



Christmas Eve 2021

Christ Lutheran Church

Luke 2:1-20

December 24, 2021

GATHERING

We gather together as God's people.

PRELUDE

PROCLAMATION

Pastor: On the eve of the 25th day of December

When ages beyond number had run their course from the creation
of the world,

When God in the beginning created heaven and earth,
And formed humanity in God's own image;

When century upon century had passed since the Almighty set his
bow in the clouds after the great flood as a sign of covenant and
peace;

In the twenty first century since Abraham and Sarah, our parents
in the faith, came out of Ur of the Chaldeans;

In the thirteenth century since the people of Israel were led by
Moses in the Exodus out of Egypt to freedom;

Around the thousandth year since David was anointed king;

In the sixty fifth week of the prophecy of Daniel;

In the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad;

In the year seven hundred and fifty-two since the foundation of
the City of Rome;

In the forty-second year of the reign of Caesar Octavian
Augustus;

The whole world being at peace,

JESUS CHRIST, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father,
Desiring to consecrate the world by his most loving presence,
Was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

And when nine months had passed since his conception,

Was born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judea,

And was made man:

This is the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to the
flesh.

All: Thanks be to God

GATHERING SONG

“O Come All Ye Faithful”

ELW #283 vs 1 & 2

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Pastor: We begin our service with the lighting of our final Advent candle.

Leader: Throughout this season of Advent candles have been lit each week as we thought about hope, peace, joy and love. These are the gifts which Jesus brought to us at his incarnation. The waiting is over and tonight we celebrate that Jesus is born!

All: Each week another candle glowed, and our wreath shone more brightly. Tonight we light the final candle which represents the light of Jesus. It is the center of our wreath, just as we seek to make Jesus is the center of our lives.

(The center Christ candle is lit.)

Leader: On that first Christmas night when God wrote His name on the heart of humanity through the infant child born to Mary, God employed a host of angels as messengers to let the world know what had taken place in a nearby stable. And as the first humble shepherd visitors witnessed the divine, they began to wonder. Let us pray.

All: On this holy night, precious God, creator of life, breathe on us with your Spirit of wonder. Grant to us, tonight, in this place, a time to quiet our souls and a time to lift up your songs with a joyful heart. Emmanuel, God is with us. Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace and joy of the new born Christ be with you always.

All: And also with you.

CAROL OF JOY

“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”

ELW #270

THE WORD

We hear God's Word for our lives & offer response.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SPECIAL MUSIC
(7:00pm Only)

“O Holy Night”
Kelsey Pressnall, soloist

Adam

GOSPEL READING

Luke 2:1-20

2 In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. **2** This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. **3** All went to their own towns to be registered. **4** 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. **5** He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. **6** While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. **7** 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.

The Shepherds and the Angels

8 In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. **9** Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. **10** 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: **11** to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. **12** This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” **13** And 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!”

¹⁵ 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." ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Pastor Chad

CAROL

"What Child is This?"

ELW #296

NICENE CREED

Leader: On this festival night, we confess our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed.

**All: 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 INTERCESSION

Leader: ...Lord, in your mercy,
All: Hear our prayer.

THE MEAL

We receive the Lord's Supper as nourishment for our lives.

WORDS OF CONFESSION

Pastor: As we prepare to receive Holy Communion, let us first take a moment to confess our sins before God and one another, first using the words that are printed and then in the silence that follows.

All: O Lord, on this night of nights, we remember times when we were not our best, times when we turned away from you, times when we have sinned. We are sorry for the bad things we have done, and for the good things we have not done. We seek forgiveness. We seek your light to fill us and renew us. We seek again the reminder that we are still loved.

Silence for personal confession.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: From the Gospel of Luke, chapter 2, we heard the powerful proclamation, "'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.'" In the dark of night, Jesus came to be the Savior of the world. Rejoice! Your sins are forgiven and joy is eternally ours!

All: Thanks be to God!

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life, blessed are you for the birth of creation.

All: Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Pastor: Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

All: Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Pastor: Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will and for the power of her song.

All: Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pastor: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

(Luke 22:14-22)

Pastor: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pastor: With this bread and wine we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth, our baptism into his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming again.

All: Amen, come, Lord Jesus.

Pastor: Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

All: Come, Holy Spirit.

Pastor: All praise and glory are yours, O Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever,

All: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.**

(Luke 11:1-4)

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Pastor: Joy to the world! The Lord is come. Let every heart prepare him room and now come to this blessed table and receive your Savior.

All: Thanks be to God

DISTRIBUTION

Instructions: We are receiving Communion today using a standing rotation and pre-packaged elements. You will come forward to receive your Communion at the altar. Pastor Chad will give you the package of bread and wine. You'll return to your seats with your sealed elements. At your seat, you will open it, eat and drink. Then you'll place your empty container in a bin located in each pew.

The Communion package has 2 openings to peel back. Peeling the bottom cover releases the bread, and the top seal opens the wine. If you would prefer a grape juice or gluten-free option, please just let the pastor know either before worship or as you receive it. The grape juice cups have a purple cross on them, and the gluten-free are marked as such. Everyone is welcome at the Lord's Table. If you do not wish to receive the Sacrament, you are also welcome to come forward for a blessing.

COMMUNION CAROLS

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

ELW #289

“Away in a Manger”

ELW #277

We receive Communion together.

When all have received Communion, our worship continues with the traditional celebration of candlelight. As the Light of Christ is shared, the lights in the sanctuary will be dimmed. Please remember to tip only the unlighted candle.

SERVICE OF LIGHT

Pastor: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world!

All: He is the Light no darkness can overcome.

Pastor: At darkest night we gather to celebrate the great light of our salvation.

All: With the heavenly host we proclaim, "Glory to God in the highest heaven."

Pastor: In Christ, God's Word is made flesh and lives among us.

All: With the shepherds, we will tell of the wonders we have seen and heard.

CAROL OF THE NIGHT

“Silent Night, Holy Night” ELW #281 vs. 1 & 2

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,
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ the Savior, is born!
Christ the Savior, is born!

THE INCARNATION OF OUR LORD

John 1:1-5, 10-14

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

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

BLESSING

Pastor: May you be filled with the wonder and song of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, and the peace of the Christ Child. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

All: Amen.

CAROL OF THE NIGHT

“Silent Night, Holy Night” ELW #281 Verse 3

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.

SENDING

Blessed & nourished by God, we are sent into the world to share God's love with others.

Pastor: Now, as the bells ring out, it is Christmas night. Let us be sure to share the joy of the Christ child with those beside you, behind you, in front of you, and those not even here. God, in the flesh, has come to be with us, now and always.

All: Thanks be to God!

As the lights in the sanctuary are brought up, please extinguish your candle carefully.

SENDING SONG

“Joy to the World”

ELW #267

DISMISSAL

Leader: Christ is with us. Go in peace and share the gift of Jesus.

All: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

OFFERING

If you would like to give an offering today, there are 5 ways to do that:



1. Drop your money into the Offering Plate near the door as you arrive or as you leave.
2. Visit our Electronic Giving Station in the lobby & swipe your debit card.
3. Text GIVE to 833-613-0706 and follow the prompts.
4. Visit our website www.christ-lutheran.org and click the tab: Give Online.
5. Download the app called “Tithe.ly” and follow the instructions.

Thank you for your continued generosity during these times!

For each of the next two Sunday's (Dec. 26 & Jan. 2) we will only have one service each morning beginning at 10:00am. It will be live streamed.