

Prelude

Welcome *Please fill out the friendship pad in your pew, (please be sure to date the top of the page.)*

The angel said to [the shepherds], "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ, the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11).

As we gather we hear again the good news the angels proclaimed: God has come for all people through the birth of the one named Jesus. Through Bethlehem's manger God comes into the chaos, messiness, and vulnerability of the world. In all things and at all times, we rejoice that God comes to save us and reigns in love. We come to adore Jesus who is Savior, Christ, and Lord.

Confession and Forgiveness

Amid the troubles and fears of this world, let us confess our sin and welcome God's forgiveness, grace, and love.

Silence is kept for reflection

Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus.

Forgive our lack of faith and trust.

Your Son was born in the poverty of a stable.

Forgive our neglect of the poor.

The shepherds left their flocks and went to Bethlehem.

Forgive our selfishness and complacency.

With great joy the angels proclaimed, "Do not fear. For I bring you good news of great joy. Today is born a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

In ☩ Jesus, who is Savior, Christ, and Lord, our sins are forgiven. May you know the peace which the angels sang from the heavens. Indeed, God's forgiveness is good news of great joy!

Amen.

Please stand

Gathering Hymn: ELW #275, Angels From The Realms of Glory

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ who is Savior and Lord, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Canticle of Praise: ELW #289, Angels We Have Heard On High

Prayer of the Day:

Let us pray, together:

O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated

“For unto you is born a Savior, who is *CHRIST*, the Lord”

Lesson: Isaiah 12:2-6

¹You will say on that day: I will give thanks to you, O LORD, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, and you comforted me. ²Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.

Response: ELW #283, O Come, All Ye Faithful (refrain only)

Refrain

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the refrain, with lyrics: "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,". The second staff contains the melody for the second line, with lyrics: "ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num. O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!".

Lesson: Matthew 1:18-21

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.'

Carol: ELW #272, Lo, How A Rose e'er Blooming

“For unto you is born a Savior, who is *CHRIST*, the Lord”

Lesson: Isaiah 61:1-3, 11

¹The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; ²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. ¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Time for Reflection

Response: ELW #283, O Come, All Ye Faithful (refrain only)

Refrain



The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the refrain, with lyrics: "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,". The second staff contains the melody for the second line, with lyrics: "ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num. O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!".

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!

Lesson: Luke 1:26-35

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' ³⁴Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' ³⁵The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.'

Carol: ELW #294, In The Bleak Midwinter

"For unto you is born a Savior, who is Christ, the LORD"

Lesson: Isaiah 6:1-8

¹In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. ²Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³And one called to another and said:

'Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.' ⁴The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. ⁵And I said: 'Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!' ⁶Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: 'Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.' ⁸Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I; send me!'

Response: ELW #283, O Come, All Ye Faithful (refrain only)

Refrain



The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the melody for the first two phrases: '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,'. The second staff contains the melody for the final phrase: 've - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num. O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!'. The notes are primarily quarter and eighth notes, with some half notes and a final whole note.

Lesson: Matthew 2:13-23

¹³Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' ¹⁴Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.'

¹⁶When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: ¹⁸'A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.'

¹⁹When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰'Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead.' ²¹Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, 'He will be called a Nazorean.'

Carol: ELW #279, O Little Town of Bethlehem

Please stand

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.

Please kneel as you are able

Prayers of Intercession

Your Response today is: **Your mercy is great.**

Gathered with all who seek the Christ child, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Praise is on our lips and in our hearts, Holy One, for the gracious deeds and acts that you have bestowed upon your church. Give to your whole church open hearts that we might work together to share your good news in Christ. Bless us in our mission to know, live and share your word. Jesus. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Praise to you, Creator of all, for you have created a rich diversity of nature and creatures: sun, moon, stars, mountains and all hills, oceans and rivers. Sustain all that you made and keep us faithful in our care for creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We bless you, Ruler of all, for the communities and nations of which we are a part. Gather into your arms the many peoples of the world and grant humility to all leaders, so that all may find blessing and peace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O Holy One, you overcame death and freed us from all fear. Give courage to all who are afraid and comfort to all who suffer in any way. Give patience and compassion to those who provide care. Today we especially pray for The family of Bernie Tandarich on the death of his brother, Regis; Gbesaye Gballah, Dave Giatras, Vera Rubert, Karen Wendland, Millie Hoffa, Tom Ippolito, Tina Lusby-Anderson, Julia Adams, Sue Ericsson, George Siver, Raelynn Priddy, Jim Alderman, George Kristof, Karla Roth, Gail Hilton, Linda Adams, Lydia Fresca, Bob McCorkle, Rae Coughlin, Allison Parkinson, Louise Williams, Hedy Tranchitella, Justin Roland, all those suffering from addiction and those we name before you now....(brief pause).....Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Nurturing God, you care for your children in any danger. Grant courage to our congregation, that we are present with children who need our love and protection, with parents who grieve the loss of children, and with those who seek safety from hurtful situations. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Light of life, you claim us as your children forever. We praise you for those who have gone before us in the faith, serving as witnesses to your presence. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of wonder, hear the prayers of your servants as we express our needs in the silence of the moment and the privacy of our hearts.....(long silence).....Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Into your gracious hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your steadfast mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Please stand

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Please be seated

Offering

Offertory

Please stand

Offertory Carol: ELW #296, What Child Is This, vs. 1 & 3 only

Presentation of Gifts - Offering Prayer

Let us pray, together:

Generous God, you have given us life, this community, and these gifts of the earth that become the meal of your grace. Move in our hearts, that we might use your gifts to bring hope and blessing wherever we go, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Words of Institution

As we gather to receive the Lord's Supper, we remember the words Pastor Lynch spoke last Sunday that In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Lord's Prayer

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.

Invitation To Communion

Come to the table where Christ meets you.
Eat, rejoice, and be glad!

Communion Song: ELW #487, What Feast of Love

What feast of love is offered here, where banquet come from heaven?
What food of everlasting life, what gracious gift is given?
This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heaven.
O, taste and see and sing! How sweet the manna given!

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Please be seated. Ushers will direct you to the railing.

Communion Music:

Please stand

Post Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

Post Communion Prayer

Emmanuel, God with us, you grace us with life and breath and give us bread for the journey. Send us out in service to this world that you love, telling the amazing news of your coming to be Savior and Lord of all. **Amen.**

Benediction

Grace from God's own heart, peace from the ✠ Child in the manger, and strength from the Spirit of life be blessings for you today and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Carol: ELW #290, Go Tell It On The Mountain

Announcements

Dismissal Now go in peace, to Know, to Live, and to Share God's Word. **Thanks be to God.**