

The Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
A Hymn Liturgy of the Word for Christmas Eve
December 24, 2020
St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Williamsport, PA



PRELUDE

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the pastor begins.

P 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.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Silence is kept for reflection.

P & C 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.**

P Hear the good news of peace and salvation!
God forgives us all our sins,
through † our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
Rejoice in this gift with all who come to the manger!

C Amen.

HYMN Oh, Come All Ye Faithful

O, Come, All Ye Faithful



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!



come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain



Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

GREETING

P Christ is born! Alleluia! 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.**

KYRIE (Solo)

Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Upon us.

Christ have mercy. Christ have mercy. Christ have mercy.

Upon us.

God the Father, with the Spirit, gave us Christ
to love and save us.

Lord have mercy upon us. Lord have mercy upon us.

Tune *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

Words BDV and others, 2017

HYMN OF PRAISE Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels We Have Heard on High



- 1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains.
- 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi-lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
- 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

Refrain



Glo

ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo



ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: French carol; tr. H. E. Henry. *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1863.
 Music: GLORIA, French carol

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

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.

C **Amen**

THE FIRST LESSON 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.

The word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God

PSALM 96 (*Sung; Cantor and Congregation*) Psalm Tone 1

1Sing to the LORD| a new song;

sing to the LORD, | all the earth.

2Sing to the LORD, bless the name | of the LORD;

proclaim God's salvation from | day to day.

3Declare God's glory a- | mong the nations

and God's wonders a- | mong all peoples.

4For great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised,

more to be feared | than all gods.

5As for all the gods of the nations, they | are but idols;

but you, O LORD, have | made the heavens.

6Majesty and magnificence are | in your presence;

power and splendor are in your | sanctuary.

7Ascribe to the LORD, you families | of the peoples,

ascribe to the LORD hon- | or and power.

8Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the | holy name;

bring offerings and enter the courts | of the LORD.

9Worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness;

tremble before the LORD, | all the earth.

10Tell it out among the nations: "The | LORD is king!

**The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge
the peo- | ples with equity."**

11Let the heavens rejoice, and let the | earth be glad;

let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all
that | is therein.

12Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your com- | ing,

O LORD,

for you come to | judge the earth.

13You will judge the | world with righteousness

and the peoples | with your truth.

THE SECOND LESSON Titus 2:11-14

11The 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

The word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Cantor and Congregation

Angles from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o'er all the earth

Once you sang creation's story; Now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ the newborn king.

Text: J. Montgomery, 1771-1854

Tune: REGENT SQUARE

THE HOLY GOSPEL Luke 2:1-14

P The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter

C Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

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!"

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN

Hark The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king;
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!



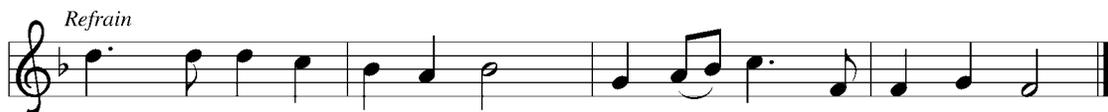
peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831–1915

THE NICENE CREED

P Living together in trust and hope, we affirm our faith

C 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;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man.

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.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He 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**

THE PEACE

THE PRAYERS

P Hear us, O God/C Your mercy is great.

OUR LORD'S PRAYER

P Rejoicing in Christ who has come among us, let pray as our Savior taught us

**C 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.**

CANDLELIGHTING

**P Arise and shine you people of God for your light has come and the glory of
the Lord has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth and
a thick darkness the people; but the Lord will rise upon you, and God's glory
will be seen through you. And nations shall come to your light and kings to
the brightness of your rising.**

C Amen.

HYMN Silent Night, Holy Night

Silent Night, Holy Night!

Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht!



Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,
 1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.
 all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,



Hold - er Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher
 Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
 heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your



Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792–1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885
 Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1787–1863

PRAYER OF LIGHT

P All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your Light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

BLESSING

P May Almighty God,
who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary,
proclaimed joy through the angels,
and sent the shepherds good news,
bless you this day and always ✠ through the Word made flesh.

C **Amen**

SENDING HYMN

Joy to the World

Joy to the World



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Leading Us in Worship:

Cantor/Soloist	Sadie Wentzel
Lector	Mel Wentzel
Organist	Sam Robinson
Liturgist/Preacher	Pastor Vasey

By action of our Congregational Council, all in person worship and all activities, ministries and meetings are suspended indefinitely. Please check our website, and Facebook page for more detail and information on when in-person worship will resume.

Lessons and Carols

Our Synod Staff will provide a recorded Service of Lessons and Carols for the First Sunday of Christmas. The recording will “drop” on December 26 at 5 pm on the **Synod's YouTube channel and Facebook page.**

Christmas at the Organ; A Concert of Carols

The tenth day of Christmas (Sunday, January 3, 2021) at Covenant Presbyterian Church (807 W. Front Street, Williamsport), 3 pm. The concert will feature nine members of the American Guild of Organists.

A Blessed Christmas and a happy and healthy 2021 to all!

Pastor Brian Vasey and Family, and Church Staff!

COMMEMORATIONS IN THIS HOLY TIDE OF CHRISTMAS

Stephen, Deacon and Martyr

Saturday, December 26, 2020

Stephen was a deacon and the first martyr of the church. He was one of those seven upon whom the apostles laid hands after they had been chosen to serve widows and others in need. Stephen's preaching angered the temple authorities, and they ordered him to be put to death by stoning, with Saul (later Paul) as one of the observers. As he died he witnessed to his faith and spoke of a vision from heaven.

John, Apostle and Evangelist

Sunday, December 27, 2020

John, the son of Zebedee, was a fisherman and one of the Twelve. John, his brother James and Peter were the three who witnessed the transfiguration.

Tradition has attributed authorship of the Gospel according to John, three epistles and Revelation to this apostle.

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

Monday, December 28, 2020

The infant martyrs commemorated on this day are the children of Bethlehem, two years and younger, who were murdered by Herod, who worried that his reign was threatened by the birth of “the new king”, Jesus. (Matthew 2:16-18).

Name of Jesus

Friday, January 1, 2021

By Jewish law, every baby boy was circumcised and named on the eighth day of life, so on the eighth day of Christmas the church celebrates this event in Jesus' life. The keeping of the covenant as well as Jesus' name are signs of God's salvation given to us through him.

Johann Konrad Wilhelm Loehe, renewer of the church, died 1872

Saturday, January 2, 2021

A nineteenth-century German Lutheran pastor, Loehe worked to enliven the church with the eucharist at its center, from which would flow evangelism and social ministry. He sent pastors to North America, Australia, New Guinea, Brazil, and the Ukraine.