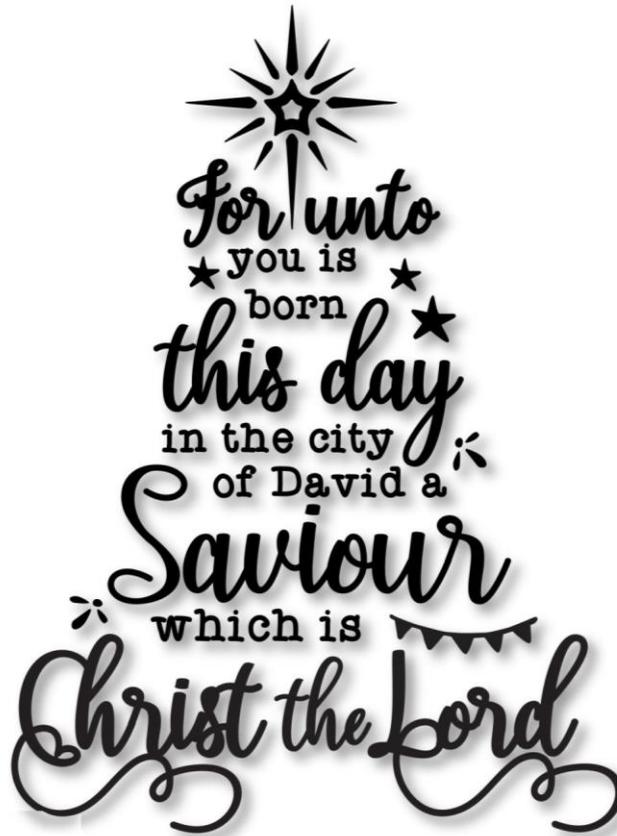


St. John-St. James

Ev. Lutheran Church & School



Christmas Day Service

December 25, 2020

PRESERVICE
Ava Stuebs

O Come, O Come, Emanuel

WELCOME

God came to save us from our sins

Opening Hymn:

Joy to the World

Christian Worship, Hymn # 62

C Verse 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.**

C Verse 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.**

PLEASE STAND

DIALOGUE OF PRAISE

M Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord, let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

C **O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth. You have set your glory above the Heavens.**

M Give thanks to the Lord of lords, to him who alone does great wonders, who by his understanding made the heavens, who spread out the earth upon the waters, who made the great lights—the sun to govern the day, the moon and stars to govern the night.

C **Great is the Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit.**

M But our iniquities have separated us from our God; our sins have hidden his face from us, so that he will not hear. We look for light, but all is darkness; for brightness, but we walk in deep shadows. We look for deliverance, but we have wandered far away.

C **For our offenses are many in his sight, and our sins testify against us. Our offenses are ever with us, and we acknowledge our sins.**

M The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.

C **From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

M “The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The Lord our Righteousness.”

C **Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.**

M Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

C **Let the name of the Lord be praised forever and ever.
Alleluia and Amen!**

GLORIA

M As forgiven sinners, we praise the name of the Lord in song.

C Verse 1 ♪ **Now sing we, now rejoice
Now raise to heav’n our voice;
He from whom joy streameth
Poor in a manger lies;
Not so brightly beameth
The sun in yonder skies.
Thou my Savior art!
Thou my Savior art!**

(Hymn response continues on the next page.)



Verse 3 

**Now through his Son doth shine
The Father's grace divine.
Death o'er us had reign-ed
Through sin and vanity;
He for us obtain-ed
Eternal joy on high.
May we praise him there!
May we praise him there!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY



Almighty God, grant that the birth of your only Son in the flesh may set us free from our old bondage under the yoke of sin; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Amen.

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 52:7-10

⁷ How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!"

⁸ Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices; together they shout for joy. When the LORD returns to Zion, they will see it with their own eyes.

⁹ Burst into songs of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰ The LORD will lay bare his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God.

HYMN RESPONSE

Emmanuel (God With Us Forever)

C Verse 1 *♩* ***Before you set the edge of time
Foundations of the earth and sky
You saw it all And said it was good.
And joy was set before your eyes
You knew that you would give your life
You saw it all and said that it was good.
Behold, behold the one our love is come
Behold, behold the one our King is come.***

C Verse 2 *♩* ***At heavens warred the earth stood still
His final breath, He tore the veil
The angels sing, Holy is His name
Defeated death, He broke the grave
Our hope returned the lost are saved
We lift our voice in never-ending praise.
Behold, behold the one our love is come
Behold, behold the one our King is come.
Behold, behold the one our love is come
Behold, behold the one our King is come.***

C CHORUS *♩* ***Emanuel, God with us forever
Emanuel, Savior of the world
Emanuel, Emanuel.
Emanuel, God with us forever
Emanuel, Savior of the world
Emanuel, Emanuel.***

(After the instrumental song concludes on the next page.)



Final CHORUS *♫ Behold, behold the one our love is come
Behold, behold the one our King is come.
Behold, behold the one our love is come
Behold, behold the one our King is come.*

Emanuel, God with us forever

Emanuel, Savior of the world

Emanuel, Emanuel.

Emanuel, God with us forever

Emanuel, Savior of the world

Emanuel, Emanuel.

THE GOSPEL LESSON

BIRTH OF JESUS

Luke 2:1-5

“In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.”

“While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.”

HYMN RESPONSE

O Little Town of Bethlehem

C Verse 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.**

C Verse 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.**

“And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

“Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

HYMN RESPONSE

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing***🎵 Verse 1 🎵 Hark! The herald angels sing,**

**“Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on the 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!”
Hark! The herald angels sin,
“Glory to the newborn King!”**

(Hymn response continues on the next page.)

 Verse 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 th' incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sin,
"Glory to the newborn King!"**

THE SHEPHERDS VISIT BETHLEHEM

Luke 2:15-20

“When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.”

C Verse 1 **♫ Silent night, Holy Night All is calm All is bright**
Round yon virgin mother and child
Holy infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heav'nly peace
Sleep in heav'nly peace.

C Verse 2 **♫ Away in a manger no crib for a bed**
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
♫ Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care
And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.

C Verse 3 **♫ O holy night the stars are brightly shining**
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till he appeared, and the soul felt it's worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new a glorious morn.

(Hymn continues on the next page.)



Fall on your knees
O hear the angel voices
O night divine
O night when Christ was born
O night divine,
O night, O night divine. *(repeat verse 4.)*

MESSAGE

Pastor Darin Aden

Hebrews 1:1-9

“What Child Is This?”

1 In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, **2** but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. **3** The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. **4** So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

5 For to which of the angels did God ever say, *“You are my Son; today I have become your Father”*? Or again, *“I will be his Father, and he will be my Son”*? **6** And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, *“Let all God’s angels worship him.”*

7 In speaking of the angels he says, *“He makes his angels spirits, and his servants flames of fire.”* **8** But about the Son he says, *“Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom. 9 You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy.”*

C Verse 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.**

C Verse 2  **Why lies he in such mean estate
Where oxen now are feeding?
Good Christians, fear; For sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through;
The cross he'll bear for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The babe, the Son of Mary.**

C Verse 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 the song on high;
The virgin sings his lullaby.
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
The babe, the Son of Mary.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M On this holy day, dear Father, we rejoice to hear the good news of great joy that a Savior has been born for us. For fulfilling your prophecies and in the fullness of time sending your Son to be our Savior, we give you our heartfelt thanks and praise.

G **Unto us a child is born! Unto us a Son is given!**

M What a great mystery of our faith this is: that God has become fully human for our salvation! Even though he is the all-powerful Lord of all, he is wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.

G **Help us always believe that this precious child was born as our substitute to be our Savior.**

M In the midst of our joy, we grieve for the many people in our world who do not know that Jesus has come to bring them forgiveness and healing. As the shepherds spread abroad the good news of the birth of the Savior born for all the world, may we also make use of the unique opportunities the holidays present.

G **Grant that the true peace between God and fallen mankind may comfort all people.**

M As the angels sang out their praises, move us also to sing out our praise to you, today and every day, as the joy of Christmas remains in our hearts.

G **Glory to God in the highest! Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

C 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.

BLESSING

M May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be and abide with us all.

C Amen.

Closing Hymn:

Praise Charts Song #74093

Christmas Amazing Grace

CCLI License #20031593

C Verse 1  **This Holy Child is born to us**
For all the world to see
Peace on the earth, good will to men
To God all glory be.

C Verse 2  **This couple traveled from afar**
Arrived in Bethlehem
And in the inn they sought to stay
There was no room for them.

(Hymn concludes on the next page.)

C Verse 3 **♪ They found a stable filled with hay
A manger for a bed
God's Son was born this winter night
Just as the angels said.**

C Verse 4 **♪ The shepherds left to see this boy
They wandered through the night
The angels led the way to Him
A Savior wrapped in light.**

C Verse 5 **♪ A star shone bright up in the east
The wise men following
They brought Him gifts of gold and myrrh
To honor Christ the King.**

C Verse 6 **♪ Jesus grew into a man
He died for you and me
But in three days He rose again
With us He'll ever be.
With us He'll ever be.**

OUR THANKS

Our thanks to our organist Judy Mangin; to the Messengers: Abby & Phil Stuebs, Gene Rosera, Deb & Gary Bernhardt; to Ava Stuebs for preservice. Thanks also to those who helped decorate for the Christmas season and to all for joining us today. You have all helped to make this a special day.