



# CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2020

6:00 pm

## Choir Concert 5:45-5:55

### Children's Sermon

### Trinitarian Ringing of the Bell

**Introit** (*choir*) *Love Has Come*, vs. 1

**Entrance Hymn 45** *Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful*

ADESTE FIDELIS

### The Apostolic 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: Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

### First Lesson

**Isaiah 9:2–7**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined. You 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. For 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. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For 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. His 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.

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God**

**Hymn 42** (*Remain seated*) *Of the Father's Love Begotten*

DIVINUM MINISTERIUM

### Second Lesson

**Titus 2:11–14**

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the

manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He 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.

A: The Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God**

*Stand*

**Gradual** *Love Has Come*, vs. 2

**Gospel**

**Luke 2:1–20**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord**

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

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

“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

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.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P: The Gospel of the Lord!

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sit*

## Sermon

*Stand*

**Hymn 39** *Joy to the World*

ANTIOCH

## Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and 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; 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.**

**We 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 worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe 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.**

## Prayer of the Church

*After each petition:*

P: Lord in your mercy. **C: Hear our prayer.**

*The prayer concludes:*

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen**

## Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

*Greet others near you in the name of the Lord.*

*Sit*

# Offering

## Anthem (Choir) *Gaudete*

*Stand*

### Offertory, Hymn 40 *What Child Is This*

GREENSLEEVES

#### Offertory Prayer:

Merciful Father,

**We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

#### Great Thanksgiving

**P** The Lord be with you. **☩** And al - so with you.

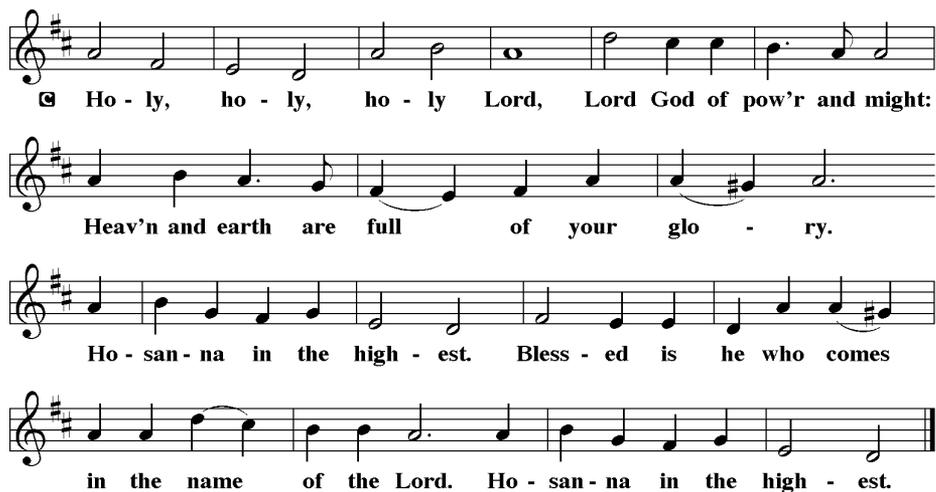
**P** Lift up your hearts. **☩** We lift them to the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**☩** It is right to give him thanks and praise.

**P:** It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory; that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

#### Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:  
 Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

### Eucharistic Prayer

P: You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God; you are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, that whoever believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. Having come into the world, he fulfilled for us your holy will and accomplished our salvation.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving Passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and his promise to come again, we give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, not as we ought, but as we are able; and we implore you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving, and, with your Word and Holy Spirit, to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine; that we and all who share in the body and blood of your Son may be filled with heavenly peace and joy, and receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be sanctified in soul and body, and have our portion with all your saints. All honor and glory are yours, O God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, now and forever.

**C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus**

### 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**

**Agnus Dei , Hymn 103** *O Christ, Thou Lamb of God*

CHRISTE, DU LAMM GOTTES

*Sit*

## **Communion**

*All baptized Christians who believe Christ is present in the bread and wine are welcome to commune here. The communion will be distributed continuously. Please come forward via the center aisle, receive a wafer from the pastor, and dip it in the chalice. Return to your seat by the side aisles.*

## **Communion Blessing**

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **C: Amen**

*Stand*

**Post-Communion Hymn 71** *Angels We Have Heard on High*

GLORIA

## **The Final Gospel** (*read responsively with enthusiasm*)

P: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,

**C: And the Word was God!**

P: He was in the beginning with God;

**C: All things were made through him.**

P: In him was life:

**C: And the life was the light of everyone.**

P: The light shines in the darkness;

**C: And the darkness has not overcome it.**

P: He was in the world, and the world was made through him.

**C: Yet the world knew him not.**

P: He came to his own home;

**C: And his own people received him not.**

P: But to all who receive him he gives power to become children of God,

**C: Who are therefore born anew of God.**

P: The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,

**C: Full of grace and truth.**

P: We have beheld his glory,

**C: Glory as of the only Son of the Father.**

## **Benediction**

# Closing Hymn *Silent Night, Holy Night*

STILLE NACHT

The congregation sings the first verse in German, then the three verses in English.



*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,



*Hold - er 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.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792–1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885  
Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1787–1863

## Postlude

## **Merry Christmas!**

**First Lutheran** is a congregation that treasures the best of the Christian tradition and has a heart for evangelism and discipleship. Please sign an attendance card and place it in the offering plate, or sign the guest book at the entrance so we can keep in touch.

## **About Our Congregation**

First Lutheran has been a part of Houston since 1851. Back then, we served as the gathering place for German Lutherans who found their way to this great city. We continue to serve as a gathering place for followers of Jesus who desire to worship, learn, and serve together. First Lutheran is committed to the Great Commission of making disciples of Jesus Christ as is our denomination, the North American Lutheran Church.

To fulfill our mission, we focus on five ministries: Sunday worship and teaching; our preschool, First Friends; a variety of podcast and Internet outreaches; college student outreach; and Music at First. We also host a number of social events and help incredible organizations fulfill their missions. Each of these ministries reflects our commitment to preserving important traditions, grow in community, and out to non-believers with the Gospel of Christ.

*First Lutheran strongly supports and recommends the Christian Community Service Center. CCSC acts as the hands and feet of Christ, responsibly and lovingly helping those in Houston who are unemployed, underemployed, hungry and homeless.*

## **How to Join**

Interested in membership? Please speak to Pastor McClanahan to indicate your interest, or do so on the attendance card. For those new to Lutheranism or Christianity, or who would like to know more about what Lutherans believe, we offer a class prior to reception. Email him at [pastor@flhouston.org](mailto:pastor@flhouston.org) or call 713.203.1342.

## **Children in Worship**

Children are welcome in our worship services. On Sundays we have a Children's Sermon for young children during the worship service, after which the children may either move to the education building for Children's Church, or stay in the nave throughout worship, as their parents prefer. Those attending Children's Church will be brought back into the nave in time for Holy Communion. By providing some time in the nave during worship, we hope to prepare children for full participation in traditional worship as they get older.

## **Worship Enablers**

Craig Dohse, Rob Douglass  
Donald Hackler  
Cindy Sneed  
Evan McClanahan  
Alister McClanahan  
Charlene Kelley  
Dorry Shaddock  
Mary Kay Buehler

Ushers  
Crucifer / Server  
Assisting Minister  
Presiding Minister  
Acolyte  
Altar Guild  
Organist  
Choir Director

## **Church Staff**

Evan McClanahan, Pastor  
Dorry Shaddock, Organist  
Mary Kay Buehler, Choir Director  
Jane Almquist, Deaconness  
Nancy Kincaid, Administrative Assistant  
Bright Igwenagu, Custodian



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