**Christmas Eve**

**December 24, 2021**

***Evangelical Lutheran Worship***



**Lutheran Church of Our Saviour**

**Ministers: Every member of the congregation**

**Their Pastors: Rev. Beth Costlow & Rev. Donald Costlow**

**Organist: Marlon Scott**

**Production Staff: Harry Moose**

**2600 Wade Hampton Blvd**

**Greenville SC 29615**

**864.244.2836**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

* Grab a candle, so you can participate in the candlelight part of the service!

**PRELUDE**

**Christmas Dialog**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

**We have beheld Christ’s glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

**In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

May the grace and truth of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

**Entrance Hymn: Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful**

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*

O come, let us adore him,

 O come, let us adore him,

 O come, let us adore him,

 Christ the Lord!

2 The 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*

**Greeting**

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

**And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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 only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7**

A Reading from Isaiah.

2 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.

3 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.

4 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.

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

6 For a child has been born for us,
   a son given to us;

authority rests upon his shoulders;
   and he is named

Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
   Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

7 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 onwards and for evermore.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

 1In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world hould be registered. 2This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3All went to their own towns to be registered. 4Joseph 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. 5He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. 6While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 7And 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.

 8In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ 13And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,
14 ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven,
   and on earth peace among those whom he favors!’

15When 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.’ 16So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. 17When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; 18and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. 19But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. 20The 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.**

**CHILDREN’S SERMON**

**SERMON**

**Hymn: Go, Tell It on the Mountain**

*Refrain*

 Go tell it on the mountain,

 over the hills and ev'rywhere;

 go tell it on the mountain

 that Jesus Christ is born!

1 While shepherds kept their watching

 o'er silent flocks by night,

 behold, throughout the heavens

 there shone a holy light. *Refrain*

2 The shepherds feared and trembled

 when, lo, above the earth

 rang out the angel chorus

 that hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain*

3 Down in a lonely manger

 the humble Christ was born;

 and God sent us salvation

 that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

Love proclaims that a Savior has been born to us! Inspire your church throughout the world to proclaim the good news of Jesus’ birth to all who seek salvation, hope, and new life. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Love whispers to a weary world that the time for rest and restoration has come. Maintain healthy cycles of wake and sleep for all creatures. Where light pollution disrupts natural rhythms, encourage new practices. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Love cries to a warring world that the time for peace is at hand. Direct those in power who make decisions on behalf of others, that they nurture and sustain all that is healthy, good, and holy. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Love sings through the wails of a newborn baby. Respond to all who cry out in pain, despair, or need this night. Bring comfort to those for whom separation, grief, or loss makes the Christmas season especially difficult. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Love murmurs words of comfort to a newborn child and exhausted parents. Bless new and expectant parents or caregivers, especially those who are alone or afraid this night. Pour out your love upon families of every kind. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

God’s ever-present love is proclaimed through the faithful who came before us. We give you thanks for Mary, John the baptizer, Elizabeth his mother, Joseph the dreamer, and all who point toward your love. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

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 Gospel of the Incarnation**

*The candles are lit before the gospel is read.*

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter:

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2He was in the beginning with God. 3All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

5The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. 6There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 9The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. 10He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. 11He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 12But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. 14And 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 gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Candles remain lit as the congregation sings.*

**Hymn of Light: Silent Night, Holy Night!**

1 Silent night, holy night!

 All is calm, all is bright

 round yon virgin mother and child.

 Holy Infant, so tender and mild,

 sleep in heavenly peace,

 sleep in heavenly peace.

2 Silent night, holy night!

 Shepherds quake at the sight;

 glories stream from heaven afar,

 heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!

 Christ, the Savior, is born!

 Christ, the Savior, is born!

3 Silent night, holy night!

 Son of God, love's pure light

 radiant beams from your holy face,

 with the dawn of redeeming grace,

 Jesus, Lord, at your birth,

 Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

**BLESSING**

May the Lord God, who has called you out of darkness to be servants of light, grant you the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, and the peace of the Christ Child. In the name of Almighty God, the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

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**Copyright Information for Hymns:**

**O Come, All Ye Faithful**

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, sts. 1, 3-4; tr. unknown, st. 2

**Go, Tell it on the Mountain**

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872-1925, stanzas, alt.

**Silent Night, Holy Night**

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885