

Order of Worship for December 27, 2020

Service of Lessons and Carols for Christmas

Welcome

Dialogue

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.**

Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness,
on them light has shined.

**We have beheld Christ's glory,
glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

**In the Word was life,
and the life was the light of all people.**

Gathering Song: "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (*Jessica Saunders & Shirley Bergman*)

Opening Prayer

Let us pray. Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all we do; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Psalm: Psalm 148

1 Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise God in the heights.

2 Praise the Lord, all you angels;
sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.

3 Praise the Lord, sun and moon;
sing praise, all you shining stars.

4 Praise the Lord, heaven of heavens,
and you waters above the heavens.

5 Let them praise the name of the Lord,
who commanded, and they were created,

6 who made them stand fast forever and ever,

giving them a law that shall not pass away.
7Praise the Lord from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps;
8fire and hail, snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;
9mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars;
10wild beasts and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds;
11sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the world;
12young men and maidens,
old and young together.
13Let them praise the name of the Lord,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.
14The Lord has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near the Lord. Hallelujah!

Psalm song-- by Richard Bruxvoort Colligan

Lessons and Carols

Isaiah 9:2-7 *God promises a king*

2 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.
3You 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.
4For 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.
5For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
6For 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. 7His 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.

Joy to the World (Jessica Saunders & Shirley Bergman)

Micah 5:2-5a *The king will come from Bethlehem*

2 But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

3 Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. 4 And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; 5 and he shall be the one of peace.

O Little Town of Bethlehem (Jessica Saunders & Shirley Bergman)

Luke 1:26-35, 38 *The annunciation to Mary*

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, 27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." 29 But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. 30 The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. 33 He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." 34 Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" 35 The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. 36 And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. 37 For nothing will be impossible with God." 38 Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

The Birthday of a King (Jessica Saunders)

***In the little village of Bethlehem
There lay a child one day
And the sky was bright
With a holy light
O'er the place where Jesus lay.***

***Alleluia, O how the angels sang!
Alleluia, How it rang!
And the sky was bright
With a holy light
'Twas the birthday of a King.***

*In a Humble birthplace
But O How much
God gave to us that day!
From the manger bed
what a path has led
What a perfect holy way.*

*Alleluia, O how the angels sang!
Alleluia, How it rang!
And the sky was bright
With a holy light
'Twas the birthday of a King.*

Luke 1:46-55 *Mary's Song*

46And Mary said,
"My soul magnifies the Lord,
47and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
48for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
49for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
50His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
51He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
52He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
53he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
54He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
55according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

What Child is This (*Wartburg College St. Elizabeth Chorale*)

Luke 2:1-7 *The birth of Jesus*

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

Away in a Manger (Kristin and Alyssa Hoey)

- 1 Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
 the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
 the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
 the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

- 2 The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
 but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
 I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
 and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

- 3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
 close by me forever and love me, I pray.
 Bless all the dear children in your tender care
 and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

Luke 2:8-20 The shepherds go to see the Savior

8In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." 13And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,
14"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"
15When 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." 16So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. 17When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; 18and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. 19But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. 20The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Angels We Have Heard On High (Wartburg College Kantorei)

Luke 2:21-38 *Jesus receives his name*

21After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

22When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord 23(as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), 24and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

25Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. 26It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. 27Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, 28Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, 29"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; 30for my eyes have seen your salvation, 31which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, 32a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

33And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. 34Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed 35so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed — and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

36There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, 37then as a widow to the age of eighty- four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. 38At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

Good Christian Friends Rejoice (Jessica Saunders & Shirley Bergman)

Matthew 2:1-11 *The magi follow the star*

1In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 2asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." 3When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; 4and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of

them where the Messiah was to be born. 5They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

6'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel."

7Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 8Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." 9When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 11On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

***The First Noel** (Jessica Saunders & Shirley Bergman)*

Prayers of Intercession

Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

The shepherds sing, "Jesus Christ is born!" Let your church throughout the world proclaim this good news, over the hills and everywhere. Unite the voices of all your faithful people in songs of praise and rejoicing. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Heaven and nature sing, "Joy to the world!" Give respite to flocks, fields, and those who tend them. Come near to us in the beauty of nighttime, the shining of the stars, and the hush of a world at rest. May our wonder at your creation rouse our care for all the earth. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

The angels sing, "Peace on earth!" Come quickly to still the strife of this world. Hush the noise of war and violence in places of unrest. Inspire leaders of nations to seek lasting peace and sustainable provision for all in their care. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Mary sings melodies of comfort to her newborn child. Bring rest and reassurance to those facing struggles this night. Shelter travelers and those without homes. Console those who lie awake due to pain or anxiety. Heal those who are sick or hurting.

Comfort all who mourn, especially the family and friends of Julie Truog, who passed away earlier this week. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Love sings through the sound of a new baby's cry. Bless new parents and expectant parents. Comfort those who long for children, especially those running out of hope or options. Surround families of every shape and size with your love and care. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

During this time of continued pandemic, we pray for all those who are struggling-- those who are sick, those who are dying, those who mourn the loss of loved ones, those who are overwhelmed, those who are lonely, those who are struggling to make ends meet, those who are nearly ready to give up. Surround them with your care. Guide the work of those who are making and distributing vaccines. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

The heavenly chorus sings, "Glory to God in the highest!" We give you thanks for all the saints who have proclaimed your glory in word and deed. Let us join them this night in joyful praise around your eternal throne. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

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.

Sending Song

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (Jessica Saunders & Shirley Bergman)

Blessing

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary,
the obedience of Joseph,
the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the determination of the magi,
and the peace of the Christ child.
Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Dismissal

BY THE NUMBERS

Check Register Balance 12/26/2020
\$15,530.97
Operating Bank Loan: \$4,512.27
PPP Loan Balance: \$16,984 (Forgiven)

Offering: 12/20/20
Current: \$4,590
Benevolence: \$102
Improvement: \$85
Memorial: \$290

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congregational Meeting: The 2021 Budget Hearing presentation has been scheduled for Sunday, January 10, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. via a Zoom meeting for anyone who wishes to see or comment on the proposed budget for American Lutheran Church prior to the Annual Congregational Meeting. A link will be provided to attend the meeting when information is emailed for the Sunday worship services. Arrangements can be made for anyone who wishes to attend in person at the church by calling/texting Pastor Kristen at (563) 212-1366 or Maureen Even at (563) 880-8872 by 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 9, 2021. Social distancing & mask guidelines will be used while in the church.

This year we will be providing two options for the Annual Congregational Meeting for American Lutheran Church which will be held on Sunday, January 24, 2021. A person may attend either in person after the 9:00 a.m. worship service (if we are meeting in

person at that time) or at 10:00 a.m. via a Zoom meeting. A link will be provided at a later date. The Snow Date for the Annual Congregational Meeting will be January 31, 2021 following the same time schedule as listed above.

Offering Envelopes: Your 2021 envelopes may be picked up at Shirley Bergman's porch at 1115 6th St. across from the church Sunday the 13th and until Christmas Eve. Also they will be at the church Christmas Eve.

Military members: Jordan Leach is home from Sheppard AFB TX. Both he and Justin are at the 185th Air Refueling Wing in Sioux City, IA. If you know of anyone else serving in the armed forces, please contact the church office (secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org) or (827-6626). We'd like to remember them in our prayers.

Prayer Requests: We know that this is currently an especially stressful time for health care workers and school employees. If you would like to include a healthcare worker or school employee by name (first name only) in the prayers of intercession for this season, please tell Pastor Kristen (pastor@americanlutheranjesup.org) or Jessica (secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org) or (827-6626).

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