

Family Service
December 24, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.
Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

Welcome

Hymn: “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Sung Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel’s strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

Spoken Born thy people to deliver,
born a child, and yet a king;
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Litany

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

All: **Blessed are you for the birth of creation.**

Pastor: Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
All: Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Pastor: Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
All: Blessed are you in Mary's openness to your will.
Pastor: Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
All: And also with you.
Pastor: 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.
All: Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Pastor: Tonight we light the four candles of Advent waiting. We light one for the people who waited for hundreds of years for God's Messiah. We light one for Mary and Joseph waiting for Jesus to be born. We light one for all the waiting we have done getting ready for this night. We light one for all the people who are still waiting tonight for God's love and justice and peace. But tonight, we can finally light

the Christ Candle. Jesus is born! The Messiah has come! So let us all say, “Welcome, Jesus!”

All: Welcome, Jesus!

Sung Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

²The 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.

Hymn: “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Sung Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.”
Joyful, all you nations rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn king!”

Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of peace!
Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth,
born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn king!”

Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

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...*katalumati!*

Hymn: “Away in a Manger”

Sung 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.

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.”

Hymn: “Angels We Have Heard on High”

Sung Angels we have heard on high
sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains:
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Spoken Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heavenly song?

Sung Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Spoken Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing,
Come, adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Sung Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

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.

Solo: "I Wonder as I Wander"

²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Hymn: "Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

Sung Go, tell it on the mountain
 over the hills and everywhere.
 Go, tell it on the mountain
 that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens,
there shone a holy light...

Go, tell it on the mountain
over the hills and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!

Spoken The shepherds feared and trembled
when, lo!, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth.

Sung Go, tell it on the mountain
over the hills and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!

Prayers of Intercession

Pastor: 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. Lord, in your mercy,

All: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Heaven and nature sing, "Joy to the world!" Give rest 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. Lord, in your mercy,

All: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: 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. Lord, in your mercy,
All: hear our prayer.

Pastor: 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 (*especially those we name now silently in our hearts*). Lord, in your mercy,
All: hear our prayer.

Pastor: 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. Lord, in your mercy,
All: hear our prayer.

Pastor: 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.

All: Amen.

Peace

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

Offering

Lord's Prayer

All: **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.**

Announcements

Benediction

Sending Hymn: “Joy to the World”

Sung Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

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

Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace. Christ, Emmanuel, is with you.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

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