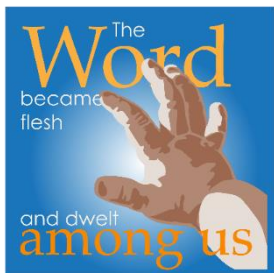


THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD CHRISTMAS DAY

Faith Lutheran Church - December 25th, 2020



AS WE GATHER: Glory is the theme of both John’s account and Luke’s familiar details of the Savior’s birth. They are not mutually exclusive but speak of the same event. The surprise is that glory is not where we would have expected it or what we would have expected it to be. Hidden in the manger is the Word made flesh, the same creating Word that spoke all things into being. Hidden in the flesh of a baby is the glory of the God who becomes His people’s Savior. Hidden in the faith that trusts this Word are eyes to see and ears to hear the glory as of the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth. In the Word made flesh, God has displayed His glory, and that glory appeared in order to give us the right to become the children of God.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son
and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 43:4; 124:8*

Pastor: I will go to the altar of God,

People: to God my exceeding joy.

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the LORD,

People: who made heaven and earth.

HYMN “O Come, All Ye Faithful” #379

1 O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him
Born the king of angels: Refrain

ref O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!

2 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

4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father
Now in flesh appearing! Refrain

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CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Recalling our sin and God's mercy, let us
examine our lives and consciences.

Silence for self-examination

People: I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

Pastor: The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. In the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I, a called and ordained servant of the Word, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of the Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

☩ WORD ☩

HYMN OF PRAISE “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” #349

- 1 Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,
The Savior promised long;
Let ev’ry heart prepare a throne
And ev’ry voice a song.
- 2 He comes the pris’ners to release,
In Satan’s bondage held.
The gates of brass before Him burst,
The iron fetters yield.
- 3 He comes the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure,

And with the treasures of His grace
To enrich the humble poor.

4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Thy welcome shall proclaim,
And heav'n's eternal arches ring
With Thy belovèd name.

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SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 62:10-12*

¹⁰ Go through, go through the gates; prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway; clear it of stones; lift up a signal over the peoples. ¹¹ Behold, the LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to the daughter of Zion, "Behold, your salvation comes; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him." ¹² And they shall be called The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD; and you shall be called Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN “Go Tell it On the Mountain” #388 v. 3 and refrain

Ref. Go tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and ev’rywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born!

3 Down in a lonely manger
The humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation
That blessèd Christmas morn. Refrain.

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EPISTLE *Titus 3:4-7*

⁴But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN “Angels From the Realms of Glory” #367 v. 4

4 Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In His temple shall appear.

ref Come and worship, come and worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

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HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 2:1-20*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

2 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. **2**This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. **3**And all went to be registered, each to his own town. **4**And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, **5**to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. **6**And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. **7**And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

8And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. **9**And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. **10**And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. **11**For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. **12**And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” **13**And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

14“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

15When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” **16**And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. **17**And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this

child. ¹⁸ And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

CONFESSION OF FAITH: The Apostle's Creed

People: **I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

HYMN "What Child Is This?" #370

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,
 On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
 While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
 Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
 The babe, the son of Mary!

2 Why lies He in such mean estate
 Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
 The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you;
 Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
 The babe, the son of Mary!

3 So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;
 Come, peasant, king, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
 Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby;
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
 The babe, the son of Mary!

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SERMON

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ
Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

For the faith to greet the news of the Word made
flesh with joy and peace, for the obedience of faith
to walk in the light of His ways, for the strength to
be steadfast in this faith, and for speedy feet to
proclaim this message to the world, let us pray to the
Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For voices to proclaim faithfully the Word of God,
for listening ears that we grow in knowledge and
faith by the preaching of the Word, for those who

deliver to us the Means of Grace in which we behold God's glory and receive it with joy and thanksgiving, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the Church, here and throughout the world, for every place where the Word has planted hope and displayed God's saving glory to the nations, and for the homes in which we teach this Word to our children and live it out in holy lives, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For peace in the world, for an end to violence, for the restoration of hope and lives still suffering from the effects of the pandemic, for justice, for the will to protect life from its beginning to its natural end, and for those in need, let us pray of the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For those who suffer any need of body or soul, for the sick, for the aged, for the grieving, and for those in their last days, especially. . . , that the Lord be their healing, strength, comfort, and peace, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

(local petitions may follow here . . .)

(After each petition the pastor prays, *let us pray to the Lord*, and the people respond, **Lord, have mercy.**)

Pastor: For all things needful to this body and life and for all things profitable to our salvation, let us pray in the name of Christ, the Word made flesh, in whom we behold the glory of the eternal Trinity, now and to the end of the ages.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD’S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

People: **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.**

BENEDICAMUS

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be
gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you
peace. *Numbers 6:24–26*

People: **Amen.**

HYMN “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” #380

- 1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the_angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
- ref Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”
- 2 Christ, by highest heav’n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of a virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail the_incarinate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel!
- 3 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 man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.

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