



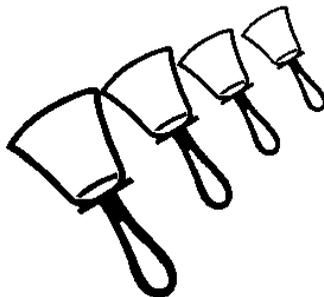
ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR LUTHERAN CHURCH
“The Nativity of Our Lord”
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2021 9:30 AM

ELW is the cranberry red Evangelical Lutheran Book of Worship

As on the first day of creation, on this Christmas Day the Word illumines the world, shining forth to bring all things into being. Today we celebrate the incarnate Word, God becoming flesh to live among us in the person of Jesus Christ then and now. Emboldened by the good news of Christ's birth, along with the shepherds, Mary and Joseph, and all witnesses to the light of Christ, we declare to the world that we have indeed seen and been transformed by the arrival of "the salvation of our God." O come, let us adore!

~ Please quiet your hearts, your minds and your cell phones ~

PRELUDE - Handbell Quartet



WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP *(Based on Psalm 98)*

- P:** Sing to God something brand new!
C: **For God has done wonderful things!**
P: God has not forgotten to love us all!
C: **Even the ends of the earth have heard!**
P: Make a joyful noise!
C: **With handbells and voice!**
P: With the roaring sea and everything in it!
C: **With all the land and everything in it!**
P: The floods clap their hands!
C: **The hills sing for joy!**
P: Thank God! God is coming to set everything right:
C: **Justice for everyone, everything fair!**
P: Sing to God something brand new!
C: **For God has done wonderful things!**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who sends the word with angels, who is made flesh among all peoples, and who breathes peace on all the earth.

C: Amen.

P: In Christ, we are bold to name our sin and cry out for peace.

P: Holy God,

C: **we confess our sin before you. We replace compassion with competition.**

We seek what is mighty while ignoring the meek.

We are quick to anger but slow to forgive.

We have not put on love in harmony with you.

Wrap us in the grace of your powerful Word.

Swaddle our hearts with your peace, that all we do, in word or deed,

may reflect your love born among us. Amen.

P: I bring you good news of great joy for all people: God has come among us in the child born of Mary, Christ the Lord. † In Christ your sins are forgiven and you are clothed in peace.

C: Amen.



GATHERING HYMN - ELW #267 “Joy to the World”

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.</p> | <p>2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.</p> |
| <p>3 No more let sin and sorrow grow
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.</p> | <p>4 He rules the world with truth and grace
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.</p> |

GREETING

P: Alleluia! Christ is born for us.

C: **Oh come, let us adore Him.**

P: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

C: **All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**
Amen

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 62:6-12

The prophet invites the people to give God no rest until God reestablishes Jerusalem. In turn, they will receive names full of promise: The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord, A City Not Forsaken.

⁶Upon your walls, O Jerusalem,

I have posted sentinels;

all day and all night they shall never be silent.

You who remind the Lord,

take no rest,

⁷and give him no rest

until he establishes Jerusalem

and makes it renowned throughout the earth.

⁸The Lord has sworn by his right hand

and by his mighty arm:

I will not again give your grain

to be food for your enemies,

and foreigners shall not drink the wine

for which you have labored;

⁹but those who garner it shall eat it

and praise the Lord,

and those who gather it shall drink it

in my holy courts.

¹⁰Go through, go through the gates,

prepare the way for the people;

build up, build up the highway,
clear it of stones,
lift up an ensign over the peoples.

¹¹The Lord has proclaimed
to the end of the earth:
Say to daughter Zion,
“See, your salvation comes;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.”

¹²They shall be called, “The Holy People,
The Redeemed of the Lord“;
and you shall be called, “Sought Out,
A City Not Forsaken.”

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

SECOND READING: TITUS 3:4-7

God saves us not because of what we do. Rather, God is a God of mercy and salvation who graciously cleanses us in baptism and renews our lives through the Holy Spirit.

⁴When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. ⁶This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

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



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION - (Please Stand)

ELW #295 "Of the Father's Love Begotten" (vs. 1, 3, 5)



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.

GOSPEL: JOHN 1:1-14

The prologue to the Gospel of John describes Jesus as the Word of God made flesh, the one who reveals God to be “full of grace and truth.”

P: The Holy Gospel according to John

C: **Glory to You, O Lord**

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And 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 Gospel of our Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

MESSAGE - “The Word”

Rev. Brian Hooper



HYMN OF THE DAY - ELW #294 “In the Bleak Midwinter”

- 1** In the bleak midwinter,
frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron,
water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow,
snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter,
long ago.
- 2** Heaven cannot hold him,
nor earth sustain;
heav'n and earth shall flee away
when he comes to reign;
in the bleak midwinter
a stable place sufficed
the Lord God almighty,
Jesus Christ.
- 3** What can I give him,
poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man
I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him—
give my heart.

CREED (*Please stand*)

- P:** With the whole church
- C:** **We affirm that we are made in God’s image, befriended by Christ, empowered by the Spirit.**
- P:** With people everywhere
- C:** **We affirm God’s goodness at the heart of humanity, planted more deeply than all that is wrong.**
- P:** With all creation
- C:** **We celebrate the miracle and wonder of life, the unfolding purposes of God, forever at work in ourselves and the world.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

- L:** Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

- L:** Your Spirit calls your church to rejoice in Christ’s birth. As we gather at the manger, help us see your face in all babies needing comfort and care. Equip the church in the nurture and encouragement of all children. Merciful God,
- C:** **receive our prayer.**

8 - Welcoming all, Worshiping God, Serving others

- L:** The rocks and streams proclaim your praise. Attune us to the joyful sounds and groaning of your creation. Stir us to tend the earth wisely, that the whole earth may dwell in abundance and peace. Merciful God,
- C:** **receive our prayer.**
- L:** Your messengers declare your joy to the world. Embolden leaders and nations to make your justice and peace known throughout the earth. Uphold justice advocates and social service providers who risk their safety to help others. Merciful God,
- C:** **receive our prayer.**
- L:** You choose those regarded as lowly to tell the good news of your love. Pour out your mercy and care on all who are sick, grieving, struggling, and the elderly who live alone. Merciful God,
- C:** **receive our prayer.**
- L:** You abide with your people in times of trouble. Accompany families and children who have nowhere to turn. Strengthen this congregation and local ministries in their care for those fleeing danger, abuse, or neglect. Merciful God,
- C:** **receive our prayer.**
- L:** Your grace and mercy extend to all. Give comfort to those who mourn, and assure them of the peace you have granted those who have gone before us (*especially*). Merciful God,
- C:** **receive our prayer.**
- L:** Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior.
- C:** **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

ANTHEM - "Mary's Son" Hunnicutt *Choir*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

- L:** 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.
- C:** **Amen.**



THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

- P:** The Lord be with you.
C: **And also with you.**
P: Lift up your hearts.
C: **We lift them to the Lord.**
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION *“In The night...”*

THE 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.

COMMUNION

Prepare your elements by opening the two separate parts, wafer and wine (if you need assistance, please wave to an usher). The Pastor will recite the words of institution and consecrate the elements. Partaking of the elements will occur after the Lord’s Prayer is spoken. The Pastor will lead the assembly with the words: The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- P:** We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus, God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine. As we have shared this feast of love, strengthen us to share your love with all the world. In Jesus’ name we pray.
- C:** **Amen.**

BLESSING

- P:** May the Word that Mary brought to birth carry you into new and abundant life.
C: **Amen.**
P: May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms enfold you with love and strength.
C: **Amen.**
P: May the Word that angels proclaimed in song bring harmony to our world.
C: **Amen.**
P: And the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, +Son, and the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always.
C: **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN - ELW #270 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

- 1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"**
- 2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel! *Refrain***

Refrain

**Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"**

- 3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace!
Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth,
born to give us second birth. *Refrain***

DISMISSAL

- L:** Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.
C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE - "Joy to the World" - *arr. H. Gehrke*

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THANK YOU FOR SERVING IN THE WORSHIP!

Reader: Cathy Peterson

Ushers: Herb Leppien, Bob Rasmussen and Bonnie Zimmermann

*The Eternal Candle is given by
Dennis Lucchesi in honor of Dennis & Geri's 50th Wedding Anniversary*

Christmas Poinsettias are given by

Bonnie Court

*In memory of Parents and In honor of Children and
Grandchildren*

Shirley Devecka

In memory of Family

Gordy & Diane Flohr

In honor of Family

Ruth Hoppe

In memory of Ralph Hoppe

The Kelroy Family

In memory of Our Grandparents

Dick & Betty Kroll

In honor of Family and Friends

Greg & Billie Jo Kunesh

In honor of CherishAnn & Joey Pearson

Bob & Shirley Lieske

In memory of Family

Nancy Mineau

In honor of Jesus' birth

Faith O'Connell

In honor of Grandchildren

Larry & Sandy Petricek

In memory of Frank Petricek (Larry's brother)

Eric & Denise Sanders

In honor of the birth of our Savior

Dave & RaeAnn Simley

In memory of Our Parents

Julie Starks

In memory of Paul G. Eklund

Diane & Eric Sundquist

In memory of Our Parents

Marion Walton

*In memory of Family Members, Friends,
and Colleagues*

Sandy Wesolowski & Family

In memory of Iola Sawicki

Kipp & Bonnie Zimmermann

In memory of Loved Ones



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