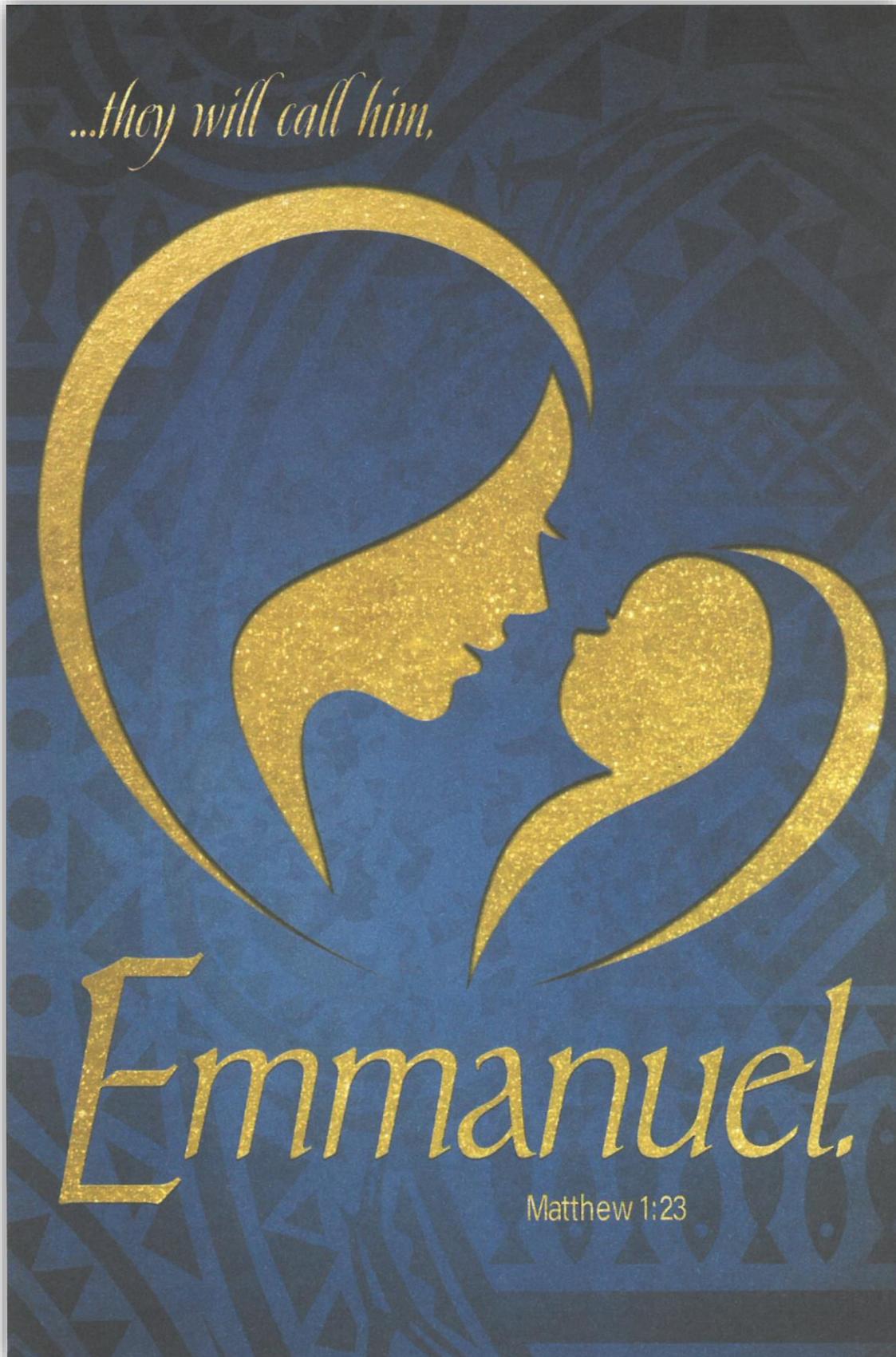


ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆Bethany ◆Immanuel ◆Lunder ◆Silver Lake ◆Winnebago



Christmas Day

December 25, 2020



ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆ Bethany

◆ Immanuel

◆ Lunder

◆ Silver Lake

◆ Winnebago

Ministers

Pastors

(#590-2737 – cell; email pastorbill@wctatel.net)

(#590-0727 – cell; email baldwins@wctatel.net)

web page - <http://www.wctatel.net/web/oneinchrist>

Every member of the Parish

Bill Peters

Randy Baldwin

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2020

PREPARE YE THE SEASON OF ADVENT “Paradise”

Christmas Day celebrates the fact that the Baby Jesus came to dwell with us here on earth this Christmas to point us to the truth that we will one day dwell with him in paradise through his death and resurrection.

And 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. John 1:14

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

✠ **GATHERING** ✠

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the People of God

OPENING SONG

“What Child Is This”

*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 ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
the cross be borne 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, 1837-1898

THE CHRIST(MAS) STORY

Luke 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered.

To us is born a Savior. **Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Joseph 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

To us is born a Savior. **Jesus Christ our Lord.**

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And 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.

To us is born a Savior. **Jesus Christ our Lord.**

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

To us is born a Savior. **Jesus Christ our Lord.**

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

To us is born a Savior. **Jesus Christ our Lord.**

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

To us is born a Savior. **Jesus Christ our Lord.**

When 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." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

To us is born a Savior. **Jesus Christ our Lord.**

When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

To us is born a Savior. **Jesus Christ our Lord.**

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

To us is born a Savior. **Jesus Christ our Lord.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

We begin our worship in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

(All candles on the Advent wreath are lit.)

We light the candles on the Advent wreath as we proclaim the good news that God has sent us his Son.

The Savior of the world has come!

God has kept his promise!
The Savior of the world has come!

SPECIAL MUSIC

“The First Noel”

Inga Nelson

PRAISING GOD’S NAME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

John writes in our gospel lesson, “In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it” (John 1:4-5). Heavenly Father, too frequently we live in the darkness of unbelief.

Forgive us, Lord.

For our sins of the night.

For clinging to the darkness.

For our secret and hidden sins.

For the sins we have done to please ourselves.

For the sins we have done to please others.

Forgive those sins which we know.

And those sins which we do not know.

Forgive our sin of apathy.

Callous indifference.

Failure to protest injustice.

Forgive our sin of greed.

Giving only what we can spare. Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!

EXPERIENCING GOD’S GRACE – THE GOOD NEWS

Believe and receive the Gospel! Christ was prophesied. Christ was born. Christ was tempted. Christ was arrested. Christ was crucified. Christ was raised. Christ did it all for you—for your redemption and your restoration; for your salvation and your resurrection. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us and we have seen his glory—

The glory of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

SHARING THE PEACE

CHRISTMAS LITANY – “Paradise”

Prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight in the desert a highway for our God!

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news.

Who proclaims salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”

When the fullness of time came, God sent forth his Son.

Born of woman, born under the law.

To redeem those under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. And we have seen his glory.

The glory of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have shined upon us the marvelous light of your incarnate Word Jesus. Grant that his light, kindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

✠ **WORD** ✠

God speaks to us in scripture, reading, preaching, and song

As on the first day of creation, on this Christmas Day the Word illumines the world, shining forth to bring all things into being. Today we celebrate the incarnate Word, God becoming flesh to live among us in the person of Jesus Christ then and now. Emboldened by the good news of Christ's birth, along with the shepherds, Mary and Joseph, and all witnesses to the light of Christ, we declare to the world that we have indeed seen and been transformed by the arrival of "the salvation of our God." O come, let us adore!

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 52:7-10

⁷How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

⁸Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion.

⁹Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Galatians 4:4-7

⁴But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL READING

John 1:1-14

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON *"The Word Became Flesh and Dwelt Among Us"*

Pastor Bill Peters

SONG OF THE DAY

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

*Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.*

*Refrain Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo.*

*Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heav'nly song? Refrain*

*Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn king. Refrain*

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

NICENE CREED

**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.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the
prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

Dear Lord Jesus, though you've existed forever in a rich, joyful, loving relationship with the Father and the Holy Spirit, today we celebrate your coming to us and for us. You are the promised and much-longed-for Christ—the Messiah. Every promise God has made finds its fulfillment—its unequivocal “Yes!” in you. We delight to confess the Word became flesh—

And dwelt among us!

Dear Lord Jesus, with angels, archangels and all the company of heaven, we rejoice in the day angels sang, shepherds ran and Mary pondered. We exchange gifts and sing and celebrate and pray. Why? The Word became flesh—

And dwelt among us!

Dear Lord Jesus, we praise you for being born in Bethlehem, the “house of bread,” for we were a famished people—yearning for hope and wholeness, safety, security and salvation. That's why you came as the Bread of Life, and you've brought the feast of the gospel to our souls. We praise you that the Word became flesh—

And dwelt among us!

Dear Lord Jesus, we thank you for entering our world in the town of David, Israel's shepherd-king. For what King David could never be, you've become for us—the Good Shepherd who laid down his life for his sheep; and now you care for us with relentless tenderness and persistent kindness. That's why we joyfully confess the Word became flesh—

And dwelt among us!

Dear Lord Jesus, as the King of kings and Lord of lords, you are presently reigning over all things and working in all things, for your glory and our good. Hallelujah! No other kingdom is everlasting but yours; no other King is as loving. Knowing these things to be true, we have a peace which passes all understanding, mercies which cannot be measured, and grace upon grace. Jesus, we pray in your tender and trustworthy name.

Amen.

GOD WITH US - HOLY COMMUNION

SONG OF JOY

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

*Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.*

Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

*Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door,
and we are blest forevermore.*

Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

*Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave;
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
to gain the everlasting hall.*

Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND LORD'S PRAYER

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

All who gather here in worship and praise and believe in the Real Presence of Jesus Christ are invited to come to the table. Come, share in this meal that unites all who believe in Christ, and be forgiven by the grace of God.

COMMUNION BLESSING

✠ **SENDING** ✠

God blesses us and sends us in mission in the world

BLESSING

Prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight in the desert a highway for our God! Burst into songs of joy together. For the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. And all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth!

Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC "Go Tell It On the Mountain" Ruth Sheldon

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Jesus Christ is born!

Thanks be to God.

RINGING OF THE BELL

✠ **THANKSGIVING** ✠

God invites us to respond to His grace

OFFERING

Please place your gifts in box, send them to the parish office, or use [Tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly) (electronic giving).

Postlude

† † † † † † †

By Reed Lessing. Cover design: Lindsay Taylor. © 2020 Creative Communications for the Parish, 1564 Fencorp Dr., Fenton, MO 63026. 800- 325-9414. www.creativecommunications.com. All rights reserved. Printed in the USA. Purchase of this kit gives the purchaser the copyright release to use the material in any format for use in worship.

From *Sundays and Seasons.com*. Copyright 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #20852.

Christmas 1

10:30 am Sunday, December 27th