

Who are these Shepherds Who Run to See? *The Second Reading Luke 2:15-20*

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

P: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Hymn: “O Little Town Of Bethlehem”

**Vs 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.**

**Vs 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 men on earth!**

**Vs 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.**

**Vs 4: O holy Child of Bethlehem Descend to us, we pray; Cast out our sin and enter in
Be born to us today We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell
Oh, come to us, abide with us Our Lord Immanuel**

Who is this Child, So Small, So Slight? *The Third Reading Hebrews 1:1-4*

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God’s glory and the exact imprint of God’s very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for.

P: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Solo: “A Tiny Babe” sung by Kris Pearson - written by Debbi St. John

Who Is This King, a Manger His Throne? *The Fourth Reading Isaiah 9:2-7*

P: 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.

C: You 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.

P: For 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.

C: For all the boots of the tramping warriors & all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

P: For 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.

C: His authority shall grow continually, & there shall be endless peace for the throne of David & his kingdom.

P: He will establish & uphold it with justice & with righteousness from this time onward & forevermore.

C: The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

P: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Hymn: “Jesus Name Above All Names”

**Vs. 1: Jesus, name above all names, beautiful Savior, glorious Lord.
Emmanuel, God is with us, blessed Redeemer, Living Word.**

**Vs. 2: Jesus, loving Shepherd, Vine of the branches, Son of God.
Prince of Peace, Wonderful Counselor, Lord of the universe, Light of the world.**

**Vs. 3: Jesus, way of salvation King of Kings, Lord of Lords.
The Way, the truth, and the life Mighty Creator, My Savior and Friend.**

Who is this God Who Sends a Son? *The Fifth Reading John 1:1-14*

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

P: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Hymn of the Day: “What Child Is This”

**Vs 1: 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!**

**Vs 2: 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!**

**Vs 3: 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 a song on high The virgin sings her lullaby
Joy, joy for Christ is born The Babe, the son of Mary**

Prayers of Intercession:

P: Gracious God, you come from heaven above into the midst of our world.

C: Fill our hearts with the joy of the angels at your birth.

P: You come from heaven above to the lowliest of human conditions.

C: Watch over those in need, the sick, the hungry, the grieving.

P: You come from heaven above to walk the way of the cross.

C: Guide us to follow your path of forgiveness, mercy, and peace.

P: For whom shall the people of God pray? (*silent prayer*)

P: You come from heaven above to become flesh and live among us.

C: May we see your glory, full of grace and truth. Amen.

Sharing the Peace: P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

Offering & Song: “Live In Me” sung by choir, solo by Sara Strusz - written by Debbi St. John

Offerings will be collected during the hymn of the day. Thank you also to those who give online. If you’d like to sign up for online giving please visit <http://www.stlukegoodhue.org/online-giving.html>. Children’s coin offering will go toward ELCA Good Gifts serving communities in need around the world.

Offertory Response: “Give Thanks”

**Give thanks with a grateful heart. Give thanks to the Holy One.
Give thanks because He’s given Jesus Christ, His Son.**

**And now let the weak say, “I am strong”.
Let the poor say, “I am rich Because of what the Lord has done for us”. Give thanks.**

Offering Prayer: *Ushers may bring offering forward.*

P: Let us pray.

C: 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 & heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer: 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.

The Meal and Hymns:

All are welcome at this meal. We believe in the saving power of Jesus Christ through the gift of his life, death, and resurrection experienced in bread and wine.

Please move forward via the center aisle. Bread is received in the hands. Wine is received by dipping the bread into the wine chalice and consuming both together. All ages are welcome to commune. Those not communing may receive a blessing by simply keeping your hands folded or extending your arms over your chest in the sign of a cross inviting blessing. For those unable to consume either wine or bread, communion is received fully in either element alone, for Christ is fully present in the meal. You may return to your seats via the side aisles after communing. Gluten-free is available, simply make the server aware of your need. Also, if you cannot come forward, but wish for communion or blessing, let the usher know it will come to you at the end.

Solo: "Silent Night" violin played by Autumn Marklevits

"Little Baby Jesus" written by Debbi St. John

Vs 1: Little baby Jesus, lying in a manger Do you know what Peace you bring to All the world this night?
Do you know what Peace you bring to All the world this night?

Vs 2: Little baby Jesus, given by our Father Do you know what Love you bring to All the world this night?
Do you know what Love you bring to All the world this night?

Vs 3: Little baby Jesus, born to us a Saviour, Do you know what Joy you bring to All the world this night?
Do you know what Joy you bring to All the world this night?

Vs 4: Little baby Jesus, precious baby Jesus, You bring Peace and Love and Joy to All the world this night.
You bring Peace and Love and Joy to All the world this night.

"Only A Baby Came" sung by choir - written by Natalie Sleeth

"It Came Upon The Midnight Clear" #282

Communion Prayer:

P: Let us pray.

C: 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 and Lord. Amen.

Blessing: May Almighty God, who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary, proclaimed joy through the angels, sent the shepherds with good news, & led the magi by a star, bless you this day, through the Word made flesh. **Amen.**

Sending Song: "Go Tell It On The Mountain" #290

Refrain: Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and ev'rywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born.

Verse 1: While shepherds kept their watching O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens There shone a holy light. [Refrain]

Verse 2: The shepherds feared and trembled When lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus That hailed our Savior's birth. [Refrain]

Verse 3: Down in a lowly manger The humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation That blessed Christmas morn. [Refrain]

Sending: P: Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus,

C: Thanks be to God!

Lessons & Carols



St. Luke Lutheran Church • Pastor Eric Hanson

Merry Christmas!

Welcome & Announcements

Opening Carol: "O Come All Ye Faithful"

Vs. 1: Oh Come all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant, Oh come ye oh come ye the Bethlehem,
Come and behold him born the king of angels, Oh come let us adore him,
Oh come let us adore him, Oh come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Vs. 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.
Oh come let us adore him, Oh come let us adore him, Oh come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Vs. 3: Sing choirs of angels, Sing in exultation, Sing all ye citizens of heaven above. Glory to God in the highest.
Oh come let us adore him, Oh come let us adore him, Oh come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Vs. 4: Yea Lord we greet thee, Born this happy morning, Jesus to thee be glory given,
Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing. Oh come let us adore him, Oh come let us adore him,
Oh come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Christmas Dialogue:

P: Who are these angels who come to earth,

C: bearing the news of the Christ child's birth?

P: Who are these shepherds who run to see,

C: and worship the babe on bended knee?

P: Who is this child, so small, so slight,

C: of whom the angels sang that night?

P: Who is this king, a manger his throne,

C: who humbles himself to make us his own?

P: Who is this God who sends a Son,

C: into our midst, the promised one?

Greeting and Prayer:

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God sent from heaven, be with you all.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray together. Almighty God,

C: You gave us your only Son to take on our human nature and to illumine the world with your light. By your grace adopt us as your children and enlighten us with your Spirit. Through Jesus Christ, our incarnated Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Who Are These Angels Who Come to Earth? First Reading: Luke 2:8-14

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. 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." 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 to those on whom his favor rests."

P: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Solo: "The First Noel" piano by Autumn Marklevits