life with the power of the Holy Spirit as He works through Word and Sacrament in my life? John 8:11 and Ephesians 4: 22-24.

A "no" answer to any of these Biblical teachings and personal questions means that one's heart and faith life are NOT in line with God's Word, and therefore one is spiritually unprepared to receive Christ's heavenly gifts in the Sacrament. As Paul teaches us in Corinthians, one can either take the Sacrament to our soul's health, or to our soul's demise. If you have any questions, see the pastor or elders first. Again, we ask all who come forward to receive the Supper in BOTH KINDS. Both regular Hosts and Gluten Free Hosts are available, as well as regular wine and alcohol evaporated wine, which is located in the two center rings of our individual cup trays.

Good morning and a blessed Christmas to you as we celebrate God taking flesh in the form of His Son, Jesus Christ, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. Today we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus with joy, for He was born to save us from sin, death and the devil forever. We are reborn as His brothers and sisters this day, and we eagerly anticipate what our new life in Him has in store for us. God bless your worship this Holy Day!

Remember in Your Prayers:

Mike Mullinger- who has been hospitalized at Grosse Pointe Beaumont Hospital the past week.

Sheila Rice- who had surgery for a brain tumor Monday.

Jane Park- recovering from a broken arm.

Kathy Geffert- rehabilitating at St. Antony's Care Center in Warren, MI.

Melissa Pieper- who underwent surgery on December 23rd

Those recovering from recent surgeries:_Jim Geffert, Faith Bowen, Karen Besler, Pastor Jim Elsner

For Daily Care and strength: Clifford Popp, Judy Piche and Julia Hingst.

For those living with cancer: Tom Harms, Roy Koeppel, Lisa Zimmermann, Sheila Rice, Keith Josefiak and Eric Hingst.

For all who travel this Christmastide.

For the Children and people of Ukraine- who have been displaced, homeless, hungry and cold.

For our Congregation and Preschool- that God would grant us His continued blessings upon our ministry.

Giving thanks to God this season- for a blessed Live Nativity, for three beautiful Christmas Concerts and for our Sunday School Children's Worship Service.

Gratitude to God for our Sunday School Teachers- for their continued faithfulness in teaching our children: Kim Ford, Christine Rhoton, Linda Jacobi, Deann Newmann, We also thank Jan Fleck- who has recently left teaching after many years of faithful service.

Level I and II Confirmation Classes begin Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at 5: 30 P.M.

Only one service with Holy Communion on January 1 at 10:45 A.M. No Sunday School and Bible Class will be held January 1. Classes resume January 8.

Life Quotes

"There is no more clear-pointed, rest-giving demonstration of the love of God for you than the gift of His Son." Paul Tripp, pastor, author, and conference speaker – A Life Quote from Lutherans

Altar Guild

Serving with the Altar Guild for the month are Pam Zimmer and Betty Gade

Altar Flowers

have been donated by Pam Zimmer in gratefulness of blessings received.

Cold Weather Clothing Donations

THANK YOU for the overwhelming response for the donation of jackets, hats, gloves and many other items! The Michigan Veterans Association was very happy and excited to receive it! The donation boxes will remain in the stairwell all winter in case more items become available. Merry Christmas!

One Week Ago Today:

8:15 Service: 34

Communion: 31

10:45 Service: 61

Bible Classes: 7

Stewardship Corner

On that Christmas day approximately two thousand years ago, Scripture tells how the angels, shepherds, and wise men all gave. The angels gave Jesus the gift of music as they told the world of Jesus' birth through their songs; the shepherds left their flocks to give honor to Baby Jesus; and the wise men brought Jesus gifts of gold, incense, and myrrh. They all gave because the world was receiving the best gift possible when God gave His Son Jesus.