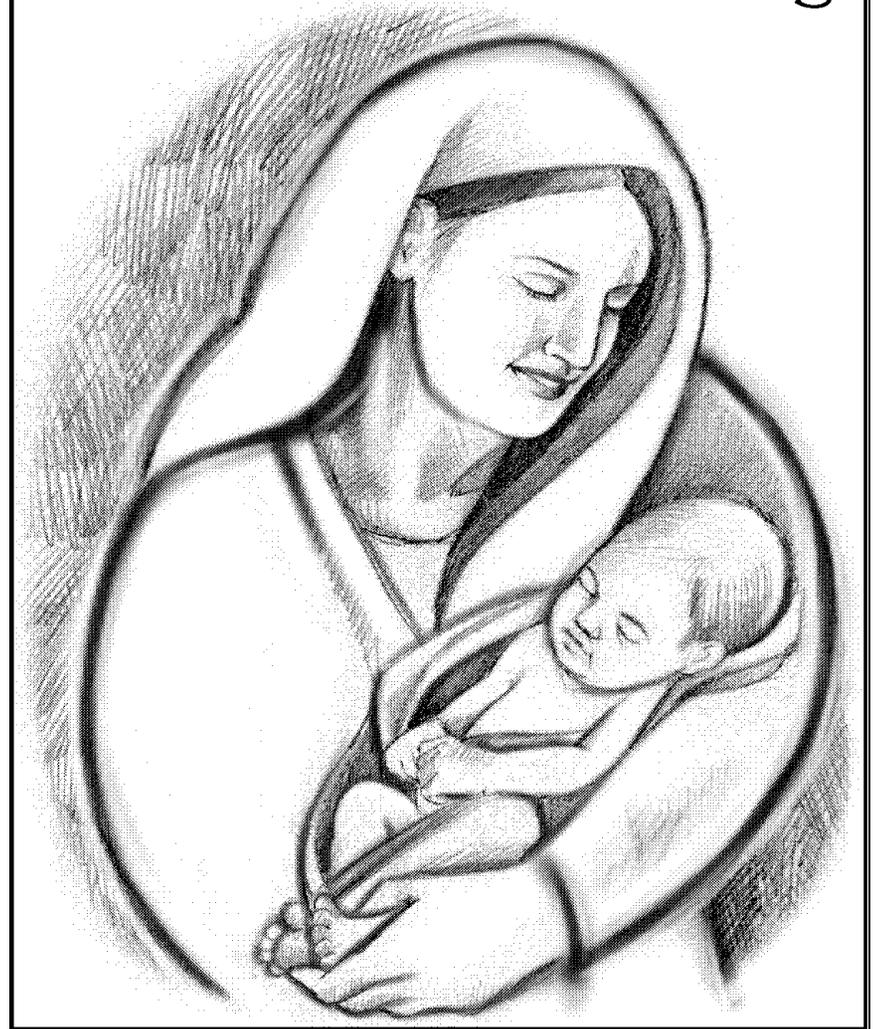


Christ the Newborn King



*St. Mark Lutheran Church
December 25, 2015*

The Festival of the Nativity of Our Lord

HYMN: CW 55

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Please stand.

INVOCATION

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

CHRISTMAS LITANY

M: Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord;
Let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Psalm 95:1

C: **O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory above the heavens. Psalm 8:1**

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. Psalm 136

C: **Great is our Lord and mighty in power;
his understanding has no limit. Psalm 147:5**

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 it is far away. Isaiah 59:2,9

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 iniquities. Is. 59:12**

CHRISTMAS

707

Peace Came to Earth



1 Peace came to earth at last that cho - sen night
2 And who could be the same for hav - ing held
3 You show the Fa - ther none has ev - er seen,
4 How else could I have known you, O my God!



When an - gels clove the sky with song and light And
The in - fant in their arms and lat - er felt The
In flesh and blood you bore our griefs and pain, In
How else could I have loved you, O my God! How



God em - bod - ied love and sheathed his might— Who could but
wound-ed hands and side, all doubts dis - pelled— Who could but
bread and wine you vis - it us a - gain— Who could but
else could I em - brace you, O my God! Who could but



gasp: Im - man - u - el! Who could but sing: Im - man - u - el!
sigh: Im - man - u - el! Who could but shout: Im - man - u - el!
see: Im - man - u - el! Who could but thrill: Im - man - u - el!
pray: Im - man - u - el! Who could but praise: Im - man - u - el!

The picturesque language of this Jaroslav Vajda hymn vividly illustrates the weighty significance of God becoming man in Christ.

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008 © 1984 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
Tune: PEACE CAME TO EARTH (10 10 10 88) Richard Jeffrey, b. 1952 © 2000 Birnamwood Publications (ASCAP),
a division of MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

THANKSGIVING

M: Let us pray.

C: **In peace, Lord, you let your servant
now depart according to your word.
For my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared for every people,
a light to lighten the Gentiles
and the glory of your people Israel. Amen.**

THE BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace. Amen.

HYMN: CW 58

See in Yonder Manger Low

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. Psalm 103:8-10

C: **From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets,
the name of the Lord is to be praised. Psalm 113:3**

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." Jeremiah 23:5,6

C: **Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him. Matthew 3:3**

M: 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. Luke 2:10,11

C: **Let the name of the Lord be praised, both now and forevermore.
Alleluia! Psalm 113:2**

Gloria in Excelsis

Brief organ introduction precedes the song.

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!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

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

Please be seated.

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 52:7-10

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.

M: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Glory to God in the highest!**

HYMN: CW 62

Joy to the World

SECOND LESSON

Hebrews 1:1-9

¹In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. ³The 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

HYMN

Now Sing We, Now Rejoice

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!

Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'nly ground?
Where the angels singing With all his saints unite,
Sweetest praises bringing In heav'nly joy and light.
Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my (+) body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my (+) blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **Amen.**

Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

HYMN: CW 707 (bulletin pg. 11) **Peace Came to Earth**

HYMN: CW 45 **Oh, Rejoice, All Christians Loudly**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

- M:** O Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray...
- 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.**

THE SACRAMENT

- M:** The Lord be with you.
- C:** **And with you, his servant.**
- M:** O come, let us lift our hearts unto the Lord.
- C:** **With hearts uplifted, thanks to him we render:
With joy we come before him,
In gratefulness implore him,
With thankful hearts adore him, forevermore.**
- M:** Thanks and praise to you, Father, almighty Creator, merciful Lord. You are the God of promise and fulfillment. From ancient times your people waited for the day of your coming, fulfilled at last when the time had fully come and you sent your Son Jesus as the Christ. Having seen his glory, now we wait for another day of fulfillment when he will come again as Judge and King. So with the church on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

of the Majesty in heaven. ⁴So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs. ⁵For 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"? ⁶And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." ⁷In speaking of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, his servants flames of fire." ⁸But about the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever, and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom. ⁹You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy."

- M:** This is the Word of the Lord.
C: **Glory to God in the highest!**

HYMN: CW 38 (vs. 1-4) **From Heaven Above to Earth I Come**

SERMON

John 1:1-14

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴In him was life, and that life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. ⁶There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. ⁸He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. ⁹The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹²Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God — ¹³children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. ¹⁴The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

CONFESSION OF FAITH:

Excerpts from the Athanasian Creed

It is necessary for eternal salvation truly to believe
that our Lord Jesus Christ also took on human flesh.

Now this is the true Christian faith.

We believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son,
is both God and man.

He is God, eternally begotten from the nature of the Father, and he is
man, born in time
from the nature of his mother, fully God, fully man, with rational soul
and human flesh.

equal to the Father as to his deity, less than the Father as to his hu-
manity;

and though he is both God and man, Christ is not two persons, but
one,

one, not by changing the deity into flesh, but by taking the human-
ity into God;

one, indeed, not by mixture of the natures, but by unity in one person;
for just as the rational soul and flesh are one human being,
so God and man are one Christ.

He suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose the third day
from the dead.

He ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of God the Fa-
ther almighty,

and from there will come to judge the living and the dead.

This is the true Christian faith.

OFFERING: *Moved by God's love in Christ, we offer him our first and best gifts,
purely out of thanks to him. As the offering is collected, please sign the friendship
register and share it with others in your pew.*

Please stand.

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.

C: **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.

C: **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 for-
giveness 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 this holiday presents
to tell others of what we have seen and heard concerning the
child.

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

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

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

C: **Glory to God in the highest! Amen.**