

**Christ Lutheran Church &
The Bridge Campus Ministry
December 24, 2022 – The Nativity of Our Lord**



Connecting people to people • people to faith • faith to life

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Introduction to the day

In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

Prelude

Welcome

Entrance Hymn: Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful (ELW 283)

1. Oh, come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him born the king of angels:
Refrain
Oh, come, let us adore him, oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!
2. The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*
3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God in the highest: *Refrain*

Christmas Dialog and Greeting

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.

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

In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

May the grace and truth of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Opening Prayer

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 only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

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.

³ 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.
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.

O Little Town of Bethlehem (ELW 279)

1. 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.
2. For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above
 While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.
 O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
 And praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
3. 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;
 Oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

Second Reading

Titus 2:11-14

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and

godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He 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.

Hymn: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (ELW 270)

1. 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!"
2. 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!"

Time with Children

Third Reading

Luke 2:1-7

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.

Hymn: Away in a Manger (ELW 277)

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 poor baby wakes,
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.

Fourth Reading

Luke 2:8-20

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.

Sermon

Hymn: Go, Tell It on the Mountain (ELW 290)

Refrain

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;

Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

1. While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. *Refrain*
2. Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

The Prayers

Glory to God in the highest,

and peace to God's people on earth.

Blessed are you, Prince of Peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.

Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.

Blessed are you, Wonderful Counselor. You enlighten the heart with steadfast love.

Enliven your church that it might bear good tidings of great joy to all people.

Blessed are you, Emmanuel. You promise to be with us even to the end of the age.

Open our eyes to see your presence in all who are hungry, lonely, or homeless.

Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.

Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.

Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.

Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bear your light to all the world.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Offering – THANK YOU! YOUR GENEROSITY MAKES OUR MINISTRY POSSIBLE.

Giving is easy online through our website at <https://www.clcathens.org/give>

There you will also find instructions for how you can text to give or by downloading our church app!

Offertory

Meditations on Good Christian Men Rejoice

Michael Tobar

Offertory Prayer

Blessed are you,

God of all creation. Through your goodness we have these gifts to share. Receive our offerings, and nourish us at your table, that your Word may take flesh in our lives; for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary... and join their unending hymn:

(sung to the tune of: "Hark the Herald Angels Sing")

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of heav'n and earth adored. O how blest is he who comes in the holy name of God. 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!"

Eucharistic Prayer

Holy God,

Creator of all and Source of life,

at the birth of time

your word brought light into the world...

...Through him all glory and honor is yours,

Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,

in your holy Church,

both now and forever.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Come to Christ's banquet.
Feast on God's gift of grace.

Communion

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

Most High God,
you have come among us at this table.
By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word,
sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all,
through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.
Amen.

Service of Light

The minister lights a candle which symbolizes Christ, the Light of the world of whom John's gospel speaks. During the hymn, as the minister processes the lit candle around the sanctuary, please turn your light on to spread the light of Christ throughout the sanctuary and through you, into the whole world.

Hymn of Light: Silent Night, Holy Night! (ELW 281)

1. Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.
2. Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!
3. Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

Proclamation of the Birth of Christ

Many ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth
and then formed man and woman in his own image;
long after the great flood, when God made the rainbow shine forth as a sign of the covenant;
twenty-one centuries from the time the promise was given to Abraham and Sarah;
thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt and Miriam danced in
freedom; eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the judges;
one thousand years from the anointing of David as king, in fulfillment of the times and years
and months and days discerned by the prophets; in the one hundred and ninety-fourth
Olympiad; the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the foundation of the city of Rome;
the forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus; while the whole world enjoyed a span
of peace, Jesus Christ, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father, desiring to sanctify the world
by his most merciful coming, being conceived by the Holy Spirit and nine months of growth in
the womb of his mother— now in our own times is the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, God
made flesh.

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.

The lights are extinguished.

Departure Hymn: Joy to the World (ELW 267)

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive its King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing...
2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy...
3. No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found...
4. He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love...

Dismissal

Go in peace to worship the newborn King!

Thanks be to God!

Serving Tonight: Presider/Preacher: Pastor Chad Huebner; Assisting Minister: Jim Sillery;
Organist: George Weckman; Livestream: Kay Cleland; Time with Children: Lucy Crawford;
Acolyte: William Crawford