



Christmas Eve

December 24, 2020

*St. Peter's Ev. Lutheran Church
Fond du Lac, Wisconsin*

Pre-service Music

Bells

Call to Worship

Pastor/**Congregation**

Hymn

Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising | CW 42 v 1 & 2

♪ Come, your hearts and voices raising, Christ the Lord with gladness praising;
Loudly sing his love amazing, Worthy folk of Christendom.

♪ See how God, for us providing, Gave his Son and life abiding;
He our weary steps is guiding From earth's woe to heav'nly joy.

Sing to the Lord a new song.

Sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Sing to the Lord. Praise his name.

Proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.

Tell about his glory among the nations,

About his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

For great is the Lord and worthy of great praise.

He is to be feared above all gods.

For all the gods of the peoples are "nothings,"

But the Lord made the heavens.

Splendor and majesty are before him.

Power and beauty are in his sanctuary.

Ascribe to the Lord, families of peoples,

Ascribe to the Lord glory and power.

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name.

Bring a gift and come into his courtyards.

Say among the nations, "The Lord reigns."

The world is firmly established. It will not be moved.

Let the heavens rejoice. Let the earth celebrate.

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it.

Let the fields be overjoyed, and everything that is in them.

Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy before the Lord.

Hymn*Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising | CW 42 v 5*

♪ Gracious Child, we pray you, hear us; From your lowly manger cheer us.
Gently lead us and be near us Till we join th' angelic choir.

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

(spoken) And also with you.

Let us pray:

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true light. Grant that as we have known on earth the wonder of that light, we may also behold him in all his glory in the life to come; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

(spoken) Amen.

Hymn*The People that in Darkness Sat | CW 90 v 1 & 2*

♪ The people that in darkness sat A glorious light have seen;
The light has shone on them who long
In shades of death have been, In shades of death have been.

♪ To us a child of hope is born, To us a son is giv'n,
And on his shoulders ever rests
All pow'r in earth and heav'n, All pow'r in earth and heav'n.

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

For those living in the land of the shadow of death, the light has dawned.

³You have multiplied the nation. You have increased its joy.

They rejoice before you like the joy at harvest time,
like the celebration when people divide the plunder.

⁴For you have shattered the yoke that burdened them.

You have broken the bar on their shoulders and
the rod of their oppressor,
as you did in the day of Midian.

⁵Every boot that marched in battle
and the garments rolled in blood will be burned.

They will be fuel for the fire.

⁶For to us a child is born.

To us a son is given.

The authority to rule will rest on his shoulders.

He will be named:

Wonderful Counselor,

Mighty God,

Everlasting Father,

Prince of Peace.

⁷There will be no limit to his authority

and no end to the peace he brings.

He will rule on David's throne and over his kingdom,

to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness

from now on, into eternity.

The zeal of the LORD of Armies will accomplish this.

Hymn*The People that in Darkness Sat | CW 90 v 3 & 4*

♪ His name shall be the Prince of Peace, The Everlasting Lord,
The Wonderful, the Counselor,
The God by all adored, The God by all adored.

♪ His righteous government and pow'r Shall over all extend;
On judgment and on justice based,
His reign shall have no end, His reign shall have no end.

Titus 2:11-14

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all people. ¹²It trains us to reject ungodliness and worldly lusts and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in this present age, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope, that is, the glorious appearance of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He gave himself for us, to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people who are his own chosen people, eager to do good works.

Hymn*Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful* | CW 55 v 1 & 2

♪ Oh, come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant,
 Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;
 Come and behold him, Born the King of angels.

*Refrain: Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
 Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

♪ God from true God, and Light from Light eternal,
 Born of a virgin, to earth he comes,
 Only begotten Son of God the Father. *Refrain*

Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governing Syria. ³And everyone went to register, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the town of Nazareth, into Judea, to the town of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was from the house and family line of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, his wife, who was pledged to him in marriage and was expecting a child. ⁶And so it was that while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son, wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Hymn*Where Shepherds Lately Knelt* | CW 54 v 1-2, 4

♪ Where shepherds lately knelt and kept the angel's word,
 I come in half-belief, a pilgrim strangely stirred;
 But there is room and welcome there for me,
 But there is room and welcome there for me.

♪ In that unlikely place I find him as they said:
 Sweet newborn Babe, how frail! and in a manger bed,
 A still, small voice to cry one day for me,
 A still, small voice to cry one day for me.

♪ Can I, will I forget how Love was born, and burned
 Its way into my heart unasked, unforced, unearned,
 To die, to live, and not alone for me,
 To die, to live, and not alone for me?

Luke 2:8-14

⁸There were in the same country shepherds staying out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock at night. ⁹An angel of the Lord appeared to 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 behold, I bring you good news of great joy, which will be for all people: ¹¹Today in the town of David, a Savior was born for you. He is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³Suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude from the heavenly army, praising God and saying, ¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward mankind.”

Hymn*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* | CW 61 v 1 & 3

♪ 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 th’ angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

Refrain: Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

♪ Hail, the heav’nly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
 Light and life to all he brings, Ris’n with healing in his wings.
 Mild he lays his glory by, Born that we no more may die,
 Born to raise us from the earth, Born to give us second birth.

Refrain: Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

Luke 2:15-20

¹⁵When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Now let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they had seen him, they told others the message they had been told about this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it were amazed by what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Hymn

Joy to the World | CW 62 v 1 & 3

♪ 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.

♪ No more let sins and sorrows 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.

Sermon

Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸This is how the birth of Jesus Christ took place. His mother, Mary, was pledged in marriage to Joseph. Before they came together, she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Joseph, her husband, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her. So he decided to divorce her privately. ²⁰But as he was considering these things, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

²²All this happened to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³"Look, the virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son. And they will name him Immanuel," which means, "God with us."

²⁴When Joseph woke up from his sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him. He took Mary home as his wife, ²⁵but he was not intimate with her until she gave birth to her firstborn son. And he named him Jesus.

"The Son of David is Our Savior"

Pastor Michael J. Zuberbier

Hymn

Let Us All with Gladsome Voice | CW 64 v 1 & 3

♪ Let us all with gladsome voice Praise the God of heaven,
Who, to bid our hearts rejoice, His own Son has given.

♪ We are rich, for he was poor; Is not this a wonder?
Therefore praise God evermore Here on earth and yonder.

Presentation of Our Offering

Prayer of the Church

Oh gracious and almighty Father, we praise you that you kept your ancient promises by sending your everlasting Son in human flesh. **On this holy night, receive our thanks and devotion, our songs and prayers.** You sent Jesus as a lowly child to demonstrate your concern for all, the weak and lonely, the troubled and frightened, the timid and helpless. No one is overlooked by your ever-seeking eyes. No one is excluded from your upholding arms. No one is denied the comfort and help of your outstretched hand. **Bless us with a childlike faith in the divine assurance that you love and care for us always.** You sent Jesus as the Savior of the world to deliver all from the curse of sin, the power of death, and the torment of hell. He took our place. He was born under the law to set us free. He became the innocent lamb of sacrifice. He came to die and rise again in order that we might live eternally. Firmly implant this good news in our hearts, and fill us with an eager desire to spread the Word concerning what we have heard tonight. **May all who hear the message, in every nation under heaven, be amazed and believe what is told them about the child.** You sent Jesus as the Light of the world to drive out all darkness that would rob us of the full life that you intend for us. May the "joy that will be for all people" be our joy. May the "peace on earth to all on whom his favor rests" be our peace. May the treasure that Mary pondered in her heart be our treasure. **For today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to us. He is Christ, the Lord. Amen.**

Blessing

May he who by his incarnation gathered things earthly and heavenly into one, fill you with such joy that comes with the knowledge of the forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life. And the blessing of God Almighty – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit – be upon you and remain with you always.
(spoken) Amen.

Silent Night! Holy Night

Stille Nacht, heilige nacht, Alles schlaeft, einsam wacht
Nur das traute hoch-heilige Paar Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar;
Schlaf in himmlische Ruh', Schlaf in himmlische Ruh'!

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.

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!

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.

Presiding Minister: Rev. Matthew M. Guse

Preacher: Rev. Michael J. Zuberbier

Organist: Pam Zuberbier

Pianists: Students of St. Peter's Lutheran School

The poinsettias in the sanctuary and narthex
are given to the glory of God by:

- Stacy & Sammy Behnke and Bob & Dorothy Messner in memory of Angie Behnke
- Dave Oelke in memory of his mother & father
- Phil & Carolyn Kramer in memory of their daughter Michele and mother Gertrude Krueger
- Gib & Ann Trewin in memory of Marie Trewin and Robert & June Kartos
- The Douglas Fell Family in memory of Douglas Fell
- In memory of Brenda Barton from her family
- In memory of Audrey & Lyle Dilts from their family
- Tom & Joan Mrazek in memory of Gertrude & Robert James and Joe & Elsie Mrazek
- Glenn & Jenna Beske in memory of David & Bonny Zarbock
- Betty and Mark Orvis in memory of Lorin Orvis, Lucille & Joseph Grailer
- Tasch Family in Memory of Darlene "Mickey" Tasch
- Brian and Joy Schwark in memory of Barbara Schwark and David & Bonny Zarbock
- Mark and Bev Feucht in memory of Wes & Marcella Pade
- Gary and Addie Jackson in memory of Carey Jean Jackson
- Wayne Bornick in memory of his wife, Carol Bornick
- Jan Westphal & Family in memory of David Westphal
- Wendy Giese in memory of Curt Giese
- Dewane & Mary Scheidt in memory of Jolene Laurence
- Roger & Cindy Cook in memory of their son Aaron Cook
- Nick and Kara Raddant in remembrance of all babies lost
- Dick Putz family and the Gilgenbach family in memory of Cliff & Joyce Becker, Lloyd & Virginia Putz, Floyd Schwecke, and Richard Gilgenbach
- In memory of Joan Lubeck from her family
- Royal & Marcie Meyer in memory of Tammy Ellingson
- Heidi Klein in memory of Tammy Ellingson

- The Schuhs in memory of their Christian parents
- John Pitzlin, Jr. and Karla Lockwood in memory of their parents, Barb & John Pitzlin, Sr.
- Bev Bechler & family in memory of Butch Bechler
- Terry & Glenda Wickert in memory of Jack & Bernice Parman and Florence Kluball
- Deb Deere in memory of her son, Jarid Meddaugh
- In memory of Melvin Pipping from the Fisher family
- Kylie Baxter in memory of her dad, Michael Baxter
- Suzanne Kollmann in memory of her parents, Robert & Clara Schwertfeger and her brother-in-law, Dave Henke
- Bruce & Heidi Zabel in memory of Al & Darlene Zabel and Roger & Alice Wessel
- Curt Immel family in memory of Lynn Muench
- Curt Immel family in memory of David & Gloria Immel
- Family of Bob and Bea Gorske in their memory
- In memory of Bill and Mary Lou Vilski from Don and Vonni Dunn
- The Immel family in memory of Bev's husband, George and Cindy Immel

