

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church
 Christmas Eve
 December 24, 2022
 Service of Holy Communion

PRELUDE

GATHERING

WELCOME & PROCESSION

GATHERING SONG

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

#283

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:
 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!
 O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
 O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.
3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
 sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
 Glory to God in the highest:
 O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
 O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.
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:
 O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
 O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

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.

LITANY

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The Spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,

the spirit of wisdom and understanding,

the spirit of counsel and might,

the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear;

but with righteousness and equity he shall judge the poor

and decide with equity for the meek of the earth.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,

and leopard shall lie down with the kid,

The calf and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.
 They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain
**for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters
 cover the sea.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together. **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.**

HANDBELL ANTHEM

"How Great Our Joy"

WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING

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 Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHOIR ANTHEM

"On Christmas Night"

SECOND READING

Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL PROCESSION

GOSPEL SONG

"Angels We have Heard on High"

#289

- Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
 and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.
 Gloria in excelsis Deo: Gloria in excelsis Deo.**
- Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
 What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song?
 Gloria in excelsis Deo: Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

In 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.

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.**GOSPEL SONG***"Angels We have Heard on High"*

#289

3. **Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing:
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king.
Gloria in excelsis Deo: Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

SERMON**HYMN OF THE DAY**4231 *"O Little Town of Bethlehem"*

#279

1. **O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**
2. **For Christ in born of Mary, and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth.**
3. **How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n.
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of the his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming; but, in this world of sin,
where meek souls will the receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.**

4. **O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ's coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family.

Petitions end: Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEAL

OFFERING

Choir Anthem

"Rise Up, Shepherd, Go Tell It!"

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together. God of abundance,

**receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.
Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING *(spoken)*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMNS*"It Came upon the Midnight Clear"*

#282

1. It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.
2. Still through the cloven, skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heav'nly music floats o'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hov'ring wing,
and ever o'er its babel sounds the blessed angels sing.
3. And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow:
look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing;
oh, rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing!
4. For lo! The days are hast'ning on, by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendor fling,
and all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.

"What Child Is This"

#296

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!

"Away in a Manger"

#277

1. Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
2. The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

TABLE BLESSING*At the conclusion: Amen.***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION***At the conclusion: Amen.*

SENDING

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and grant you peace.

In the name of the Father, of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

"Silent Night, Holy Night"

#281

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.**

REFLECTION

SENDING SONG

"Joy to the World"

#267

1. **Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king:
let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**
2. **Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**
3. **No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.**
4. **He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.**

DISMISSAL

Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE