



*December 24, 2021*  
*5:30 p.m.*

## Friday, December 24, 2021 ~ Christmas Eve

*ELW = Evangelical Lutheran Worship: You will find this book in your pew rack. The hymn numbers are located near the hymn names, often on the top of the page.*

**Courtyard Prelude** Kent Pflibsen & Asher Havenhill

**Prelude** Hunter Ackerley

**Procession**  
"Away in the Manger" arranged by Sandra Eithun  
Handbell Choir

### WELCOME

*The assembly rises to sing.*

**Gathering Hymn - ELW #279**  
*"O, Little Town of Bethlehem"*

### Greeting

**Pastor:** The grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

### INVOCATION

**Pastor:**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,  
the source of all life,  
the word of salvation,  
the spirit of mercy.

**People: Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## Word

### Psalm 96 (11-13)

*A reading from the 96th Psalm. The congregation reads the verse in bold.*

<sup>11</sup>Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder  
and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

**<sup>12</sup>Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O God,  
for you come to judge the earth.**

<sup>13</sup>You will judge the world with righteousness  
and the people with your truth.

*The assembly remains seated for the reading of the Gospel.*

### GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>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.

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>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: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom God favors!"

<sup>15</sup>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." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>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.**

## MESSAGE

## SILENT REFLECTION

*The assembly rises to sing.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY - ELW #292

*"Love Has Come"*

## **NICENE CREED**

**Pastor:** With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the 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,  
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,  
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 again in glory 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 one 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**

Let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

Love proclaims that a Savior has been born to us! Inspire people throughout the world to proclaim the good news of Jesus' birth to all who seek salvation, hope, and new life. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Love whispers to a weary world that the time for rest and restoration has come. Maintain healthy cycles of wake and sleep for all creatures. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Love cries for a time for peace. Direct those in power that they may nurture and sustain all that is healthy, good, and holy. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Love sings through the wails of a newborn baby. Respond to all who cry out in pain, despair, or need this night. Bring comfort to those for whom separation, grief, or loss makes the Christmas season especially difficult. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Love murmurs words of comfort to a newborn child and exhausted parents. Bless new and expectant parents or caregivers, especially those who are alone or afraid this night. Pour out your love upon families of every kind. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

God's ever-present love is proclaimed through the faithful who came before us. We give you thanks for all who point toward your love. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

*The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.*

**Pastor:** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**People: And also with you.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **OFFERING**

## **OFFERTORY**

Hunter Ackerley

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

**Pastor:** Let us pray.

Loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of grace. You have blessed us, let us be a blessing. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the birth of Jesus Christ.

**People: Amen.**

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

Pastor: God be with you

**People: And also with you**

Pastor: We give thanks to God, for God is Good

**People: God's steadfast love endures forever**

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness.

Blessed are you for Jesus,

the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

We pray the Prayer of Jesus - using the words of your heart or tradition:

**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.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

This is Christ's table and you are welcome, with no exceptions. The ushers will direct you to the communion rail where you will receive bread and wine. Please indicate if you need a gluten free wafer. The dark liquid is wine. The light liquid is grape juice. If you don't take communion, you are invited to come up for a simple blessing. Cross your hands over your heart to indicate this. The meal is ready, and there is a place for you.

## COMMUNION MUSIC

*"O Holy Night"*

Sophia Rankin

*"The First Noel"* - ELW 300

## BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

May the living body and life blood of Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in grace.

**Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Radiant God, send your Word to us to be your people, revealing your love that is made known to us in Christ Jesus, our Savior and guide.

**Amen.**

## CANDLE LIGHTING

*The ushers will light candles at the end of each pew. Be sure to tip only the **unlit** candle when lighting candles. Organ interlude until all candles light, then the congregation sings.*

Voice 1: From the book of Genesis, Chapter 1: In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. And the earth was without form and voice; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. (Genesis 1:1-2)

Voice 2: From the Gospel according to John, Chapter 1: In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The Word was in the beginning with God. (John 1:1-2)

Voice 3: From Paul's second letter to the community in Corinth: For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. (2 Corinthians 4:6)

## HYMN ~ ELW 281

*"Silent Night, Holy Night!"*

## BLESSING

*The assembly rises to receive God's blessing.*

The God of all grace, hope, and love + bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## Sending Song ~ ELW 289

*"Angels We Have Heard on High"*

## DISMISSAL

Christ is born. Tell the story.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

*"Angels We Have Heard on High"* arranged by Sandra Eithun  
Handbell Choir

**Please add to your prayer list:**

Mert Ingvaldstad  
Gerry Meyer  
Mary Neff  
Joy Neverman  
Beverly Neff  
June Williams  
Michael Lounsbury  
Mary Hewlett  
Sally Ronning  
Daphne Myers  
Michael Neff  
Hildi Williams



Sunday, December 26, 2021  
Service of Lessons & Carols

**THOSE SERVING TODAY**

**Pastor/Presider**  
Pastor Amalia Vagts

**Lector**  
Pam Hardman

**Cantor**  
Sophia Rankin

**Communion Assistants**  
Pam Hardman  
Jennifer Strand

**Organ**  
Nancy Rude

**Acolyte**  
Olga Ryan

**Handbell Choir**  
Phaela Andressen  
Betsy Kohls  
Kathie Miller  
Kent Pflibsen  
Kris Sanchez  
Hildi Williams  
June Williams

**Ushers**  
Olga Ryan  
Patty Sirls  
David Lester

**Trumpets**  
Kent Pflibsen  
Asher Havenhill

**Sound & Video**  
Kent Pflibsen  
Tracy Ratliff  
Timothy Bustamonte  
William Alvord  
Jack Ryan

**Harp**  
Hunter Ackerley

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