

New Life Ev. Lutheran Church

Lake Zurich, IL

...rooted in the word, growing in faith, reaching out to our uprooted world.

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NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

CHRISTMAS DAY

December 25, 2019

A warm welcome to those who are visiting us this morning. You may hang your coat in the entry way of the church or on the coat rack downstairs. The bathrooms are located in the basement of this building. Before you go home today, please sign our guest book located on the podium in the entry way.

Our lower level is wired for sound. If you need to take your child out during the service, you won't miss any of the sermon.

In the unlikely event of an emergency during this morning's service, you can exit the building using the main entryway or the exit to the right of the chancel. Our building does have a fire alarm system which is wired directly to the fire department. Remember, we follow the "Run, Hide, Fight" response in an emergency.

Before Service Prayer: Dear God of all glory, through eyewitnesses You have revealed to us Your Son as the Babe of Bethlehem, as the Savior at the cross, and as the King of heaven. Help us, therefore, to praise Him properly on the day we celebrate His birth, to receive Him humbly in His grace, and to look for Him to come again in glory, for His name's sake. Amen.

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AS WE GATHER We recall the words of Isaiah the prophet who speaks of a people sitting in darkness beholding a great light. That light is Jesus, the light of the world. He has shined upon us, and we are called to spread His light to the world.

PASTOR'S WELCOME

OPENING HYMN CW 37 "Once Again My Heart Rejoices"

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: The people who walked in darkness

People: have seen a great light!

Pastor: For behold, I bring you good news of great joy!

People: Unto us is born this day a Savior!

Pastor: He is Christ, the Lord!

People: Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Today we celebrate Christmas, the incarnation of Jesus, the Word of God becoming flesh. Jesus came to bring peace and joy through all the earth, yet centuries later, our world is still filled with war and violence, hopelessness and despair. Too often, we have spread the evils of the world, rather than the joy and peace of Jesus. But our heavenly Father invites us to come before Him to ask for His forgiveness.

Silence for reflection.

Pastor: Heavenly Father,

People: we confess that we have failed to live in the joy and peace of Jesus. We have taken Your salvation for granted. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we know the joy of the Lord.

Pastor: Our heavenly Father sent Jesus to embrace all people. Jesus comes to heal the sick, to preach good news to the poor, and to forgive sinners like you and me. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen. We are joyful in Jesus. We are forgiven in Christ.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Pastor: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.

**All: A great and mighty wonder, A glorious mystery:
A virgin bears an infant Who veils His deity.
Repeat the hymn again:
"To God on high be glory And peace on earth to men."**

**The Word becomes incarnate And yet remains on high,
And cherubim sing anthems To shepherds from the sky.
Repeat the hymn again:
"To God on high be glory And peace on earth to men."**

**While thus they sing your monarch, Those bright angelic bands,
Rejoice, O vales and mountains, And oceans, clap your hands.
Repeat the hymn again:
"To God on high be glory And peace on earth to men."**

**Since all He comes to ransom, By all be He adored,
The infant born in Bethl'em, The Savior and the Lord.
Repeat the hymn again:
"To God on high be glory And peace on earth to men."**

**All idols then shall perish And Satan's lying cease,
And Christ shall raise His scepter, Decreeing endless peace.
Repeat the hymn again:
"To God on high be glory And peace on earth to men." (CW 36)**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Most merciful God, You gave Your eternal Word to become incarnate of the Virgin Mary. Grant Your people grace to put away fleshly lusts, that they may be ready for Your visitation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

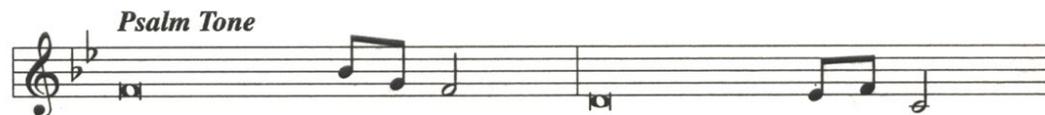
THE FIRST LESSON Isaiah 62:10–12 *(Behold, your salvation comes.)*

¹⁰ Pass through, pass through the gates! Prepare the way for the people. Build up, build up the highway! Remove the stones. Raise a banner for the nations.

¹¹ The LORD has made proclamation to the ends of the earth: “Say to Daughter Zion, ‘See, your Savior comes! See, His reward is with Him, and His recompense accompanies Him.’”

¹² They will be called the Holy People, the Redeemed of the LORD; and you will be called Sought After, the City No Longer Deserted. (NIV 2011)

PSALM OF THE DAY Psalm 98



Sing to the Lord a 'new song,
for He has done mar'velous things.
The Lord has made His sal'vation known
and revealed His righteousness to the 'nations.
He has remembered His love and His faithfulness to the house of 'Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation 'of our God.

Refrain

Shout for joy to the Lord, 'all the earth,
burst into jubilant song with 'music;
make music to the Lord 'with the harp,
with the harp and the sound of 'singing.
Shout for joy before the 'Lord, the King.
He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with 'equity.

**Glory be to the Father and 'to the Son
and to the Holy 'Spirit,
as it was in the be'ginning,
is now, and will be forever. 'Amen.**

Refrain

THE SECOND LESSON Titus 3:4-7 (*God saved us according to His own mercy in Jesus.*)

⁴But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, ⁵He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. (NIV 2011)

VERSE OF THE DAY Alleluia. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests. Alleluia. (Luke 2:14 NIV 1984)

HOLY GOSPEL Luke 2:1-7 (*The birth of Christ*)

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. ²(And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) ³And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) ⁵To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. ⁶And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. ⁷And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. (KJV)

RESPONSE (*sung to the tune of CW 38*)

**Look, look, dear friends, look over there!
What lies within that manger bare?
Who is that lovely little one?
The baby Jesus, God's dear Son.**

**Welcome to earth, O noble Guest,
Through whom this sinful world is blest!
You turned not from our needs away!
How can our thanks such love repay?**

HOLY GOSPEL Luke 2:8-12

⁸And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. ¹⁰And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. (KJV)

RESPONSE

**From heav'n above to earth I come
to bring good news to ev'ryone!
Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To all the world and gladly sing.**

**To you this night is born a child
Of Mary, chosen virgin mild;
This newborn child of lowly birth
Shall be the joy of all the earth.**

**This is the Christ, God's Son most high,
Who hears your sad and bitter cry;
He will Himself your Savior be
And from all sin will set you free.**

HOLY GOSPEL Luke 2:13-16

13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, 14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. 15 And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. 16 And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. (KJV)

RESPONSE

**"Glory to God in highest heav'n,
Who unto us His Son has giv'n."
With angels sing in pious mirth:
A glad new year to all the earth!**

**How glad we'll be to find it so!
Then with the shepherds let us go
To see what God for us has done
In sending us His own dear Son.**

HOLY GOSPEL Luke 2:17-20

17 And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. 18 And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. 19 But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. 20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them. (KJV)

RESPONSE

**O dearest Jesus, holy child,
Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled
A holy shrine, within my heart,
That you and I need never part.**

**My heart for very joy now leaps;
My voice no longer silence keeps;
I too must join the angel throng
To sing with joy His cradlesong.**

HYMN OF THE DAY CWS 707 “Peace Came to Earth”

SERMON

CREEDAL HYMN

**Creator of all things that are, the tiny atom, mighty star—
“Let there be light!” a voice was heard, the Father’s all-creating Word.
That Word made flesh with us to dwell is Jesus, our Emmanuel!**

**By God the Holy Ghost conceived, from Mary human form received,
With us He lived, for us He died, by Pontius Pilate crucified.
Raised from the dead victorious, this is Christ Jesus, God with us!**

**The Spirit of the Lord is sent, active in word and sacrament,
To bind the Church below, above, in cords of sin-forgiving love
Till, raised from death, we e’er shall dwell with Jesus, our Emmanuel. (CW 52)**

GATHERING OF OFFERINGS—“Away In a Manger”—played by New Life’s Tone Chime Choir

OFFERING PRAYER *(after the gifts have been gathered)*

Pastor: Lord God,

People: **giver of all gifts, receive our offerings as tokens of our thanks for the gift of life we receive from You and celebrate this day. Move us to be generous in our giving, and bless the gifts we have given gifts for Your glory and the building of Your kingdom. Hear our prayer for Jesus' sake. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Dear heavenly Father, in the incarnation of Jesus You revealed good news and great joy for all the earth to hear. Embolden us to spread the good news and great joy of Your Son to the ends of the earth. For the people who walked in darkness

People: **have seen a great light.**

Pastor: Lord, the darkness of death still envelops us, and many are suffering in grief. Comfort those grieving loved ones with hope of the resurrection to eternal peace and life, [especially . . .]. For the people who walked in darkness

People: **have seen a great light.**

Pastor: Lord, shine Your light upon all of the leaders of the world, that we live in peace and quietness without war or violence. For the people who walked in darkness

People: **have seen a great light.**

Pastor: Lord, You have shined the light of Christ on the world. Help us reflect Your light to those who are experiencing the darkness of the world. Bring community to the lonely, stability to those in transition, and safety to all those who have suffered abuse. For the people who walked in darkness

People: have seen a great light.

Pastor: Lord, look with favor upon all who are sick, injured, and recovering, [especially . . .]. Have mercy upon them and heal them according to Your good and gracious will. For the people who walked in darkness

People: have seen a great light.

Pastor: Lord, we commend all of these things to Your infinite mercies, which are new every morning. For the people who walked in darkness

People: have seen a great light. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.

HYMN CW 68 "Away in a Manger"

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Pastor: Almighty God, merciful Father, You sent Your angels long ago to deliver a message that was for the shepherds. That same message is intended this happy day "for us." Cause Your Holy Spirit to work in our hearts today, so that we understand and believe that the Savior You sent is "our" Savior and the celebration of His birth this day is "our" celebration; we ask this in the name of the newborn King, Jesus, who lives and rules with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

People: Amen.

HYMN CW 61 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you to everyone who purchased a poinsettia plant to adorn the chancel. Please take your poinsettia home today and enjoy it.

