

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
547 S. Main Ave.
Groveland, FL 34736
FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
December 26, 2021

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

C: Amen

L: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

C: Amen

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly,
who fills the hungry with good things.

C: Amen.

L: Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.
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 wealth. 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.

L: God, in Christ Jesus, 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 the eternal promise, and recipients of divine mercy. God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN #275 *Angels From the Realms of Glory*

Angels, from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye, who sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Come and worship,
Come and worship
Worship Christ, the new-born King.

Shepherds in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing;
Yonder shines the infant Light: Refrain

Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar:
Seek the great Desire of nations;
Ye have seen his natal star: Refrain

Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In his temple shall appear: Refrain

GREETING

L: 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.

KYRIE

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord have mercy.

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord have mercy.

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord have mercy.

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord have mercy.

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

C: Amen

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

P: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia

C: Worthy is Christ, the lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and blessing and glory are his.

P: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia

C: Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation; blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

P: This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

READINGS

FIRST READING – 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

L: Word of God, Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM *Hymn #279 O Little Town of Bethlehem*

O little town of Bethlehem
How still we see Thee lie
Above Thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by

Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in Thee tonight

For Christ is born of Mary
And, gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love

O morning stars, together
Proclaim the Holy birth
And praises sing to God the King
And peace to men on earth

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

Where children, pure and happy
Pray to the Blessed Child
Where misery cries out to Thee
Son of the Mother mild

Where charity stands watching
And faith holds wide the door
The dark night wakes, the glory breaks
And Christmas comes once more

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 Emmanuel

SECOND READING – Colossians 3:12-17

L: Word of God, Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

L: The holy gospel according to Luke, the 2nd chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord

GOSPEL: Luke 2:41-52

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you O Christ.

SERMON – Reverend Howard Nielsen

HYMN OF THE DAY #282 *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*

It came upon the midnight clear

That glorious song of old

From angels bending near the earth

To touch their harps of gold

Peace on the earth, good will to men

From heaven's all-gracious King

The world in solemn stillness lay

To hear the angels sing

Still through the cloven skies they come

With peaceful wings unfurled

And still their heavenly music floats

Over all the weary world

Above its sad and lowly plains

They bend on hovering wing

And ever over its babel-sounds

The blessed angels sing

And you beneath life's crushing load,

Whose forms are bending low,

Who toil along the climbing way

With painful steps and slow:

Look now, for glad and golden hours

come swiftly on the wing;

oh, rest beside the weary road

and hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on

By prophets seen of old

When with the ever-circling years

Shall come the time foretold

When peace shall over all the earth

Its ancient splendors fling

And the whole world give back the song

Which now the angels sing.

APOSTLE'S 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 - Please respond to each petition: **Hear our prayer.**

PEACE

L: The Peace of the Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

OFFERING - Giving offerings to God from what God has first given us is a spiritual practice grounded in gratitude. We are grateful for your continuing stewardship. Donations may be sent to Zion Lutheran at PO Box 607, Groveland, FL 34736.

ANTHEM

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you,

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord

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

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

COMMUNION HYMN #300 *The First Noel*

The first Noel the angels did say
Was to certain poor shepherds
In fields as they lay,
In fields where they,
Laying their sheep
On a cold winter's night
That was so deep.
Noel Noel Noel Noel!
Born is the King of Israel!

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

BLESSING
C: Amen

SENDING HYMN #289 *Angels We Have Heard on High*

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing over the plains
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains.
Glo-ori-a. In excelsis de-o
Glo-ori-aIn excelsis de-o.

Shepherds, why this Jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly song?
Glo-ori-a. In excelsis de-o
Glo-ori-a In excelsis de-o.

Come to Bethlehem and see

Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord,
The newborn King
Glo-ori-a. In excelsis de-o
Glo-ori-aIn excelsis de-o.

See Him in a manger laid
Jesus, Lord of heaven and earth!
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
With us sing our Savior's birth.
Glo-ori-a. In excelsis de-o
Glo-ori-aIn excelsis de-o.

SENDING

L: Go in peace, you are the body of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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