



Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.

Matthew 1:20,21

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

Sunday, December 24, 2022

Redeemer Monkton/First Logan/Saint Pauls Tavistock Lutheran Churches
Pastor Michael Mayer

On a long winter evening we gather to proclaim the coming of the light. Isaiah announces that the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Paul reminds us that the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. In the familiar account of Christ's birth, the evening sky is bright with the heavenly host singing, "Glory to God in the highest." Amid our broken world we proclaim that the prince of peace is born among us. God comes to us in human flesh—in Christ's body and blood—so that we may be bearers of divine light to all the world.

Parts marked with **C** are congregational responses * Where you see the asterisk, please stand as you are able

PASTORAL WELCOME

GATHERING HYMN: #379, "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

sts. 1, ref, 2-4

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*PROPHECY

Isaiah 62:1-4a

...

P The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT HYMN #364, "Away in a Manger"

SECOND READING

Romans 1:1-6

...

P The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: #368, "Angels We Have Heard on High"

*HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18b-21

P The continuation of the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew. **C** Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

...

P The Gospel of the Lord. **C** Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

SERMON

Hymn of the Day: #366, "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P Almighty God, by the incarnation of Your eternal Son, You revealed that You are love. Give us true faith in Christ and His promise that by His conception, virgin birth, holy life, sacrificial death and victorious resurrection, our sins are forgiven and we are Yours. Fill us with joy, and lead us to proclaim Your glad tidings to all people. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Lord God, by His birth in human flesh, Your dear Son took His place in the family of Mary and Joseph. Bless the families of our church and our country, that men and women would live faithfully as husbands and wives, loving and caring for their children and nurturing them in the grace of Baptism and all the truth of Your Word. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Heavenly Father, Your Son born in Bethlehem is the Son of David and the Lord of David, to whom every knee shall bow. Look upon all those whom You have placed in authority, and grant that they would govern in wisdom and justice. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Heavenly Father, You love us and sent Your Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Strengthen us to love one another. As You have mercy upon all who are poor and troubled, so perfect Your love in us, that we would gladly be Your instruments of help in time of need. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Holy Lord, in the birth of Your Son, You have visited and redeemed Your people. Continue to visit those who are lonely, sick, recovering or near death especially Albert Kneiss, Lundy Priestap, David Ritz, Lawrence and Ruth Schmidt, Judy Shiell, Elizabeth Winkler, Vera Ahrens, Eric and Paula Hinz, Norma Rose, Renata Rose, Ron Rose, Lois Carter, and Szuzanna Kingsbury. Let Your presence be a comfort to them, and give them perseverance until the time You grant healing, relief, deliverance and peace; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray.

Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be a blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heavens, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Our congregation practices closed communion. Those who are not members of Lutheran Church Canada or affiliated synods are invited to come forward for a blessing.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you. **C** **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts. **C** **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **C** **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HYMN OF THE ANGELS: #367, "Angels from the Realms of Glory"

THE VERBA

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My I body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My I blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

*The 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.

P **Come to the Lord's Table, for all is ready.**

Distribution Hymn 1: #370, "What Child Is This"

Distribution Hymn 2: #361, "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

P Let us pray.

Merciful God, renew us by your Holy Spirit, poured out richly in this meal, and renew all creation with your loving kindness until all the ends of the earth rejoice in your salvation: through Jesus Christ the Word made flesh. **Amen**

CANDLE LIGHTING

Please remember to tip the unlit candle. The lit candle must remain upright!

P Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

C **For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

P The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

C **God so loved the world that God gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.**

P Jesus said, "I am the Light of the World, whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

The pastor, taking a large candle, lights it from the Christ Candle, which symbolizes Christ, the Light of the World. The light is passed to the ushers.

P Glory to God in the highest, and peace to all people on earth!

CANDLELIGHT HYMN: #363, "Silent Night, Holy Night"

***BENEDICTION**

P May almighty God, Father, ✠ Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. Amen.

HYMN TO DEPART: #387, "Joy to the World"

***DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. Your light has come. **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude (online only): #360, "All My Heart Again Rejoices"

sts. 1–2

Acknowledgments

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