



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
A "Reconciling in Christ" and Stephen Ministry Congregation



CHRISTMAS DAY

Service of Holy Communion with Lessons and Carols

December 25, 2020

10:30 a.m.

We are a faith-rooted community with no walls: always learning, always serving!

A Special Welcome to Our Visitors

We are a "Reconciling in Christ" congregation. The Good News of God's grace is for all, regardless of age, abilities, physical and mental health, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, education, income or strength of faith. There is nothing we do, have done or will do, that can separate us from God. God makes no exceptions, nor do we. Come join us in praise, prayer and the work of our Lord!

If you would like to know more about our congregation please contact the church office at clcoffice@verizon.net or see our website at www.christlutherandc.org. If you would like to receive our weekly email blast about ongoing activities of Christ Lutheran Church, send us an email and we'll be happy to include you.

When we gather together—even virtually—Jesus is present. We will be celebrating Holy Communion. If you would like to participate in your home, please have bread/crackers or wine/juice ready. We invite you to have a candle ready to light in your home as we celebrate Jesus, the light of the world.

(Bold print indicates responses spoken by the all)

+ WE GATHER IN PRAYER AND PRAISE +

GREETING

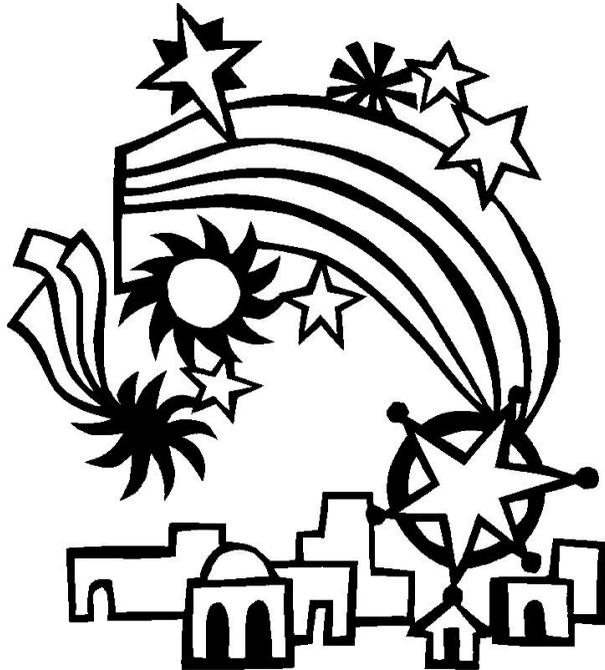
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MUSICAL REFLECTION

“Prelude on *In Dulci Jubilo*”

Marcel Dupre



SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

GATHERING HYMN (verses 1 & 3)
"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

#270, ELW
MENDELSSOHN

1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king;
3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Refrain
Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt. Music: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809 – 1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831 – 1915.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray: Infant Holy, we praise God for this day when we celebrate your miraculous birth! Transform us as you were transformed so that we may perfectly love you with our whole being, for the sake of the one who came humble and powerless, and became glory and power, Jesus Christ. Amen.

+ LESSONS AND CAROLS +

FIRST LESSON

Luke 2:1 - 7

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.

After the reading: This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



"That Boy Child of Mary"

BLANTYRE



That boy - child of Mar - y was born in a sta - ble,



a man - ger his cra - dle in Beth - le - hem.



1 What shall we call him, child of the man - ger?
2 His name is Je - sus, God ev - er with us,



What name is giv - en in Beth - le - hem?
God giv - en for - us in Beth - le - hem.

Refrain

Text: Tom Colvin, 1925 – 2000. Music: Malawi traditional; adapt. Tom Colvin. Text and music © 1969 Hope Publishing Company. Reprinted under OneLicense #A-701279.

SECOND LESSON

Luke 2:8 - 16

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.

After the reading: This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN (verses 1 - 2)
"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

#290, ELW
GO TELL IT



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



- 1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
- 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.

Text: African-American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work, Jr., 1872-1925, stanzas, alt. Music: African-American spiritual.

THIRD LESSON

Matthew 2:1 - 11

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

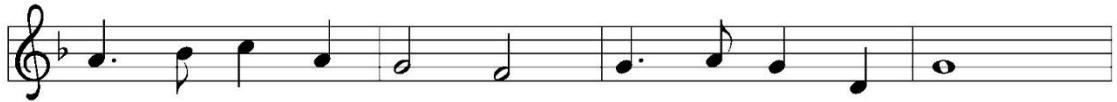
⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

After the reading: This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



HYMN (verses 1 & 3)
"In the Bleak Midwinter"

#294, ELW
CRANHAM



1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,

3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;

If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;



snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,

if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;



in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.

yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830-1894. Music: Gustav Holst, 1874 - 1934.

CANDLE LIGHTING

*We light candles which remind us of Jesus, the true light who has come into the world.
We invite you to light a candle in your home at this time.*

FOURTH LESSON

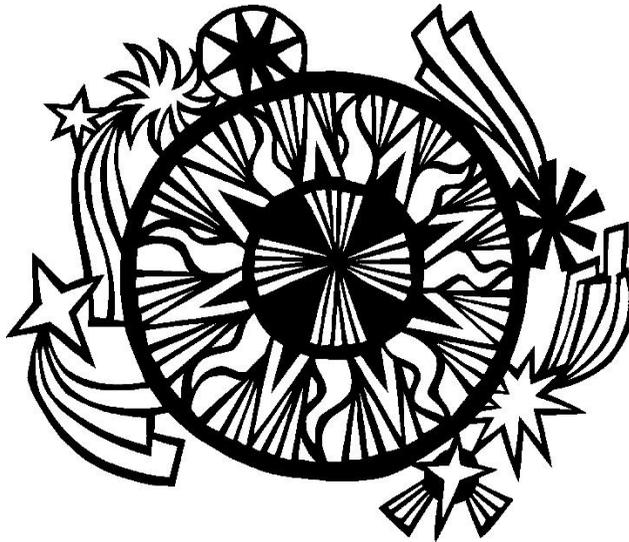
John 1:1 - 13

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.



HYMN

(verses 1, 4 & 5)

#295, ELW

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM



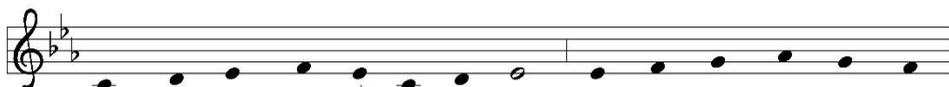
1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -

4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his
5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



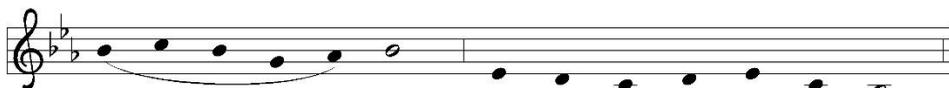
gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,

prais - es sing; pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him
Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



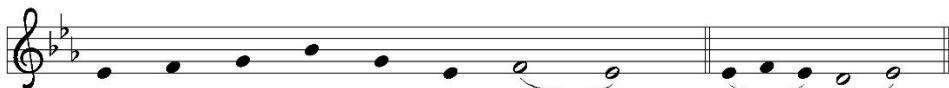
he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that

and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be
and un - wea - ried prais - es be: hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, and that fu - ture years shall see,

si - lent, ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring
min - ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
ev - er - more and ev - er - more! A - men.

Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348-413; tr. Composite. Music: Plainsong mode V, 13th cent.

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.

Blessed are you, Prince of peace.
You rule the earth with truth and justice.
Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.

Blessed are you, Son of Mary.
You share our humanity.
**Have mercy on the sick, the dying,
and all who suffer this day.**

Blessed are you, Son of God.
You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.
**Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament
that we may bear your light to all the world. Amen.**

+ CHRIST INVITES US TO SHARE IN THE MEAL OF LIFE+

OFFERING If you are not already giving by 'Simply Giving' (our automated giving platform) and would like to support our ministry, you can send checks to Christ Lutheran Church, 5101 16th St., NW, Washington, DC, 20011, donate online at www.christlutherandc.org using the donate button, or send a donation via PayPal using the link: www.PayPal.Me/christlutherandc. When using PayPal, please use the notes section if you would like to make a designated gift.

OFFERTORY

"Children Go Where I Send Thee"

Traditional African-American Spiritual

OFFERTORY CANTICLE

(verses 1 and 3)

#296, ELW

"What Child Is This?"

GREENSLEEVES

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.

Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep-ing?
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.

This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837 - 1898. Music: English ballad, 16th cent.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Savior of the nations, come. **Make your home here in us. Feed us with your love, that our faith may shine ever new and our lives reveal your light. Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE 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.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

DISTRIBUTION

BLESSING

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. Radiant God, **with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

BENEDICTION

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary,
the obedience of Joseph,
the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the determination of the magi,
and the peace of the Christ child.

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

THE SENDING HYMN

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

#288, ELW
IN DULCI JUBILO



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818 – 1866. Music: German carol, 14th cent.; arr. Robert L. Pearsall, 1795 – 1856.

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE “Fantasia on In Dulci Jubilo”

J.S. Bach

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

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CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
5101 Sixteenth Street, NW Washington, DC 20011-3896

202-829-6727 fax: 202-882-3077
Renata E. Eustis, *Pastor*
Desta Tesemma *Sexton*

clcoffice@verizon.net
LeeAnn Schray, *Associate Pastor*
Sharon Glass, *Intern*
Mikhail Modeste, *IT Support*

web page: www.christlutherandc.org
Joy-Leilani Garbutt, *Music Minister*
Martha Jewett, *Faith Community Nurse*