

1 Christmas

She will bear a son,
and you are to
name him Jesus,
for he will save his people
from their sins.

Matthew 1:21



December 31, 2023

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Welcome & Announcements

Gathering Hymn

“Once in Royal David’s City”

ELW #269 vs 1,2&4

- 1 Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ, her little child.
- 4 Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him; but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;
there his children gather round,
bright like stars, with glory crowned.

- 2 He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and meek and lowly,
lived on earth our Savior holy.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-1895

Confession

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God for whom we wait,

C: in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you. We fail in believing that your good news is for us. We falter in our call to tend your creation. We find our sense of self in material possessions. We fear those different from ourselves. We forget that we are your children and turn away from your love. Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace. Amen.

Forgiveness

P: Beloved in Christ, God has looked with favor upon you! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, ✠ your sins are forgiven. You are children of the Most High, inheritors of God's loving promise, and recipients of divine mercy. God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

C: Amen.

Greeting

P: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray,

C: Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Hymn

“What Child is This”

ELW #296

- 1 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!
- 2 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!
- 3 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!

Word

God Speaks to Us in Scripture Reading, Preaching, and Song.

Reading: Psalm 100

¹Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all you lands!

²Serve the LORD with gladness; come into God's presence with a song.

³**Know that the LORD is God, our maker to whom we belong;
we are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture.**

⁴Enter the gates of the LORD with thanksgiving and the courts with praise;
give thanks and bless God's holy name.

⁵**Good indeed is the LORD, whose steadfast love is everlasting,
whose faithfulness endures from age to age.**

Reflection

"Cold, Bleak, but Hope-Filled"

Pastor Dave

Gospel Acclamation

"Silent Night, Holy Night!"

ELW #281 vs 1-2

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!

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, chapter one.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by

the Lord through the prophet:

²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Reflection

"I Need a Silent Night"

Pastor Kathy

Hymn of the Day

"The First Noel"

ELW #300 vs 1-3

- 1 The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.

- 2 They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. *Refrain*

- 3 And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went. *Refrain*

Text: English traditional

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,**

suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People

P: Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

Sharing God's Peace

Offertory

Offertory Song

"Your Little Ones, Dear Lord"

ELW #286 vs 3

Oh, draw us wholly to you, Lord
And to us all your grace accord;
True faith and love to us impart,
That we may hold you in our heart.

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Offertory Prayer

P: Let us pray.

**C: God our provider, by your merciful hand, abundance springs up from the earth.
Receive and bless these gifts that we return to you. Let them be a sign of your
steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Holy Communion

Today we celebrate Holy Communion: If you are a guest, please know you are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Jesus said that the body and blood are given "for you and for all people." For gluten-free wafers, ask the pastors. If you desire to commune while seated, please sit near an aisle and let an usher know. We will bring communion to you. Children not yet communing are invited forward to receive a blessing. If you would like to have grape juice instead of wine, please hold up your index finger when you reach a communion server.

P: The Lord be with you,
P: Lift up your hearts,
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God,

C: And also with you.
C: We lift them to the Lord.
C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed 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.

Communion Hymn

ELW #289

Communion Blessing and Prayer

Benediction

Sending Hymn

"Go Tell It on the Mountain"

ELW #290

Refrain

Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!

1 While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. *Refrain*

2 The shepherds feared and trembled
when, lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain*

3 Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872-1925, stanzas, alt.

Dismissal

P: Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.



Senior Pastor: Kathleen Ulland-Klinkner

Education Ministries Coordinator: Lindsay Medina

Business Administrator:

Director of Music Ministries: Tom Maidl

Choir Director: Madeline Cacciatore-Warta

Associate Pastor: Dave Nissen

Office Administrator: Jen Geiger

Facilities Manager: Scott Kathman

Handbell Director: Sarah Berger

Pianist: Ryan Johnson

Deacon: Linda Postel

Communion Server: Deb Kaehler

Lector: Deb Egeland

Ushers: Jim Schmidt

P/P:

A/V: Tom Kaehler

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