

St. Luke Lutheran Church • Pastor Eric Hanson December 26, 2021 • 9:30AM

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Piano Solo: "Up on the Housetop" by Ayva Marklevits

Piano Solo: "Silent Night" by Dwight Evenson

Christmas Dialogue:

P: Who are these angels who come to earth,

P: Who are these shepherds who run to see,

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

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

P: Who is this God who sends a Son,

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

C: and worship the babe on bended knee?

C: of whom the angels sang that night?

C: who humbles himself to make us his own?

C: into our midst, the promised one?

Solo: "Advent Credo" sung by Eve Stone

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.

Hymn: "Angels We Have Heard on High"

Vs. 1: 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.

- Vs. 2: Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? What the gladsome tidings be; Which inspire your heavenly song? (*Refrain*)
- Vs. 3: Come to Bethlehem and see; Him whose birth the angels sing, Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King. (*Refrain*)

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,

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

Piano Solo: "O Christmas Tree" by Autumn Marklevits

Piano Solo: "Bring A Torch Jeanette Isabella" by Lyla Bonner

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.

Solo: "A Tiny Babe Was Born This Night" sung by Sara Strusz

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.

Hymn: "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" #282

- Vs. 1: It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold: "Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all-gracious King." The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.
- Vs. 2: Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled, and still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world; above its sad and lowly plains, they bend on hovering wing, and ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.
- Vs. 3: And ye, 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. O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing!
- Vs. 4: For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophet 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 the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.

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.

Solo: "Mary Did You Know" sung by Larry Miller

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: "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" #288

- Vs. 1: 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!
- Vs. 2: 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!
- Vs. 3: 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!

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*)
- C: You come from heaven above to become flesh and live among us.
- P: 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.**

Solo: "Christmas Hallelujah" sung by Ruby Schafer, Haley Gravemann, Torrie Luhman, Whitney Carlson, Grace & Laura Ludwig

Offertory Prayer: 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 and 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 for give 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 Solo: "The Light Of The World" sung by Michelle Matthees & Debbi St. John

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.

- Vs. 1: While shepherds kept their watching O'er silent flocks by night, Behold, throughout the heavens There shone a holy light. [Refrain]
- Vs. 2: The shepherds feared and trembled When lo! above the earth Rang out the angel chorus That hailed our Savior's birth. [Refrain]
- Vs. 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.

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