

First Sunday of Christmas, Dec. 26, 2021

8:30 AM

All baptized Christians—including visitors of all denominations—are invited to the Lord's table to receive Holy Communion. If you prefer to remain in your seat instead of coming forward to the altar to receive, please select a prefilled communion cup from the baskets at the top of the ramps.



PRELUDE

GATHERING HYMN: “Angels, from the Realms of Glory” (ELW 275, vs. 1, 3-4)

- 1 Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
once you sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

- 2 Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

- 4 All creation, join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE: “Angels We Have Heard on High” (ELW 289, vs. 1-2)

- 1 Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.**

Refrain

**Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo.**

- 2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heav'nly song? *Refrain***

PRAYER OF THE DAY

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST READING: **Isaiah 62:6-12**

A reading from Isaiah:

⁶Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the Lord, take no rest, ⁷and give him no rest until he establishes

Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth. ⁸The Lord has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have labored; ⁹but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the Lord, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts. ¹⁰Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples. ¹¹The Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, "See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him." ¹²They shall be called, "The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord"; and you shall be called, "Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken."

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 97 (responsively)

¹The LORD reigns; let the earth rejoice;
let the multitude of the isles be glad.

²**Clouds and darkness surround the LORD,
righteousness and justice are the foundations of God's throne.**

³Fire goes before the LORD, burning up enemies on every side.

⁴**Lightnings light up the world;
the earth sees and trembles.**

⁵The mountains melt like wax before the Lord of all the earth.

⁶**The heavens declare your righteousness, O LORD,
and all the peoples see your glory.**

⁷Confounded be all who worship carved images
and delight in false gods!

Bow down before the LORD, all you gods.

⁸**Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice,
because of your judgments, O LORD.**

⁹For you are the LORD, most high over all the earth;
you are exalted far above all gods.

¹⁰**You who love the LORD, hate evil!
God guards the lives of the saints
and rescues them from the hand of the wicked.**

¹¹Light dawns for the righteous,
and joy for the honest of heart.

¹²**Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous,
and give thanks to God's holy name.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: "Joy to the World" (ELW 267, vs. 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.**

HOLY GOSPEL: **Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20**

The Holy Gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should 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 Savior, 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.**

SERMON: Vicar Chip Lutz

HYMN OF THE DAY: “What Child Is This (ELW 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!**

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;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,**

and was made man.
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.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He 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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*Each petition ends, "Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**"*

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

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OFFERTORY

OFFERING PRAYER

HOLY COMMUNION

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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
 est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

...Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

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 AND DISTRIBUTION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

SENDING SONG: "The Bells of Christmas (ELW 298, vs. 1-2, 4)

- 1 The bells of Christmas chime once more;
 the heav'nly guest is at the door.
 He comes to earthly dwellings still
 with new year gifts of peace, good will.**
- 2 This world, though wide and far outspread,
 could scarcely find for you a bed.
 Your cradle was a manger stall,
 no pearl nor silk nor kingly hall.**
- 4 Oh, join with me, in gladness sing,
 to keep our Christmas with our king,
 until our song, from loving souls,
 like rushing mighty water rolls!**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Preacher: Vicar Chip Lutz
Leader: Pastor Beth Ann Stone
Musician: Michael Becker

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"Angels, from the Realms of Glory" Text: James Montgomery, alt., sts. 1-2; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4. Music: Henry T. Smart. "Angels We Have Heard on High" Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*. Music: French carol. "Joy to the World" Text: Isaac Watts. Music: English melody. "What Child is This" Text: William C. Dix. Music: English ballad. "The Bells of Christmas" Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig; tr. Charles Porterfield Krauth, alt. Music: Carl C. N. Balle.



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