

CHRISTMAS DAY

2020



Woodlawn Lutheran Church

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Reading (responsively)

Isaiah 9 & Jeremiah 23

Pastor: Behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all people.

Congregation: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

P: "The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land.

C: In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness.

P: He is our Savior, Jesus Christ. Let us worship Him in spirit and in truth.

Hymn 42 v.1-3, 5

Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising

**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.**

**Christ, from heav'n to us descending
And in love our race befriending,
In our need his help extending,
Saved us from the wily foe.**

**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.**

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-76, abr.; tr. *The Lutheran Hymnal*, St. Louis, 1941.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Brothers and sisters in Christ: there was a time when the world sat in darkness, separated from God because of sin. Since we human beings were unable to find God in that darkness, he came near to us as a baby, born of a virgin, bringing with him the great light of our salvation. I encourage you to come near to God, open your hearts to him, and confess to him your sins.

Silence for personal reflection and confession

P: Heavenly Father,

C: We confess that we have sinned against you in our thoughts, words, and deeds. The world has tempted us in this Christmas season to put our delight and joy in material things, to be envious of others, and to center our celebrations around ourselves rather than on you. Thus we have sinned against you and against one another.

P: The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. *Psalm 51:17*

C: The celebration you desire is the worship of the heart. Forgive our sins, O Lord, for the sake of the Babe of Bethlehem, Jesus Christ, who died for us. Decorate our hearts with repentance and joy that our Christmas celebration may be pleasing to you.

P: This Child whose birth we celebrate came among us to live perfectly in our stead, to give his life in payment for our sins, to rise from the grave for our justification, and to give us new life. In his name and at his command, I as a called and ordained servant of the Word, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

All sing:

**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!"
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.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray together:

C: Almighty God, grant that the birth of your one and only Son in the flesh may set us free from our slavery under the yoke of sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 52:7-10

⁷How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of a herald, who proclaims peace and preaches good news, who proclaims salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God is king!" ⁸The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voices. Together they shout for joy, because with both eyes they will see it when the LORD returns to Zion. ⁹Break out, shout for joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem, because the LORD is comforting his people. He is redeeming Jerusalem. ¹⁰The LORD lays bare his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation from our God.

Organ

The Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's Messiah

New Testament Lesson

Hebrews 1:1-9

¹ In the past, God spoke to our forefathers by the prophets at many times and in many ways. ² In these last days, he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. ³ The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact imprint of the divine nature. He sustains all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he took his seat at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

⁴ The Son became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. ⁵ For to which of the angels did God ever say: You are my Son. Today I have begotten you? And again: I will be his Father, and he will be my Son.

⁶ And again, when he brought his firstborn into the world, he said: Let all God's angels worship him.

⁷ About the angels he says: He makes his messengers winds and his ministers flaming fire.

⁸ But about the Son he says: God, your throne is forever and ever, and the scepter of righteousness is the scepter of your kingdom. ⁹ You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of joy beyond your companions.

Hymn 35 v. 1-3 *Of the Father's Love Begotten*

**Of the Father's love begotten
Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega,
He the source, the ending he,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see
Evermore and evermore.**

**Oh, that birth forever blessed
When the virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,
Bore the Savior of our race,
And the babe, the world's Redeemer,
First revealed his sacred face
Evermore and evermore.**

**This is he whom heav'n-taught singers
Sang of old with one accord;
Whom the Scriptures of the prophets
Promised in their faithful word.
Now he shines, the long-expected;
Let creation praise its Lord
Evermore and evermore.**

Text: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348-c. 413, abr.; tr. John M. Neale, 1818-66, st. 1-4, alt.; Henry W. Baker, 1821-77, st. 5, alt.

Gospel (responsively) **John 1:1-14**

The Word Made Flesh

P: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.

C: **Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.**

P: In him was life, and that life was the light of men.

C: **The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.**

P: There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John.

C: He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe.

P: He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

C: The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.

P: He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.

C: He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.

P: Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

C: The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Choir

Songs of Joy

Sermon

Luke 2:19

¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.

Christmas - A Time to Ponder and Treasure

CONFESSION OF FAITH

P: We confess our faith in our Triune God – Father, Son, and Spirit:

ALL: I believe in God the Father almighty, who sent His Son to be my Savior:

And I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, my Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, announced by the angels, worshiped by the shepherds, adored by the wise men, who lived to suffer, die, and rise again, to free me from all sin, from death, and from the power of the devil.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, who has brought me to faith in my Savior, and by whose continuous work in my heart I rejoice in my salvation, show forth His praises, and will one day live and reign with Him in all eternity. Amen.

HYMN – 67

**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!**

**Why lies he in such mean estate
Where oxen now are feeding?
Good Christians, fear; For sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through;
The cross he'll bear for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The babe, the Son of Mary!**

**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, 1837-98, alt.

THE CHRISTMAS PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, we need Christmas. We need Your presence in our lives; we need Your love, Your blessing, and Your protection. Bless us this Christmas Day and each day of the year.

C: Lord, we know that Christmas ultimately is not about gifts and parties and decorations. We know that Christmas is about the coming of Your Son, and we know He is coming again. Be with us, and help us live with the awareness that Jesus comes daily to us through Your Word, and that He is coming again in judgment, to take His followers to eternal life.

P: Lord, allow this Christmas Day to be more than a one-day-a-year experience; may the presence of Your Son, our Savior, impact our daily existence.

C: Lord, we find it so easy to live for ourselves. Guide us daily in understanding the joy of sharing those abundant blessings that You have showered upon us.

P: Be with us, our families, our friends, our neighbors and our co-workers, that we live out Your love, even as we pray:

ALL: 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.

Blessing

HYMN 38 v.13-15

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

**Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled
Within my heart, made clean and new,
A quiet chamber kept for you.**

**My heart for very joy must leap;
My lips no more can silence keep.
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue
That sweetest ancient cradle song:**

**Glory to God in highest heaven,
Who unto us his Son has given!
While angels sing with pious mirth
A glad new year to all the earth. Amen.**

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.



SERVING US TODAY:

Preacher: Pastor Thomas W. Kneser

Organist: Dee Ann Techlin

Accompanist: Nancy Perez

Brass: Al Schumacher, Joshua Kneser

Choir: Jean Kaldunski (director), Denyce Baker, Bonnie Delaney,
Tina Graham, Pastor & Sharon Kneser, Ron Krenz, Debbie Van
Lieshout, Pastor & Lynn Wessel, and Susan White

Video: Jef Jaeger and David Hofer