

St. Matthew 1:18-25



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FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

December 24, 2020

9:00 PM Service

Church will be closed Christmas Day

First Lutheran Church

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Dennis Schmidt, Lutheran Lay Worship Leader

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Organist and Music Director: Bobbi Heastings

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Acolytes: Nathaniel Black and Wesley Black

THE GRACE OF GOD HAS APPEARED

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come; Let earth re-ceive her King;
 2. Joy to the world! the Sav-iour reigns; Let men their songs em-ploy,

Let ev-ery heart pre-pare him room, And heaven and na-ture
 While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains Re-peat the sound-ing

And

sing, And heaven and nature sing, And heaven, and heaven and na-ture sing.
 joy, Re-peat the sound-ing joy, Re-peat, re-peat the sound-ing joy.

heaven and na-ture sing, and heaven and na-ture sing,

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.

4 He rules the world with truth and grace;
 And makes the nations prove
 The glories of his righteousness,
 And wonders of his love.

*The Processional Hymn *The First Noel* (ELW) No. 300

*The Confession and Forgiveness (ELW) page 94

P: In the name of the Father, and of the †Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: God of all mercy.....of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Most merciful God,

C: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, 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.

P: In the mercy of almighty God,.....in the name of the Father, and of the †Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

*The Apostolic Greeting (ELW) page 138

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.

1 The first Noel the angel did say was to
 2 They look - ed up and saw a star shin - ing
 3 And by the light of that same star three ...
 4 This star drew near to the north - west, o'er ...
 5 Then en - tered in those wise men three, full ...

cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
 in ... the east ... be - yond ... them far; and to seek the
 wise ... men came ... from coun - try far; to seek for a
 Beth - le - hem ... it took ... its rest; and there it
 rev - 'rent - ly ... up - on ... their knee, and of - fered

they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave ... great light, and so it con -
 king was their in - tent, and to fol - low the
 did both stop ... and stay right ... o - ver the
 there in his pres - ence their ... gold, ... and

Refrain

night that was so deep.
 tin - ued both day and night.
 star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
 place where Je - sus lay.
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.

el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, All is calm, all is bright

Round yon Vir - gin Moth - er and Child. Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild,

Sleep in heav - en - ly peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.

2 Silent night, holy night,
 Shepherds quake at the sight;
 Glories stream from heaven afar,
 Heavenly hosts sing, Alleluia,
 Christ, the Saviour, 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.

When all the candles are lit, the ushers will come to the altar and all will sing
"Silent Night" (SBH) No. 16

*The Benediction (sung response)
C: Amen, Amen, Amen.

(Please extinguish the candles after The Benediction)

*The Recessional Hymn *Joy to the World* (SBH) No. 15

• FLC Sending Hymn *Be The Love of Christ* arr. Michael Showalter
Roger Thornhill

**MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL
AND TO ALL A GOODNIGHT!**

**As you leave the church, please deposit the extinguished candles in one of the
boxes covered with foil. Thank you!**

*The Kyrie (sung response) (ELW) page 138

P:, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

*Hymn of Praise *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (ELW) No. 279

*The Prayer of the Evening

C: O God, you have made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Grant that as we have known on earth the mysteries of that Light, we may also come to the fullness of his joys in heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading Isaiah 7:10-14

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
 4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
 while mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won-d'ring love.
 So God im-parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
 O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ-mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath
 2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man

sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as
 mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the
 air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the
 woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who

seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -
 vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she
 dark-ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from
 dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to

mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
 bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.
 sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.
 the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right

spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your

pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -

store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,

and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

The Psalmody for the Evening

Psalm 110:1-4

¹The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand,*
until I make Your enemies Your footstool."

²The Lord will send the scepter of Your power out of Zion,*
saying, "Rule over Your enemies round about You.

³Princely state has been Yours from the day of Your birth;*
in the beauty of holiness have I begotten You, like dew from the
womb of the morning."

⁴The Lord has sworn and He will not recant:*
"You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek."

The Second Reading

1 John 4:7-16

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

*Hymn

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

(ELW) No. 270

*The Gospel Acclamation (sung)

(ELW) page 142

C: Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

* The Gospel

Matthew 1:18-25

C: Glory to You, O Lord. (sung after announcement of the Gospel)

C: Praise to You, O Christ. (sung after conclusion of the Gospel)

Sermon

Rev. Robert B. Grewe

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!"

*Sharing of the Peace

The Musical Offering

Ding Dong Merrily On High

The Offertory

Create in Me a Clean Heart

(ELW) No. 188

*The Lord's Prayer

C: 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.

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Hymn (ELW) 272

Following the distribution of the candles, the ushers will process to the chancel.

(Please stand) We will read responsively:

P: I am the Light of the World, saith Christ, they that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness but shall have the Light of Life.

C: Glory to God in the Highest.

P: Let your light so shine before all people, that they shall see your good works and glorify your Father Who is in heaven.

C: And on earth, peace, good will to all.

The Pastor lights his candles from the Gospel candle, symbolizing The Good News of Jesus Christ. The ushers light their candles from the Pastor's. The ushers take the light of Christ to the worshippers.

(Tilt the unlit candle, not the lighted one.)

FIRST TUNE

1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!
2. For Christ is born of Ma - .. ry, And gath - ered all a - bove,

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;
While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won - dering love.

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing Light;
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth,

The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to-night.
And prais - es sing to God the King, And peace to men on earth! A-men.

3 How silently, how silently,
The wondrous Gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

4 O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel! Amen.

*The Hymn of the Evening O Little Town of Bethlehem (SBH) No. 27

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

I 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, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit He became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. 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 again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son He is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen