

# ST. JOHN'S

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

4629 Aspen Hill Road, Rockville, Maryland 20853



Tuesday, December 24, 2024

**Nativity of Our Lord I: Christmas Eve, Year C**



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.



**A Reconciling in  
Christ Congregation**

# GATHERING

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## Prelude

### Christmas Proclamation

Many ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth  
and then formed man and woman in his own image;  
long after the great flood,  
when God made the rainbow shine forth as a sign of the covenant;  
twenty-one centuries from the time  
the promise was given to Abraham and Sarah;  
thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt  
and Miriam danced in freedom;  
eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the judges;  
one thousand years from the anointing of David as king,  
in fulfillment of the times and years and months and days  
discerned by the prophets;  
in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad;  
the seven hundred and fifty-second year  
from the foundation of the city of Rome;  
the forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus;  
while the whole world enjoyed a span of peace,

Jesus Christ, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father,  
desiring to sanctify the world by his most merciful coming,  
being conceived by the Holy Spirit  
and nine months of growth in the womb of his mother--  
now in our own times is the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
God made flesh.

## Once in Royal David's City

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,  
 2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of all,  
 3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love;  
 4 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing by,

where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:  
 and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;  
 for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;  
 we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;

Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.  
 with the poor and meek and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
 and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.  
 there his chil - dren gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.

# 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.**

## Angels We Have Heard on High



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



Glo

ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo



ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

# † Prayer of the Day

Let us pray -

Almighty God, 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 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.**

**WORD**

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## First Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 96 (Refrain 4)

Linda Cable Shute



Let the heav - ens re - jice, and let the earth be



glad; let the sea thun-der and all that is in it; let the



field be joy - ful and all that is there - in.

## Second Reading Titus 2:11-14

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

### Gospel Acclamation

#### What Child Is This



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?  
2 Why lies he in such mean es-tate where ox and ass are feed-ing?



Whom an-gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep-ing?  
Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si-lent Word is plead-ing.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar-y!  
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar-y!

**Gospel: Luke 2:1-14**

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

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, o Christ.**



3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

**Sermon**

**Pastor Kern**

## Of the Father's Love Begotten



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -  
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the vir - gin,  
 3 This is he whom seers in old time chant - ed of with  
 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,  
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,  
 one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets  
 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  
 bore the Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's re -  
 prom - ised in their faith - ful word; now he shines, the long - ex -  
 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,  
 deem - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,  
 pect - ed; let cre - a - tion praise its Lord  
 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.  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more! A - men.



## 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 Intercession

Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

God of grace  
**Receive our prayer.**

We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### **Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

### **Ways to Give**

Text "give" to (833) 340-0119

Online at: <https://bit.ly/StJohnsDonate>

Mail:

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

4629 Aspen Hill Road Rockville, MD 20853

### Infant Holy, Infant Lowly



1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;  
 2 Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing new



ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.  
 saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, an - gels sing - ing, bells are ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:  
 Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!  
 Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

## † Offering Prayer

Let us Pray—

Good and loving God,  
we rejoice in the birth of Jesus,  
who came among the poor  
to bring the riches of your grace.  
As you have blessed us with your gifts,  
let them be blessing for others.  
With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven,  
we shout for joy at the coming of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## Dialogue

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 our God.

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

# Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh  
you have opened the eyes of faith  
to a new and radiant vision of your glory,  
that, beholding the God made visible,  
we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
heav - en. and earth are full of your glo - ry.. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est.. Bless - ed. is he who comes in the name. of the Lord.. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est.. Ho - san - na in the high - est..

## **Eucharistic Prayer Advent through Epiphany**

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

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

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup

we remember your Word dwelling among us,  
full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

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.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

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

**Amen.**

## † The Lord's Prayer

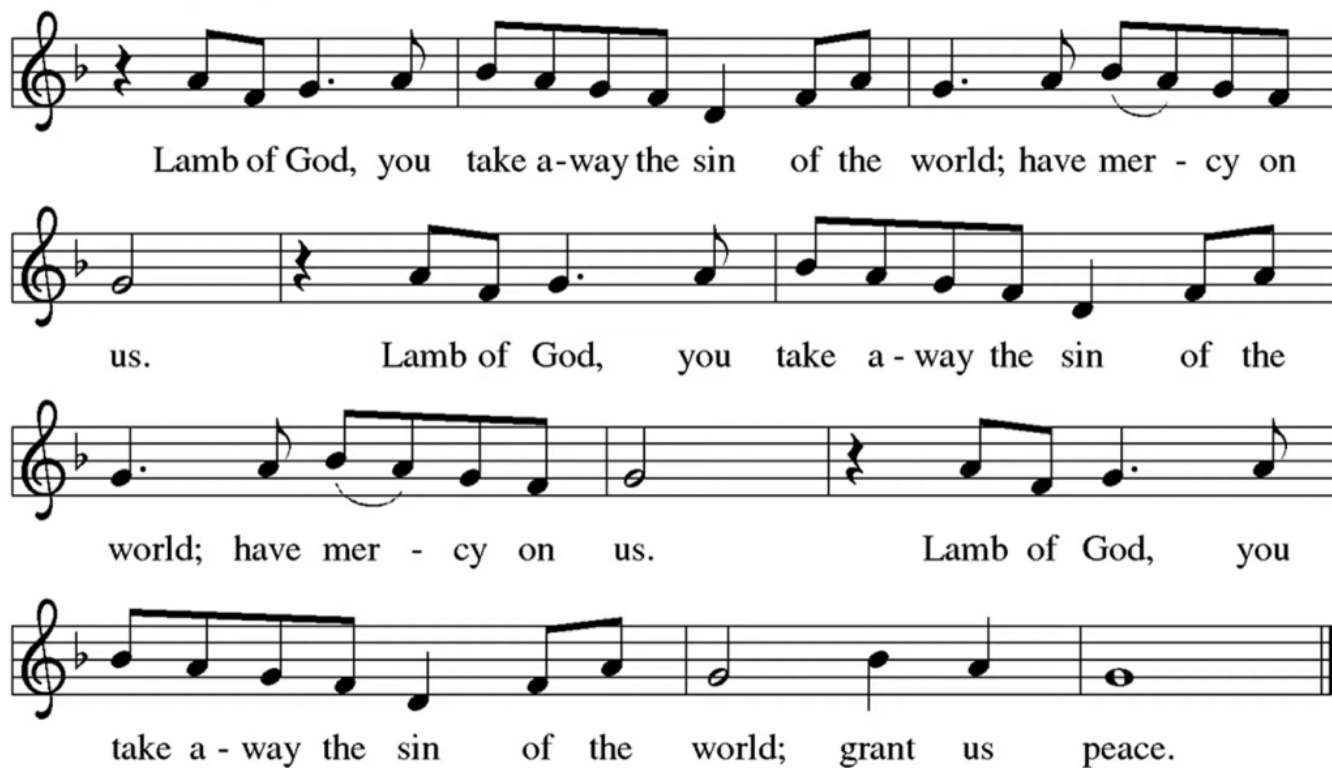
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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.**

# Invitation to Communion

A child has been born for us, a Son given to us.  
Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

## LAMB OF GOD



The musical notation consists of four staves of music in a single system. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a common time signature. The melody is written in a simple, accessible style. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The second staff continues the melody and lyrics. The third staff continues the melody and lyrics. The fourth staff concludes the piece with a double bar line.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you  
take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

## Communion Musical Offering

The Choir



## † Prayer after Communion

Let us pray—

Merciful God,  
we thank you for Jesus,  
who is our heavenly food.  
Strengthened by this goodness,  
send us forth to announce your peace,  
comfort the afflicted, and share the good  
news of great joy.

**Amen.**

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## SENDING

### **Blessing**

The God of love,  
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,  
lavish you with grace,  
illumine your path,  
and increase your joy,  
today and always.

**Amen.**

# Sending Song | ELW 281

## Silent Night, Holy Night!

*Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!*

*Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,*  
1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,  
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake  
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,

*ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.*  
all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.  
at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,  
love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,

*Hol - der Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher*  
Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly  
heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is  
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your

*Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.*  
peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792–1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885  
Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1787–1863

## Dismissal

Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.

**Thanks be to God.**