

*Unto Us
a Child is Born*



*Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
Jenera, Ohio
December 25th, 2020*



Christmas Day – The Nativity of Our Lord

December 25, 2020

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Worship Theme: *Christmas Came Anyway: Even when it was not the way it was supposed to be.*

PRESERVICE MUSIC *“From Heaven Above”*

Performed by Amy Rettig, Nicki von Stein, and Dan Webb

Opening Hymn

55 – *“Oh Come, All Ye Faithful” (verses 1 & 2)*

**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.
Oh, come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.**

**2. God from true God,
and Light from Light eternal,
Born of a virgin, to earth he comes,
Only begotten Son of God the Father.
Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.**

Please stand.

Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

Dialogue of Praise (Is. 9:2-7)

P: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;

C: on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

P: You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy;

C: they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as men rejoice when dividing the plunder.

P: For as in the day of Midian's defeat,

C: you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor.

P: Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood

C: will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire.

P: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.

C: And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

P: Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end.

C: He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.

Please be seated.

Hymn 55 – "Oh Come, All Ye Faithful" (verse 4)

4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n,
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing.
Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant that the birth of your only Son in the flesh may set us free from our old bondage under the yolk of sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE CHRISTMAS LESSONS

Genesis 3:8-15

God never wanted sin in the world, but after it entered, he promised a champion would come and defeat Satan and sin.

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden.⁹ But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?"¹⁰ He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."¹¹ And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"¹² The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."¹³ Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."¹⁴ So the Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life.¹⁵ And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

"Hark, the Herald Angels Sing"

Performed by Beth and Steve Rausch, and Jessi Gurney

Romans 3:19-24

Sin ruined the world that God created perfectly; God made it right.

¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God.²⁰ Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.²¹ But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify.²² This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference,²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,²⁴ and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

Verse of the Day

Alleluia. When the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law. Alleluia. (Galatians 4:4,5a)

Please stand.

THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL

P: The Gospel according to John Chapter 1.

C: Glory be to you, O Lord.

John 1:1-14 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. ⁶ There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. ⁹ The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. ¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ.

The Confession of Faith (Excerpts from the Athanasian Creed)

It is necessary for eternal salvation truly to believe that our Lord Jesus Christ also took on human flesh.

Now this is the true Christian faith.

We believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son, is both God and man. He is God, eternally begotten from the nature of the Father, and he is man, born in time from the nature of his mother, fully God, fully man, with rational soul and human flesh. equal to the Father as to his deity, less than the Father as to his humanity; and though he is both God and man, Christ is not two persons, but one, one, not by changing the deity into flesh,

but by taking the humanity into God; one, indeed, not by mixture of the natures, but by unity in one person; for just as the rational soul and flesh are one human being, so God and man are one Christ.

He suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose the third day from the dead. He ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty, and from there will come to judge the living and the dead. This is the true Christian faith.

Please be seated.

Hymn 62 - "Joy to World" (verses 1 & 3)

**1. 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.**

**3. No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.**

SERMONETTE

John 1:14-18 ¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

¹⁵ John testifies concerning him. He cries out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.' " ¹⁶ From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known.

Theme: Behold the Christmas miracles!

1. God's grace gives us abundant blessings!
2. We have seen the Father and lived!

**1. Once again my heart rejoices
As I hear Far and near
Sweetest angel voices.
"Christ is born!" their choirs are singing
Till the air Ev'rywhere
Now with joy is ringing.**

**3. Should we still fear God's displeasure,
Who, to save, Freely gave
His most precious treasure?
To redeem us he has given
His own Son From the throne
Of his might in heaven.**

OFFERING

Offering plates are near the exits in which you may place your thank-offering.

Prayer of the Church for Christmas Day

P: On this holy day, dear Father, we rejoice to hear the good news of great joy that a Savior has been born for us. For fulfilling your prophecies and in the fullness of time sending your Son to be our Savior, we give you our heartfelt thanks and praise.

C: Unto us a child is born! Unto us a Son is given!

P: What a great mystery of our faith this is: that God has become fully human for our salvation! Even though he is the all-powerful Lord of all, he is wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.

C: Help us always believe that this precious child was born as our substitute to be our Savior.

P: In the midst of our joy, we grieve for the many people in our world who do not know that Jesus has come to bring them forgiveness and healing. As the shepherds spread abroad the good news of the birth of the Savior born for all the world, may we also make use of the unique opportunities this holiday presents to tell others of what we have seen and heard concerning the child.

C: Grant that the true peace between God and fallen mankind may comfort all people.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

P: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

P: As the angels sang out their praise, move us also to sing out our praise to you, today and every day, as the joy of Christmas remains in our hearts.

C: Glory to God in the highest! Amen.

Lord's Prayer (Traditional)

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.

THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is good and right so to do.

P: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, for in the wonder and mystery of his birth you have opened our eyes to the glory of your grace and renewed in our hearts the fervor of your love. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff with a common time signature (C). The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, often beamed together in pairs. The lyrics are printed below the staff, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. A circled 'C' is placed above the first 'O' in the second line of the score.

O Christ, Lamb of
God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of
God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of
God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - men. A - men.

DISTRIBUTION

Please stand.

P: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: And his mercy endures forever.

P: O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE BLESSING

P: The Lord bless and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Hymn

37 – “Once Again My Heart Rejoices” (verses 5 & 6)

5. Softly from his lowly manger

Jesus calls One and all,

"You are safe from danger.

Children, from the sins that grieve you

You are freed; All you need

I will surely give you."

6. Come, then, banish all your sadness!

One and all, Great and small,

Come with songs of gladness;

We shall live with him forever

There on high In that joy

Which will vanish never. Amen.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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GREETERS

today are:

John & Janet Weihrauch

Next Sunday:

Barb Roidt & Ruth Marquart – Early Service
Charlotte Brown & Janice Rausch – Late

New Year's Eve:

Joyce Beach & Loretta Jansen

HOLY COMMUNION: The Bible teaches us that Holy Communion is a public demonstration of participants' united confession of the Bible's teachings (1 Cor. 10:17). Since we strive to follow all that the Bible teaches, we believe that members of this congregation or the WELS or ELS synod are united in the true teaching and may commune together. All guests should speak with a pastor before Communion, to first determine if unity of faith exists. We're eager to establish a unity of faith and to declare this oneness at Communion with you.

WELCOME! We're glad you could join us today as we celebrate the birth of our Savior! Join us for worship again on New Year's Eve at 7:00pm. Close the year praising your Lord for all His grace to you in 2020!

CHRISTMAS SHUT-IN DONATIONS - Anyone wishing to donate items may place them in the tote located by the south entrance of the church by December 31st. Suggested items include: body-lotion, powder or soap, emery boards, Chapstick, mouth wash, shampoo, facial tissues, boost/ensure, candy, or monetary (cash in an envelope) gifts. *Non-perishable* items only, please. If you have any questions, please contact Janet Weihrauch, Mary Ann Gallant, Mary Heldman or Stacy Heldman from the Ladies Aid Committee.

2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available in the narthex through today. Please retrieve them and double check the address. If the address is incorrect, please contact Clark Inniger at 419-306-0127 or email tlsoffice@tlcjenera.org or cdinniger@roadrunner.com. After today, the envelopes will be in the basement. *These are not for use until 2021.*

THE ADVENT WREATH

The fifth candle (white) is called the Christ Candle. It symbolizes the fulfillment of prophecy, the birth of Jesus Christ, the Savior and the Light of the world. Read Luke 2:1-20.

