

**First English Lutheran Church**  
**The Nativity of our Lord**  
**Christmas Eve**  
**December 24, 2021**

**8:30 p.m.**

**The Music of Christmas**

**PRELUDE**

O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is	- Paul Manz
What Child Is This? – “Greensleeves”	- Raymond H. Haan
Noël Avec Variations	- Jean Langlais
Praeludium et Fuga in A Major	- J.S. Bach
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing for Trumpet and Piano	Arr. by C.B. Robertson Solo arr. David Winkler
Trumpeter – James Cunningham	
Piano Interlude on Hymn Tune – Marvel	- Carl Schalk
Rock-a-Bye, My Dear Little Boy	Setting by J.W. Kerr

**9:00 p.m.**

**Festival Service of Holy Communion**

*The congregation may stand for the processional hymn.*

**CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION**

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Red Book #283

**OPENING SENTENCES** *spoken responsively*

Sing to the Lord a new song;

**Sing to the Lord, all the earth.**

Tell it out among the nations:

**“The Lord reigns! The Lord will judge us with equity!”**

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;

**Let the sea thunder and all that is in it;**

Let fields be joyful and the trees of the forest shout for joy.

**For you come, O Lord, to judge the earth.**

You will make the world right;

**You will judge all people with truth.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

sts. 1 & 3

Red Book #289

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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.**

*The congregation may be seated.*

## FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

- <sup>2</sup>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.
- <sup>3</sup>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.
- <sup>4</sup>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.
- <sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
- <sup>6</sup>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.
- <sup>7</sup>His 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.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**CHOIR ANTHEM**

"Night of Wonder"

- Gwyn Williams & Tracey McKibben

**SECOND LESSON** Titus 2:11-14

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup>He 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.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The congregation may stand.*

**HYMN FOR THE GOSPEL PROCESSION**

"From Heaven Above"

sts. 1 & 2

Red Book #268

**GOSPEL** Luke 2:1-20

The holy gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke, the second chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to

be registered. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>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.

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>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: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **HYMN FOR GOSPEL PROCESSION**

"From Heaven Above"

sts. 13 & 14

Red Book #268

*The congregation may be seated.*

## **SERMON**

*Silence for reflection.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

"It Came upon the Midnight Clear"

Red Book #282

### 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

Having heard the message of peace brought by the angels, let us bring before God our prayers for the needs of the world.

*The congregation may kneel or sit.*

Faithful God,  
On this holy night in the city of Bethlehem,  
You gave us the Prince of Peace.  
Teach us so to trust him,  
That we may resist evil, choose love, and work to end oppression.  
To our hearts and minds, and through our deeds and choices, O God,  
**Let your peace come.**

We pray for those who have suffered much this year  
From wildfire, storm, or war.  
Heal the wounds of trauma both seen and unseen.  
Empower the work of those who bring relief and reconciliation.  
Wherever there is loss, violence, or fear, O God,  
**Let your peace come.**

We pray for healing from the many hurts of this pandemic,  
Bring an end to severe disease and comfort the grieving;  
Give rest to those who work in health care;  
And repair broken relationships on all levels in our society.  
That our journey through this time may be ordered by your grace, O  
God,  
**Let your peace come.**

We pray for those to whom Your Son is especially near:  
Those who experience hunger, homelessness, or imprisonment,  
And those who are sick, injured, or hurting in any way.  
Meet needs; tend broken hearts; and relieve pain.  
Through every practical kindness, O God,  
**Let your peace come.**

With grateful hearts,  
We remember those who shared our lives  
and who now rest in your loving arms.

Teach us to live each day with eternity in mind.  
That our grieving may also reflect resurrection hope, O God,  
**Let your peace come.**

Into the manger of your holy love, we lay our prayers, gracious God,  
trusting in you, through your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
**Amen.**

*The congregation may stand.*

## **PEACE**

The peace of the Christ child be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

*The congregation may greet one another.*

## **OFFERING**

*While the offering is received, the musicians make offerings of music.*

## **ORGAN OFFERTORY**

“Es ist das Heil uns kommen her” - Dietrich Buxtehude

*As the gifts are brought forward, the congregation stands to sing:*

## **OFFERTORY HYMN**

“What Child Is This?”                      sts. 1 & 3                      Red Book #296

## **OFFERTORY PRAYER** *led by the assisting minister*

Gracious God, your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth.  
As we offer ourselves and these your gifts, prepare us to receive the  
grace and truth you offer at this table and renew in us the song of your  
salvation, in Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

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...(*the presiding minister continues giving thanks*)...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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.



You are holy, O God of majesty,  
and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son.  
He is your Word, inseparable from you,  
Through whom you created the universe.  
He is your Word, speaking through prophets,  
Calling your people to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk  
In humble faithfulness with you.  
He is your Word, sent from heaven to be born of Mary.  
Helpless as an infant, he showed the power of your love.  
Poor in things of the world, he brought the wealth of your grace.  
Rejected by many, he welcomed all who sought him.  
On the night in which he was betrayed,  
he took bread, and after giving thanks to you,  
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat.  
This is my body, given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.  
Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.  
Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died,**

**Christ is risen,**

**Christ will come again.**

And so, gracious Father, as we celebrate his incarnation among us,  
We remember his life lived for others:  
His words of healing and forgiveness,  
His meals with those declared outcasts and sinners.  
We remember his passion and death,  
and his birth from a grave to a new and unending life in you.  
We await that day when he comes again, when  
Everyone shall know the power of your love and the wealth of your  
grace.

**Amen. Come Lord Jesus.**

Send, we pray, your Holy Spirit,  
upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine,  
that by sharing the body and blood of Christ,  
we might be filled with faith, hope, and love,  
made part of his body in this world,  
that with hands and feet, and words and deeds,

we might show others your love.

**Amen, Come Holy Spirit.**

Through him, with him and in him,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honor are yours, almighty God,  
now and forever.



And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

**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.**

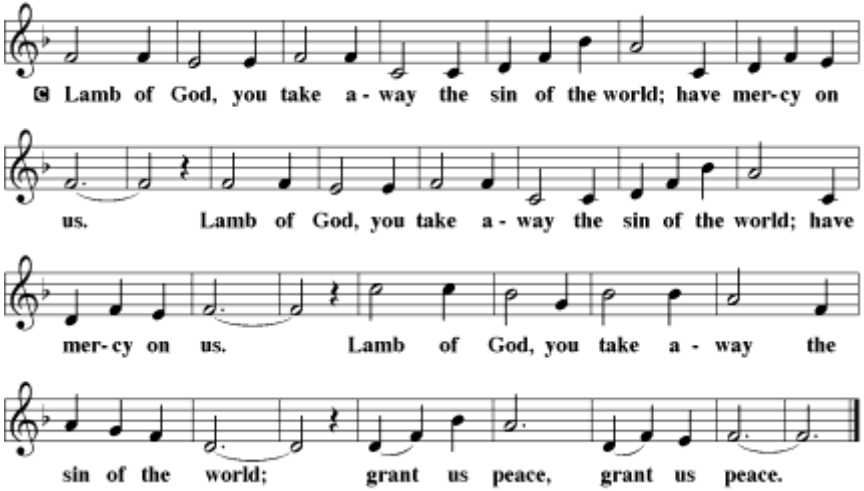
**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,**

**forever and ever. Amen.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Here with bread and wine is the Word made flesh. Taste and see that  
the Lord is good.

## LAMB OF GOD



☐ 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, grant us peace.

## SHARING OF THE SACRAMENT

*You are invited to receive Holy Communion tonight. Lutherans believe that the body and blood of Christ are present with the bread and wine. Gluten-free wafers are available for those who cannot consume wheat; please let the pastor know. If you do not wish to receive communion, you may still come forward and kneel for a blessing from the pastor.*

## HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

“Away in a Manger”

Red Book #277

“I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve”

Red Book #271

*The congregation may stand at the invitation of the presiding minister.*

## BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen.**

## GOSPEL OF THE INCARNATION     John 1:1-4; 14

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

all people. <sup>14</sup>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”/ “On a Starlit Night”

– Franz Gruber

With original lyrics & music by Jill Galina (ASCAP)

*Stanza 1: All in unison*

**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.**

*Interlude: Choir*

On a starlit night, ‘neath a sky so bright,

The angels sing carols of love!

Of a baby asleep in a manger bed,

Sent from heaven above.

Sleep, O tiny precious one.

Sleep, God’s chosen son.

*Stanza 2: all*

**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!**

*Stanza 3: congregation with choir descant*

**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.**

**PRAYER**            *led by the assisting minister*

Almighty God and Father of light, a child is born for us and a son is given to us. Your eternal Word leaped down from heaven in the silent watches of the night, and now your Church is filled with wonder and light at the nearness of our God. Open our hearts to receive his life and increase our vision with the rising of the dawn, that our lives may be filled with his glory and his peace; who lives and reigns forever and ever.

**Amen.**

**BLESSING**

May the God of the angels, who heralded Christ's birth, bring joy to your hearts this day and always.

**Amen.**

May the God of love, who gave his only Son to be born for you, fill your life with love and peace.

**Amen.**

May Emmanuel, God with us, be with you in all your doings and all your celebrations, until he brings you into his eternal kingdom.

**Amen.**

And may almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**RECESSIONAL HYMN**

“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”

Red Book #270

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace, serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

“How Greatly Shines the Morning Star”

- Johann Pachelbel

## SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Kimberly van Driel	<b>Presiding Minister</b>
Sue Morrow	<b>Assisting Minister</b>
Marlin Boltz	<b>Reader</b>
Emily Stein and Evan Stein	<b>Torchbearers</b>
Christiaan van Driel	<b>Crucifer</b>
Signe Mitchell	<b>Organist</b>
Harry Cunningham	<b>Pianist, Sr. Choir Director</b>
Jim Cunningham	<b>Trumpeter</b>
Bill and Judy Vilcheck	<b>Ushers</b>
Roxanne Glagola	<b>Altar Guild</b>

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**ALTAR FLOWERS & POINSETTIAS** are given to the glory of God by: Dorothy Croupe, in loving memory of her husband, Clyde Croupe; Brandi and Brandon Stein; Sandy and Norm Lefebvre; Pastor Kimberly and Edwin van Driel; Joan and Ted Giese; Larry Hamil; Myrna Hamil; Judy and Bill Vilcheck; Tracy Gullickson; Signe Mitchell; and Jessie and Josh Kameron.

**CHRISTMAS TREE** contributions made by: Karen and Bob Domanski; Grace and Ed Shields; Linda and Ron Huey; Helen and Larry Christy; Signe Mitchell; Carol and Frank Miller; Jan and Victor Nieto; Marilyn Shoup; Sandy and Norm Lefebvre; Brenda Ihlenfeld; Judy and Bill Vilcheck; Myrna Hamil; Larry Hamil; Pat and Joe Zupancic; Susan Farrell; Hazel Warheit; Danna Drescher; Robin Critchlow; Laura and Brent Warmbrod; Thelma Jean Cross

**THE CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED** Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, December 28<sup>th</sup> in observance of the Christmas holiday.