

# St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Nativity of our Lord, Christmas Eve  
December 24, 2024

*In winter's deep night, we wonder in the light of God with us. Isaiah declares that the light of a promised king will usher the people out of fear and destruction. The letter to Titus 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, especially the shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.*

## Holy Communion

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

(ELW) Setting 7, Page 175

† Congregation stands as able

## GATHERING

Prelude

Christmas Selections

Violist, Joe Steinagel

P: 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.**

**Gathering Hymn**

*"On Christmas Night"*

**ELW #274**

Kyrie

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Gloria in Excelsis

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**Special Music**

*"Come, Shepherds, Rise"*

Handbell Choir

Prayer of the Day:

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

## PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

**First Reading**

**Isaiah 9:2-7**

<sup>2</sup>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.  
<sup>3</sup>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.  
<sup>4</sup>For 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.  
<sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.  
<sup>6</sup>For 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.

<sup>7</sup>His 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.

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 96

Tone 10

<sup>1</sup>Sing to the LORD <sup>1</sup>a new song;  
sing to the LORD, <sup>1</sup>all the earth.  
<sup>2</sup>**Sing to the LORD, bless the name <sup>1</sup>of the LORD;  
proclaim God's salvation from <sup>1</sup>day to day.**  
<sup>3</sup>Declare God's glory a- <sup>1</sup>mong the nations  
and God's wonders a- <sup>1</sup>mong all peoples.  
<sup>4</sup>**For great is the LORD and greatly <sup>1</sup>to be praised,  
more to be feared <sup>1</sup>than all gods.**  
<sup>5</sup>As for all the gods of the nations, they <sup>1</sup>are but idols;  
but you, O LORD, have <sup>1</sup>made the heavens.  
<sup>6</sup>**Majesty and magnificence are <sup>1</sup>in your presence;  
power and splendor are in your <sup>1</sup>sanctuary.**  
<sup>7</sup>Ascribe to the LORD, you families <sup>1</sup>of the peoples,  
ascribe to the LORD hon- <sup>1</sup>or and power.  
<sup>8</sup>**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the <sup>1</sup>holy name;  
bring offerings and enter the courts <sup>1</sup>of the LORD.**  
<sup>9</sup>Worship the LORD in the beau- <sup>1</sup>ty of holiness;  
tremble before the LORD, <sup>1</sup>all the earth.  
<sup>10</sup>**Tell it out among the nations: "The <sup>1</sup>LORD is king!  
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved  
will judge the peo- <sup>1</sup>ples with equity."**  
<sup>11</sup>Let the heavens rejoice, and let the <sup>1</sup>earth be glad;  
let the sea thunder and all that is in it;  
let the field be joyful and all that <sup>1</sup>is therein.  
<sup>12</sup>**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your com- <sup>1</sup>ing, O  
LORD, for you come to <sup>1</sup>judge the earth.**  
<sup>13</sup>You will judge the <sup>1</sup>world with righteousness  
and the peoples <sup>1</sup>with your truth.

## Second Reading

Titus 2:11-14

<sup>11</sup>The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup>training us to  
renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that  
are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope and  
the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

<sup>14</sup>He 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.

L: The word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**

† Gospel Acclamation

“Alleluia”

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**Gospel**

**Luke 2:1-20**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2nd Chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph 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. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And 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. <sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

<sup>15</sup>When 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." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

*Also Christmas*

Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards

† Hymn of the Day

*"It Came upon the Midnight Clear"*

**ELW #282**

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,**

**the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,**

**the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the  
dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,**

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\*  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*Choose to stand, kneel, or sit for prayers.*

### **Prayers of Intercession**

**A:** Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

*A brief silence.*

**A:** Angels sing with praise, and shepherds run with haste. As we glorify and praise you in this place, send us into the world, proclaiming the salvation you have revealed this night. God of grace.

**C:** **receive our prayer.**

A: The seas roar, and the trees of the forest sing for joy. As creation resounds with praise, inspire us with awe, reverence, and a renewed care for all that fills the fields, skies, and seas. God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: The nations declare your glory. Uphold the leaders of the earth with your justice and righteousness. Break the rod of the oppressor in every land, and bring peace where there is conflict. God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: The holy family finds shelter around the animals' manger. Draw near to persons experiencing homelessness, those who are alone this holiday season, and all for whom this world makes no room. Wrap all your children in bands of love and mercy. God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: A child is born for us and light shines on the weary. Watch over those who give birth this night and attend to those who are dying. Be present in our joys and in our sorrows. God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: The heavenly host praises you. With thanksgiving for Mary, Joseph, and all your saints, especially Margarete Walsh, sustain us in the blessed hope revealed this night. Fashion us by their example into a people zealous for good deeds, sharing your love and mercy with all. God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## MEAL

Anthem

*"Baby in a Manger"*

Choir

*The gifts may be brought forward.*

Offering Prayer

A: God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day.

**C: Amen.**

† Great Thanksgiving

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Holy, Holy, Holy

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Acclamation

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Lord's Prayer "Our Father, who..."  
Lamb of God

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### **Communion**

The body of Christ, given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.  
*and each person may respond Amen*

### Table Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you  
in his grace.

C: **Amen.**

† Prayer after Communion

A: Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food.  
Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace,  
comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy.

C: **Amen.**

*Candles will be lit*

Hymn "Silent Night, Holy Night"

ELW #281

*Candles may be extinguished*

## **SENDING**

### **Blessing**

Sending Hymn "O Come, All Ye Faithful"  
"Go Tell It on the Mountain"

ELW #283  
ELW #290

Special Music "Ding Dong Merrily on High"

Handbell Choir

### **Dismissal**

A: Go in peace. Christ is born!

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Handbell Choir members are: Donna Doughty, Shannon Gardner,  
Cecil McGouirk, Elizabeth McGouirk, Anna Mion, Toni Mion.

Director: Sandra Nearhoof

Lector - Shannon Gardner

Worship Assistant - Rose Johnson

Communion Assistant - Lisa Pettit

# CHRISTMAS REMEMBRANCES - 2024

## IN MEMORY OF:

**Hardy & Allie Mae Cornwell** given by Lane Brown

**Melvin & Inez Craven and Louis & Viola Reichwald** given by Randy & Sandy Craven

**Clarence & Jean Gates and Joseph & Myrle Shediack** given by Jeff & Nancy Gates

**Dean Johnson & Margaret Carlson** given by Rose Johnson and family

**Robert & Elsie McGouirk, Herman & Dorothy Hoffman, and Ralph & Ruth Griffin** given by Cecil & Liz McGouirk

**Scott Miller** given by Marga Miller

**Louie Niederhammer** given by Terri Niederhammer

**Andrew McEwen, Bob Meinhold, Tom & Patricia Pettit** given by the Pettit family

**Diana Sperry, and Walter & Allena Gardner, Jacob & Rose Sperry** given by Jim and Allena Sperry

**Gary Stickle**s given by Carla Stickle and family

**Ralph & Ella Wallace, and Hazel Dixon** given by Bill and Maxine Wallace

**Wayne Wiley** given by Renate Wiley



## IN HONOR OF:

**Our children and grandchildren** given by Randy & Sandy Craven

**Patrick & Karen McGouirk, David & Shannon Gardner, Andrew & Lauren McGouirk** given by Cecil & Liz McGouirk

**Anthony Hicks, our joyful blessing** given by Anna Mion & Paul Hicks

**Grandma, Grandpa, Aunt Monica, and Aunt Toni-our loving village** given by Anna Mion & Paul Hicks

**Betty Davidson** given by Rose Johnson and family

**The Ladies Tuesday Bible Study Class** given by Terri Niederhammer

**Evelyn & Leo Pettit, Lynne Meinhold** given by the Pettit family

**Ron Dixon** given by Bill & Maxine Wallace