

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

Olaf Roynesdal, Senior Pastor
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December 24, 2020

7:00 PM

The Nativity of Our Lord—Christmas Eve



PRELUDE

“Gesu Bambino”
“Christmas Fantasy”

Charles Cardin
Sigurd M. Øgaard
Kai Johnson, *violin*
Mark Jones, *organ*

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who was in the beginning, who makes a dwelling among us, who covers us with justice and mercy.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God of goodness and lovingkindness,

C we confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbors.

We have turned away from your invitation to new life.

We have turned away from the lowly and downtrodden.

In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins,

those we know and those known only to you,

for the sake of the one who came to live among us,

Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

P Hear the good news of peace and salvation! God forgives us all our sins, not through our own work, but through † Jesus Christ, made known to all people. With all who come to the manger, rejoice in this amazing gift of grace

C Amen.

(We light the *Christ Candle* in the center of the Advent Wreath)

**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***

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

APOSTOLIC 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

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

ELW 270

**1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"**

**2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"**

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

WORD

CHRISTMAS GOSPEL 1

Luke 2:1-7

In 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.

☒ The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

HYMN

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

ELW 289

1 **Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains.
Glo—ri--a in excelsis Deo;
Glo—ri--a in excelsis Deo.**

2 **Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly song?
Glo—ri--a in excelsis Deo;
Glo—ri--a in excelsis Deo.**

3 **Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Glo—ri--a in excelsis Deo;
Glo—ri--a in excelsis Deo.**

Text: French carol;
tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864

CHRISTMAS GOSPEL 2

Luke 2:8-20

In 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.

(sit)

SERMON

Pastor Roynesdal

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

ELW 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 is born of Mary,
And gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to all the earth!**
- 3 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!**

Text: *Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite
Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

THE NICENE CREED

- ¶** With the whole Church, let us confess our faith:
☒ 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;
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.

(continued on next page)

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN

“What Child Is This”

ELW 296 vs 1 & 3

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!

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!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898

OFFERING PRAYER

P Gracious God:

C you came to us as one unknown, bringing joy and salvation to the earth. Nourish us at your banquet table, that with all who welcome your birth we will proclaim your peace, revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

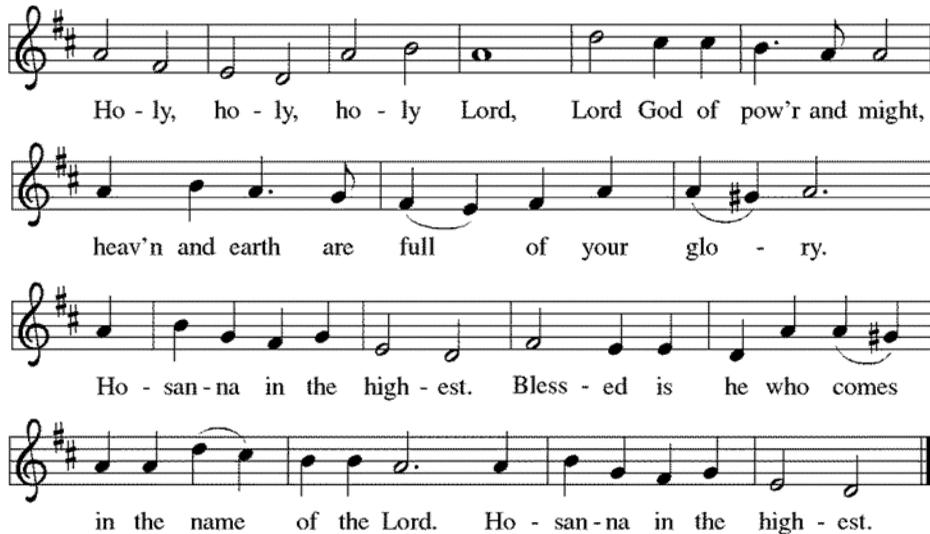
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE FOR THE INCARNATION OF OUR LORD

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:

SANCTUS



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

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Sung to the tune of "Away in a Manger")*

**Our Father in heaven, all praise to Your Name!
Your kingdom among us, Your will done the same
By mortals and angels. Come, Lord, reign alone:
Oh, hear us and bless us from heaven's high throne.**

**The bread that we yearn for provide us each day;
As we forgive others, our sins take away;
In times of temptation, to lead us be near;
From evil deliver Your children most dear.**

**For Yours is the kingdom; o'er all things You reign.
And Yours is the power; all things You maintain.
To you be the glory, resounding again
From all of creation, forever! Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- P** The Word is revealed in a manger, in simple bread and wine.
- C** Come meet Christ in this meal.

DISTRIBUTION

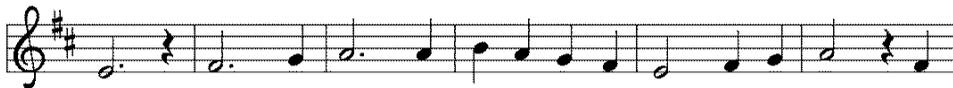
All baptized Christians who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and his Real Presence in, with and under the bread and wine, are welcome to the Lord's Supper. We believe that this is the Lord's table and is he who invites you. So you who are strong in faith, come with gratitude. You feel weak in faith, come to be strengthened. And you who feel you have no faith, come so that the God of steadfast love will touch your heart with hope and joy.

(sit)

AGNUS DEI



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Still, Still, Still”

arr. Kelly Anderson
Kai Johnson, violin

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

“Away In A Manger”

ELW 278

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.

- 1 Your little ones, dear Lord, are we,
and come your lowly bed to see;
enlighten ev'ry soul and mind,
that we the way to you may find.
- 2 With songs we hasten you to greet,
and kiss the ground before your feet.
Oh, blessed hour, oh, sweetest night
that gave you birth, our soul's delight.
- 3 Oh, draw us wholly to you, Lord,
and to us all your grace accord;
true faith and love to us impart,
that we may hold you in our heart.
- 4 Until at last we too proclaim,
with all your saints, your glorious name;
in paradise our songs renew,
and praise you as the angels do.

Text: Hans A. Brorson, 1694-1764;
tr. Harriet Krauth Spaeth, 1845-1925, alt.

(stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- ☐ We give you thanks, gracious God,
☑ that you have once again fed us from your very self with the body and blood of Christ.
Through this mystery, send us forth to proclaim your promise to a world in need, through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

CANDLELIGHTING

*From the light of the **Christ Candle** at the center of our Advent Wreath, the light is passed along. The Pastors will light your candles using the candlelighters. Please pass the light only to members of your own household. Thank you.*

- ☐ Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. In the beginning you created darkness and light and in the fullness of time you sent forth your Son, the light of the world.
☑ Enlighten our darkness by the light of your Christ; may his word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for you are merciful and you love your whole creation, and we, your creatures, glorify you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

HYMN

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>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.</p> <p>2 Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts ... sing Al-le-lu-ia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!</p> | <p>3 Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.</p> <p>4 Silent night, holy night!
Wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing,
Al-le-lu-ia to our King;
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!</p> |
|--|---|

THE GOSPEL OF THE INCARNATION

John 1:1-5, 9-14

The congregation will stand with lighted candles and face the reader as the Gospel is read from the center of the nave. Listen in wonder and awe.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

G And also with you.

P Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we will 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.

G Amen.

THE COMMISSION *(from the service of Holy Baptism)*

P Now let your light so shine before others, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

G Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

- ☞ Almighty God, who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary, proclaimed joy through the angels, sent the shepherds with good news, and led the magi by a star, bless you this day ✠ through the Word made flesh.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

HYMN

“Joy to the World”

ELW 267

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive its 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.</p> | <p>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.</p> |
| <p>3 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.</p> | |

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

DISMISSAL

- ☞ Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.
☞ **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

✠ ✠ ✠