

The Nativity of Our Lord ~ Christmas Eve

December 24, 2009

11:00 PM

INTRODUCTION

On a long winter evening we gather to proclaim the coming of the light. Isaiah announces that the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Paul reminds us that the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. In the familiar account of Christ's birth, the evening sky is bright with the heavenly hosts singing, "Glory to God in the highest." Amid our broken world, we proclaim that the prince of peace is born among us. God comes to us in human flesh so that we may be bearers of divine light to all the world.

PRELUDE

PROCLAMATION OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

The proclamation of the birth of Christ is taken from the ancient martyrology (accounts of Christian witnesses and martyrs.) This proclamation is to be understood as the announcement of the incarnation within human history rather than a literal counting of years.

CALL TO WORSHIP

"Hosanna!"

Congregation and Choir Sing

Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna!

Hosanna, Son of David, He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Blessed be the Son of David, He that cometh in the name of the Lord...

Hosanna, Son of David, He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Blessed be the Son of David, He that cometh in the name of the Lord...

Sing hosanna in the highest, Sing hosanna!

Blessed be the Son of David, He that cometh in the name of the Lord

Sing hosanna in the highest, Sing hosanna!

Blessed be the Son of David, He that cometh in the name of the Lord

ENTRANCE HYMN

ELW 283

"O Come All Ye Faithful"

1. Oh, come, all ye faithful, Joyful and Triumphant! O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem; Come and behold him, Born the king of angels; O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!
2. The highest, most holy, Light of light eternal, Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes; Son of the Father Now in flesh appearing! O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!
3. Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation, Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above Glory to God In the highest; O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!
4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n! Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing; O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

WORDS AT THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

P: Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.

C: **By day and night he shines for all to see.**

P: Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty

C: **that the world may see the justice and richness of God.**

P: God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,

C: **so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.**

P: Jesus is the light of the world.

C: **Jesus is the light of our lives.**

P: Sing to God a new song!

C: **A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.**

GREETING

P: The grace and peace of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, born of Mary, be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

ELW 282

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"
(vs. 1, 3, 4)

1. It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels
Bending ear the earth to touch their harps of gold: "Peace on the earth,
good will to all, from heav'n's all gracious king." The world in solemn
stillness lay to hear the angels sing.
3. And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low, who
toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow: look now, for glad
and golden hours come swiftly on the wing; oh, rest beside the weary road
and hear the angels sing!
4. For lo! The days are hast'ing on, by prophets seen of old, when with the
ever circling years shall come the time foretold, when peace shall over all
the earth its ancient splendors fling, and all the world give back the song
which now the angels sing.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray ...

Almighty God,

C: you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we, may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake us to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

Originally, this poem was written to celebrate either the birth or the coronation of a new Davidic king. After the fall of Jerusalem, this poem came to be viewed as an expression of the hope that eventually God would raise up a new ruler who would possess the qualities described in the text.

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness--
on them light has shined.

³You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;

they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
⁴For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
⁶For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
⁷His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

CHOIR ANTHEM

"Minuet Noel"

arr. Shafferman

SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14

The brief letter to Titus is concerned with matters regarding church leadership. Here, the letter cites an early confession of faith as an example of sound Christian doctrine.

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**ELW 289***“Angels We Have Heard on High”*

1. Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plains, and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains. Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.
2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav’nly song? Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20

Luke tells the story of Jesus' birth with reference to rulers of the world because this birth has significance for the whole earth, conveying a divine offer of peace.

In 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.

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. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all

these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**ELW 289***“Angels We Have Heard on High”*

3. Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing; come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king. Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

**CHILDREN’S TIME
THE SERMON****HYMN****ELW 279***“O Little Town of Bethlehem”
Stand at the last verse*

1. O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by; yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light. The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.
2. For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond’ring love. O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth, and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
3. How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv’n! So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav’n. No ear may hear his coming; but, in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.
4. O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

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 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.

THE PRAYERS

A: Joining our voices with all in heaven and on earth praising the Word made flesh in Jesus, let us pray for this world to which Christ comes, the church whom Christ calls, and all people in need who Christ loves.

A brief silence

A: Wonderful Counselor, in the fullness of time you become one of us and in your wisdom you came down to make your home among us. Come in our midst on this holy night and give us your vision of justice and righteousness for all the world. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Mighty God, when time had been fulfilled you came from heaven and entered your creation by taking on our humanity. Come in our midst on this holy night and empower us to embrace all of humanity with your love. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Everlasting Father, when you regarded all to be in readiness, you became flesh and blood to heal and redeem the world. Come in our midst on this holy night and banish the darkness of violence, strife, and war with the light of your peace. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Prince of Peace, at the time of your birth, the song of angels rang through the night sky. Come in our midst on this holy night and renew our gratitude for the gifts of sky and sea, each with its forests and fields that we may care for your good creation. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Word of Life, on the night of your birth, you hallowed time and all creation. Come in our midst on this holy night and expand our vision so we see your holy face in our neighbor and your fingerprints on all creation. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God with us, throughout time the voices of saints and angels proclaim the good news of great joy for all people. Blend our voices this holy night with theirs. Raise us to their midst at the last day to sing your praises and behold your face forevermore. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Come to us, O God, and make your home with us, in our midst, and through us, for the sake of him whose birth the angels sing and the shepherds proclaim, Jesus Christ, the Child of Bethlehem, our Savior.

C: Amen.

THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

THE OFFERING

OFFERING SONG

ELW 296

"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!

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Loving God,
C: **you sent your only Son to live among us, bringing us your grace and truth.**
**As we recall once more his birth among us, we see that all we have to offer is
what you have given us. Receive all that we have and all that we are to your
glory and for your service, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**
Amen.

THE LIGHTING OF CANDLES

A: The light shines in the darkness
C: **And the darkness has not overcome it.**
A: The Word became flesh and lived among us
C: **And we beheld Christ's glory.**
A: To us a child is born, to us a Son is given
C: **In the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people.**
P: Let us pray...
O God of life and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way
through life by the light of your Son. As we follow his light, awaken us to the
needs of others. Help us share your light here and now. Bring all the world at
the last into the fullness of your light. We pray through Jesus Christ, our
Savior and Light.
C: **Amen.**

READING John 1:1-14

*The prologue to the gospel of John describes Jesus as the creative word of God
made flesh, God's true presence among us, the one whose very existence
reveals God as "full of grace and truth."*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was
God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through
him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴

in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the
darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶ There was a man sent from
God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that
all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to
testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into
the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet
the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people
did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he
gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the
will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴ 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.

HYMN

"Silent Night, Holy Night"

ELW 281

1. 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.
2. Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight; Glories stream from
heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing, Alleluia! Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior is born!
3. Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light Radiant beams from
your holy face, With the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at your
birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

EXTINGUISH CANDLES

LORD'S PRAYER

p. 39

A: Remember us in your Kingdom, Lord, and teach us to pray.
C **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom done,
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.

POSTLUDE

BENEDICTION

P: May Christ, born into time to bring endless peace, guide your days and years in righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

"All Hail to you, O Blessed Morn!" (v.1) **LBW 73**

1. All hail to you, O blessed morn! To tidings long by prophets borne fulfillment you have given, Oh, greatest and most blessed day When unto earth in glorious ray Shone out the grace of heaven! Young and old their Voices blending, Praises sending Unto heaven For this noblest of earth's Children!

SENDING HYMN

ELW 270

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

1. 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 angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"
2. Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord, Late in time behold him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb, Veiled in flesh the God-head see! Hail, incarnate deity! Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel! Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"
3. Hail the heav'n-born 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 each child of earth, Born to give us second birth. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

SENDING

A: Go in peace. Share the good news.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
731 SW Buchanan Street
Topeka, KS 66606
Pastor Trudy K. Cretsinger**

WORSHIP LEADERS

Head Usher	David Tannen
Greeters	
Lectors	Harold Hypse
Acolytes	Mollie Wendlandt & Catalina Cretsinger
Presiding Minister	Pastor Trudy K. Cretsinger
Assisting Minister	Walt Laughlin
Choir Director	Laurie Jackson
Organist	John Wendlandt

PASTOR TRUDY will be on vacation December 25th through January 1st. If pastoral care is needed, call the church office. After office hours, please call council president Curt Lewis.