

**THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD**  
**CHRISTMAS EVE**  
DECEMBER 24, 2020 7:00 P.M. SERVICE

**Hymn - 42: 1,2,5 - "Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising"**

Dear people of God, in this Christmas season, it is our joy and delight to hear again the message of the angels and, in heart and mind, to go to Bethlehem and see this thing which has happened, which the Lord has made known to us: the Christ child lying in a manger.

Let us read and learn in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the first days after our fall into sin to the glorious redemption brought to us by this holy child.

But first let us pray for people all over the world and for believers in every land who gather on this holy night to worship and give thanks for the Savior of the nations. Let us pray:

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**Genesis 3:8-15**

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, 'Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.'"

**HYMN - 55:1-3 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"**

**Isaiah 11:1-9**

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD—and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

**HYMN - 47:1,2,4 "Behold a Branch is Growing"**

**Luke 1:26-35,38**

In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end." "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

**HYMN - 50:1-2 "Once in Royal David's City"**

**Luke 2:1-7**

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 his 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 room for them in the inn.

### **HYMN - 68 “Away in a Manger”**

#### **Luke 2:8-20**

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 of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ 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, 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. 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.

### **CANDLE LIGHT HYMN - 60 “Silent Night! Holy Night”**

#### **BLESSING**

OFFERING - *Offerings may be placed in the plate as you leave the sanctuary.*



#### **Serving today:**

**Organist:** Jane Vacek

**Altar Guild:** Betty Henke & Donna Telecky **Elder:** Jason Horrmann

**Video:** Mike Heine

**Ushers:** Kori Leske, Jay Mackedanz, Steve Wendorff, Mike Yerks, Craig Kohls, Carl Horrmann, Tom Schlueter, Lucas Plamann

**Pre-School/Kindergarten:**

Asher Krajsa

Lily Mackedanz

Easton Podratz

Lane Rasmussen

Tyson Schmeling

Gavin Wersal

***Teachers:*** Eileen Prieve and Amanda Krajsa

**Grades 1-3**

Cody Black

Kate Black

Stella Clark

Alex DeVries

Joseph DeVries

Bennet Kohls

Aubree Mackedanz

Megan Plamann

Brynlie Podratz

Ellie Podratz

Kyle Rasmussen

***Teacher:*** Deb Plamann

**Grades 4-8**

Lily DeVries

Samuel DeVries

Aaden Gosse

Scarlet Heldt

Emma Hoff

Natalie Hoff

Avery Kohls

Madison Plamann

Makenna Plamann

Amanda Tews

***Teacher:*** Barb DeVries