

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Northwood, Iowa

641-324-2984

www.flcnorthwood.org

THAT ALL MAY KNOW THE LOVE OF GOD IN JESUS CHRIST



1st Sunday of Christmas

December 27th, 2020

9:00am

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Prelude

-Leila Gangstad

Welcome – Announcements

GATHERING

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who was in the beginning, who makes a dwelling among us, who covers us with justice and mercy.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of goodness and lovingkindness, **we confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbors. We have turned away from your invitation to new life. We have turned away from the lowly and downtrodden. In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins, those we know and those known only to you, for the sake of the one who came to live among us, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Hear the good news of peace and salvation! God forgives us all our sins, not through our own work, but through Jesus Christ, made known to all people. With all who come to the manger, rejoice in this amazing gift of grace. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”



1 Good Chris-tian friends, re-joice with heart and soul and voice;
2 Good Chris-tian friends, re-joice with heart and soul and voice;
3 Good Chris-tian friends, re-joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je-sus Christ is born to-day;
now ye hear of end-less bliss: Je-sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave; Je-sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be-fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.
He has o-pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for-ev-er-more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev-er-last-ing hall.



Christ is born to-day! Christ is born to-day!
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 61:10-62.3

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Psalm 148

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

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

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

Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.

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

who made them stand fast forever and ever, giving them a law that shall not pass away.

Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;

fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will;

mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;

wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;

sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;

young men and maidens, old and young together.

Let them praise the name of the LORD, whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

The 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!

Second Reading: Galatians 4:4-7

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, ‘Abba! Father!’ So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

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

Now 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. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Guided 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, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”

And 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 so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

There 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, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At 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.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him. The gospel of our Lord, **Praise to you O Christ.**

Hymn of the Day

“We Three Kings”



1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing
2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I
3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense
4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a
5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and



gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,
bring to crown him a - gain; king for - ev - er,
owns a de - i - ty nigh; prayer and prais - ing,
life of gath - er - ing gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing,
God and Sac - ri - fice; heav'n sings al - le -



moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.
glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.
bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.



Refrain
Oh, star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright;



west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

Message

Linda Griffith

Apostles' 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 of Intercession

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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.

Blessing

Almighty God, who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary, proclaimed joy through the angels, sent the shepherds with good news, and led the magi by a star, bless you this day through the Word made flesh.

Amen.

Closing Hymn

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



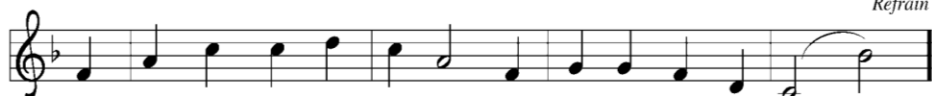
go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,

2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth

3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;



Refrain

be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

That all may know the love of God in Jesus Christ

Postlude

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Special Music: Nikkole Koenig

Organist/Pianist: Leila Gangstad

Altar Guild: LYDIA Circle

Sound/Video: Mark Willand

Mission Project for December

Heifer International

Announcements

"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."

(Ephesians 4:2-3)

Our condolences to Jan Thompson on the loss of her brother in-law, Gerry Thein.

Thank you so very much for your gift to Manna. It is very much appreciated. -*Manna*

Year-end contribution deadline is December 30th.

The church offices will be open until noon on December 30th and closed on December 31st and January 1st.