

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

CHRISTMAS DAY

Celebrating the Gift of Our Savior

December 25, 2021

AS WE GATHER

When God examines our world He sees a creation filled with need. It is no longer the perfect and balanced earth He created. The original intention of life for us and all creation has been marred by sin. God's gracious answer is the Christ child! He is the manifestation of God's love for humankind; Christ is the one needful gift for all people, the all sufficient grace that covers our sins.

BELL CALL TO WORSHIP

HYMN

"Angels From the Realms of Glory"

#367 vs 1-3

OPENING RESPONSES, CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given.

C: And the government will be upon His shoulders.

P: And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

C: Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

P: Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end.

C: He will reign on David's throne and over His kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.

P: The zeal of the Lord almighty will accomplish this.

C: To God be glory and praise, both now and evermore. Amen.

P: Sisters and brothers in Christ:.....

(Silence to Examine our Hearts)

P: O almighty God, merciful Father,

C: I, a poor sinner, plead guilty before God of all sins. I have lived as if God did not matter and as if I mattered most. My Lord's name I have not honored as I should; my worship and prayers have faltered. I have not allowed His love to rule in my heart, and so my love for others has failed. There are those whom I have hurt, and those whom I have failed to help. My thoughts and desires have been soiled with sin. For all this, I am truly sorry, and I ask for your grace. Amen

P: Do you believe that the forgiveness I speak is indeed God's forgiveness?

C: Yes.

P: Let it be done for you as you believe....and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: This Child whose birth we celebrate today came among us to live perfectly in our place, to give His life in payment for our sins, to rise from the grave for our justification, and to give us new life. In his name and at His command, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C:Amen!

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Angels From the Realms of Glory"

#367 vs 4,5

PRAYER OF THE DAY

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 52:7-10 (ESV)

The LORD's messenger brings good news of salvation to the whole world.

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." The voice of your watchmen--they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING

Hebrews 1:1-6 (ESV)

Jesus speaks the Word of God to us with a clarity that makes him superior to all the prophets.

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"?

Or again, "I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son"? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL READING

John 1:1-14 (ESV)

The eternal Word of God took on a human nature in order to save the whole human race.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St John the first chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

NICENE CREED

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Jon Dunbar

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

#374

SERMON

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

"We Praise You, O God"

#785 (vs. 1)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

+SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT+

PREFACE

SANCTUS (tune: *Holy, Holy, Holy*)

- Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Day and night we join to praise
Your love and majesty.
You alone are holy, worthy and righteous.
God in three persons! Blessed Trinity!*
- Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
We rejoice to join the hymns
of earth and sky and sea.
Generations praise you, with saints and angels.
Holy and bless'd through all eternity!*

LORD'S PRAYER

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PEACE OF THE LORD

AGNUS DEI (tune: *My Faith Looks Up to Thee*)

*Oh, Lamb of God we pray
Take all our sins away
Our faith increase
Have mercy on us all
Strengthen us when we fall
Answer our fervent call
And grant us peace.*

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

#383 "A Great and Mighty Wonder"

#376 "Once in Royal David's City"

#380 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

BENEDICAMUS & BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN

"Now Sing We, Now Rejoice"

#386

ANNOUNCEMENT

~ Poinsettia plants given in love~

All of Our Loved Ones given by Loyd & Marlene Erks

Son, Philip Gudgel given by Pastor & Bonnie Gudgel

Gary Sullivan, Brad Ehlers, Norma & Clyde Ehlers given by Sue Sullivan

Ethan Bulgrin, Edgar & Esther Bulgrin, Walter & Evelyn Luebbe, Marlowe Luebbe given by Jim & Pauline Bulgrin

Happy Birthday Jesus! given by Tim & Colleen Classen

Memory of Hannaman and Hiedorn Families given by Caroline Heidorn

Donald Gruber given by Florence, Gale & Carol, Wayne & Denise Gruber

Bennet Samuel Morris, Gerald & Carol Niebling, Paul & Lois Brauer given by Bob & Kathy Brauer

Dustin Pane given by Mike & Jo Franks

Richard and Kenneth Rieger given by LaDean Rieger

Linda Bennett, Brian Utter given by OJ, Jami, Caleb, Noah, Ascha & Elijah Utter

Rebecca Renner-Grandma of Josephine & Clinton Turnbull given by Stacie Turnbull

All of our Loved Ones given by Adam, Kellen, Hesston & Hallie Hohman

Family, Friends, Karen's Sister and Karen's Dad given by Randy and Karen Dvorak

Aloyce & Pam Volzke given by Brian, Allyson, Cissanie, Derekka, Drayden, Channley & Amaurra Krohe

Paul Heidorn given by Tim and Jocelyn Heidorn

The Volzke families who have gone before us. Hollis & Justin Volzke given by Larry and Jayne Griffiths

Eugene Wiese given by Ashtynn, Blake and Beckham Redfield, Dax and baby Kapple

Eugene Wiese given by Susan Wiese, Kiley & Tyler Kapple, Abby & Andrew Redfield, Connor & Conor Wiese, and Noah Wiese

All of our Loved Ones given by Ewald & Edith Fehlhafer

Loved Ones already celebrating Christmas in Heaven given by Verna Neujahr

Ethan Bulgrin given by Kurt, Liz, Molly, Owen and Emmett Bulgrin