

# THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD – Christmas Day

**December 25, 2021 – 10:00 a.m.**

**St. Matthew Lutheran Church**

**4101 Washington Street NE**

**Columbia Heights, MN 55421**

***Welcome to worship at St. Matthew!** To friends who know us, we renew our welcome; to visitors, we extend it sincerely; and to those seeking a church home, we offer fellowship with a living Redeemer. Come again!*

***We ask that all guests** sign a yellow attendance card located in the pew rack, and then please hand the card to the pastor as you leave the worship service.*

***Assisted hearing devices and large print hymnals and orders of service** are available from the ushers.*

***If you have a prayer request**, please write it out on one of the green prayer cards located in the pew rack, and then submit it to Pastor Hugo or the lay minister before the service begins. Other prayer requests can be made by calling the church office at 763-788-9427.*

***Parents with small children** are encouraged to sit near the front in order to better see and participate during the service. If you desire other facilities, a cry room is located in the back of the worship area and bathrooms with changing tables (including back-up supplies) and infant seats are located behind the worship area (two right turns as you pass the double doors out of the worship area – just past the water fountain).*

***Thank you** for turning off all electronic equipment (cell phones, items that receive internet signal, etc.). These items interfere with our sound system.*

**+ CONNECT +**

## **RINGING OF THE BELL**

*(Please rise and face the processional cross)*

### **INVOCATION:**

**P:** Our worship begins the way our lives in Christ begin in baptism: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

### **CONFESSION OF OUR SINS:**

P: Today we celebrate Christmas, the incarnation of Jesus, the Word of God becoming flesh. Jesus came to bring peace and joy through all the earth; yet centuries later, our world is still filled with war and violence, hopelessness and despair. Too often, we have spread the evils of the world, rather than the joy and peace of Jesus. But our heavenly Father invites us to come before Him to ask for His forgiveness.

*(Silence for reflection)*

P: Heavenly Father,

**C: We confess that we have failed to live in the joy and peace of Jesus. We have taken Your salvation for granted. We have failed to make the presence and love of Jesus real for the people around us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we know the joy of the Lord and others may know it through us. In the name of Jesus, Amen.**

### **FORGIVENESS IS ANNOUNCED**

#### **SONG OF PRAISE: Psalm 98**

P: The LORD has made known His salvation;

**C: He has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

P: Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things!

**C: His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.**

P: The LORD has made known His salvation;

**C: He has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

P: He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

**C: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

P: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;

**C: Break forth into joyous song and sing praises!**

P: With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
C: **Make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD!**

**FESTIVE GLORIAS:**

**Angels from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Once you sang creation's story; now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the new-born king.**

**Shepherds in the fields abiding, Watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing, Yonder shines the infant light.  
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the new-born king.**

*(Interlude)*

**Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!***

**Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sin;  
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king.  
*Gloria In excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!***

*(Interlude)*

**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!"**

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

**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:**

*(Interlude)*

**All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,  
Ever-more your voices raising To th' eternal Three in One.  
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the new-born king.**

*("Angels From the Realms of Glory", setting copyright 1982 Concordia Publishing House, used with permission, Lutheran Service Book Hymn License #100014518.)*

**PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

**L:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** And also with you.

**L:** Let us pray.

**C:** Emmanuel, God with us: You took on flesh at Christmas. As we look into the manger today and see the baby, the Christ Child, let us also see God Almighty in the flesh. And as we walk away from the manger today, be God in the flesh through us. Let those around us see Jesus in us and find the love of God in our words and acts. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

**LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE:**



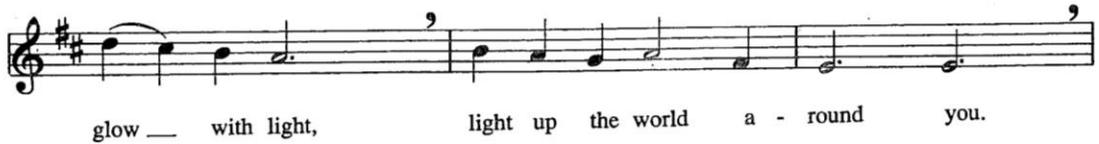
(Christmas) Light the can-dle of CHRIST to - day, the Giv - er of light is



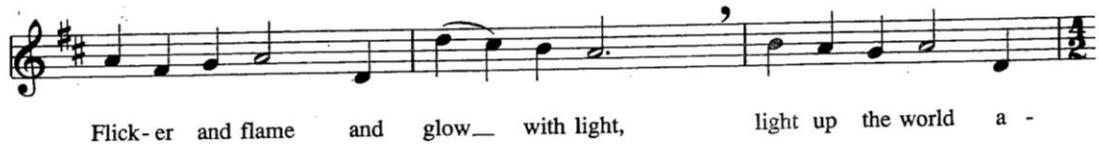
here! \_\_\_\_\_ Wel - come the light we grope and sigh for, but



on - ly Christ can give. \_\_\_\_\_ Flick - er and flame and



glow \_\_\_ with light, light up the world a - round you.



Flick-er and flame and glow\_\_\_ with light, light up the world a -



round you.

## GREETING TIME

+ NURTURE +

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 62:10-12

Pass through, pass through the gates! Prepare the way for the people. Build up, build up the highway! Remove the stones. Raise a banner for the nations. The LORD has made proclamation to the ends of the earth: "Say to Daughter Zion, 'See, your Savior comes! See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him.'" They will be called the Holy People, the Redeemed of the LORD; and you will be called Sought After, the City No Longer Deserted.

L: The Word of our newborn King.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

### GRADUAL FOR CHRISTMAS DAY:

P: Unto us a Child is born!

C: **Unto us a Child is born!**

P: Unto us a Son is given!

C: **Unto us a Son is given!**

P: And the government shall be upon his shoulder.  
C: **And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,**

P: Mighty God,  
C: **Everlasting Father,**  
ALL: **Prince of Peace.**

P: Oh sing to the LORD a new song,  
C: **For he has done marvelous things!**

**CHORAL RESPONSE: "He Shall Reign Forevermore"**  
2021 Cantata Choir & Children's Choir  
Solos by Will Hugo & Deb Santillo

**EPISTLE LESSON: Titus 3:4-7**

But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

L: The Word of our newborn King.  
C: **Thanks be to God!**

**HOLY GOSPEL:**

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, chapter two.  
C: **Glory to You, O Lord!**

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. 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 singing, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." 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.

**L:** This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

**HYMN OF THE DAY: "Of the Father's Love Begotten" – Blue Hymnal #36**

**Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending he,  
Of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see  
Evermore and evermore.**

**Oh, that birth forever blessed, when the virgin, full of grace,  
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race,  
And the babe, the world's redeemer, first revealed his sacred face  
Evermore and evermore.**

**This is he whom seers in old time chanted of with one accord,  
Whom the voices of the prophets promised in their faithful word;  
Now he shines, the long expected; let creation praise its Lord  
Evermore and evermore.**

**Let the heights of heav'n adore him; angel hosts, his praises sing;  
Pow'rs, dominions, bow before him and extol our God and King;  
Let no tongue on earth be silent, ev'ry voice in concert ring  
Evermore and evermore.**

**Christ, to you, with God the Father and the Spirit, there shall be  
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and the shout of jubilee:  
Honor, glory, and dominion and eternal victory  
Evermore and evermore.**

*("Of the Father's Love Begotten", setting copyright 1982 Concordia Publishing House, used by permission, Lutheran Service Book Hymn License #100014518.)*

**MESSAGE:** “Can You See Jesus?” – Pastor Bill Hugo

**CONFESSION OF FAITH: “In God We Believe”**

In God we believe: the creator whose pow’r  
In mercy has brought us for worship this hour.  
He graciously grants us our years and our days  
And blesses with kindness our work and our ways.

In Jesus, the Savior, our hope is secured.  
True God and true man once the cross he endured  
To grant our lives wholeness, forgiveness of sin.  
With hearts freed from guilt, we know true peace within.

God’s Spirit at work in our lives we confess;  
With power and truth the church now he does bless.  
As saints, God’s forgiven, one day we shall then  
Be living in glory forever. Amen.

**GATHERING OF THE OFFERINGS**

**+ EMPOWER +**

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:**

*(Prayer response – P: Lord, in your mercy, C: Hear our prayer.)*

**P:** Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C: Our Father, Lord on heav’n’s high throne  
Most holy be your name.**

**Your kingdom come. Your will be done**

**On earth – in heav’n the same.**

**Give us this day the food we need;**

**Forgiven may we be;**

**Into temptation do not lead;**

**From evil set us free.**

**Yours is the kingdom; unto You**

**In grateful love we bow;**

**And Yours the power; Lord, let us view**

**Your mighty presence now.**

**The glory Yours; Your praise be sung**

**By angel hosts and men  
In ev'ry land, by ev'ry tongue.  
Forevermore! Amen.**

**PREFACE TO HOLY COMMUNION:**

**L:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** **And also with you.**

**L:** Lift up your hearts.

**C:** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**L:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C:** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

**PROPER PREFACE:**

**L:** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, for the countless blessings You have given to us and all creation. This day we rejoice with the heavenly host as they proclaim the glad tidings of great joy, knowing that the Word has become flesh and made His dwelling among us. Your holy Child, who entered our world that first Christmas, comes unto us again this day in His body and blood as we are drawn unto Your holy presence. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

**SANCTUS:**

**Sing holy, holy, holy Lord, The God of Sabaoth adored.**

**Hosanna sing to Him who came With God's own power and with His name.**

**Hosanna sing in highest strain Now and forevermore. Amen.**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND BENEDICTION**

**CLOSING HYMN: "Joy to the World" – Blue Hymnal #53**

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive its 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.**

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

**+ + +**

**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:**

**Lay Minister:** Bob Nehring

**Instrumental Quartet:** Will Hugo & Andrew Wagner, trumpets; Sydney Naber,  
tenor saxophone; Ted Landwehr, trombone

**Ushers:** Davis Team

**Acolyte:** Parker Kyseth

**Lector:** Marilyn Kirk