



# St. Luke's Lutheran Church

The Nativity of Our Lord

December 24 at 8PM

## THE PRELUDE

*Selections presented by St. Luke's Music Ministry and String Trio*

## THE WELCOME

*The assembly stands to face the cross in the back of the sanctuary.*

### **THE CHRISTMAS DECLARATION** *(Isaiah 9:2-7)*

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. 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. 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. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. 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. 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.

### **THE PROCESSIONAL** *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

### **THE GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, be with you all.

**And also with you.**

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.

**Amen**

*The assembly is seated.*

## THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The Word became flesh

**And made his dwelling among us,**

And we saw his glory,

**The glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.**

Loving God, we thank you for your mystery of the Incarnation – Emmanuel, God with us. Help us to receive the Light of Christ in our hearts and share it generously and joyfully in our families, in our communities, and throughout the world. We ask this in the name of the One born in Bethlehem, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

*The Advent Wreath candles and the Christ Candle are lighted as the music plays.*

## THE MUSICAL REFLECTION

### THE GOSPEL READING: Luke 2:1-14

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**I**n those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 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. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” 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.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ.**

## THE SERMON

*The assembly is seated.*

## THE MUSICAL MEDITATION

*O Holy Night*

*The assembly stands.*

## THE PRAYERS OF CHRISTMAS

Rejoicing that the grace of God has been revealed in the birth of Jesus Christ, the light of the world, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation...

The shepherds sing, "Jesus Christ is born!" Lord God, let your church throughout the world proclaim this good news, over the hills and everywhere. Unite the voices of all your faithful people in songs of praise and rejoicing.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

The angels sing, "Peace on earth!" Come quickly to still the strife of this world. Hush the noise of war and violence in places of unrest. Inspire leaders of nations to seek lasting peace and sustainable provision for all in their care.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Mary sings melodies of comfort to her newborn child. Bring rest and reassurance to those facing struggles this night. Shelter travelers and those without homes. Console those who lie awake due to pain or anxiety. Heal those who are sick or hurting, especially those whom we now name on our lips or in our hearts.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

The heavenly chorus sings, "Glory to God in the highest!" We give you thanks for all the saints who have proclaimed your glory in word and deed.

Let us join them this night in joyful praise around your eternal throne.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus.

**Amen**

## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Holy God, Creator of all and Source of life, at the birth of time, your Word brought light into the world. In the fullness of time, you sent your Word, born of Mary, to shine in our darkness, and to make us your daughters and sons.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Holy God, come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.  
**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray...

**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 assembly is seated.* + + + +

*All are invited to open and receive their Communion Elements together as directed by the Presiding Minister.*

This is the body of Christ, given for you.



This is the blood of Christ, shed for you.

## THE POST COMMUNION BLESSING

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

**Amen**

## THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

God our Father, in this night you have made known to us again the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:

confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him until the day dawns, and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts.

To him be glory both now and forever.

**Amen**

## THE CANDLELIGHTING

*As the Gospel of The Incarnation is read, the ushers will bring the light to each pew, row by row.*

*The lighted candle is never tilted, but is always held upright when giving light to another.*

## THE GOSPEL OF THE INCARNATION: John 1:1–14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

## THE LIGHTING ANTHEM

*Silent Night*

The Reverends Rice and Mr. Chad Martin

## THE BLESSING

May the Good News that is Jesus, the Messiah, bring you great joy each day.  
Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen**

## THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Take the light of Christ into the world.

**Thanks be to God.**

## THE POSTLUDE

*Joy to the World with Hallelujah Chorus*

arr. Susan Caudill

# Merry Christmas!

Thank you for worshipping with us on this holy night.

Please join us for worship this Sunday, December 27, from the comfort of your home.

There will be no Sanctuary or Drive-In services on St. Luke's campus that day.

Instead, we invite you to tune in to worship with us online.

The service will be posted online at 8:30AM on December 27.



Rev. Andrea Rice, Pastor

Rev. Nathan Rice, Pastor

Mr. Chad Martin, Director of Music Ministries

Ms. Dani Vogel, Director of Faith Formation