

“This will be a sign for you:
you will find a child
wrapped in bands of cloth
and lying in a manger.”



Luke 2:12, NRSV

Luther Memorial Church & School

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As We Gather

Who is it that we receive in the manger of our heart this day? Not just a cute and cuddly baby! No, that lowliness of form is designed to make it possible for us to receive Light brighter than the sun, the Creator of all that is, the Eternal God, the Child who makes us God's children. As the manger and the Virgin's arms held Him whom the heaven of heavens cannot contain, so we too recognize and receive Him who has come in human flesh and blood to dwell in us through the Word and sacrament. It is in the Word and sacrament that we recognize Him and receive Him, the One who receives us.

✠ Preparation for Worship ✠

Hymn

WS 708 – Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Dialogue of Praise

P Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise 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.**

P Give thanks to the Lord of lords, to him who alone does great wonders, who by understanding made the heavens, who spread out the earth above the waters, who made the great lights – the sun to rule over the day, the moon and stars to rule over the night

C **Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure.**

P But our iniquities have made a separation between us and our God, and our sins have hidden his face from us so that he does not hear. we hope for light, and behold, darkness, and for brightness, but we walk in gloom. We look for salvation, but it is far from us.

C **For our transgressions are multiplied before you, and our sins testify against us; for our transgressions are with us, and we know our iniquities:**

- P** The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.
- C** **From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the LORD is to be praised!**
- P** Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: “The LORD is our righteousness.”
- C** **Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.**
- P** Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.
- C** **Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth and forevermore!**



*Thanks be unto God
for his unspeakable gift.*

2 Corinthians 9:15, KJV

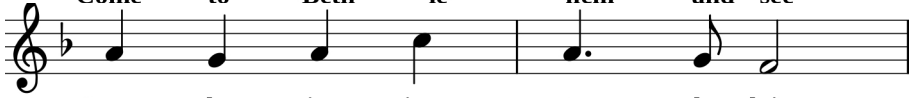
✠ The Service of the Word ✠

Hymn of Praise

LSB 368 – Angels We Have Heard on High



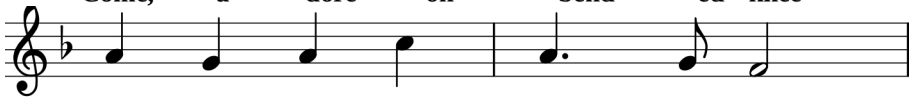
An - gels we have heard on high,
 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee?
 Come to Beth - le - hem and see



Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 Him whose birth the an - gels sing;



And the moun - tains in re - ply,
 What the glad - some tid - ings be
 Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee



Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 Christ the Lord the new - born King.



Glo - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - -



- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray...

... who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Micah 5:2-5a

² But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. ³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴ And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. ⁵ And he shall be their peace.

Psalms of the Day

Psalms 96

P Oh sing to the LORD a new song;

C sing to the LORD, all the earth!

P Sing to the LORD, bless his name;

C tell of his salvation from day to day.

P Declare his glory among the nations,

C his marvelous works among all the peoples!

P For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;

C he is to be feared above all gods.

P For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols,

C but the LORD made the heavens.

P Splendor and majesty are before him;

C strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

P Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples,

C ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!

P Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;

C bring an offering, and come into his courts!

P Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness;

C tremble before him, all the earth!

P Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns! Yes, the world is established;

C it shall never be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity."

- P** Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
- C** **let the sea roar, and all that fills it;**
- P** let the field exult, and everything in it!
- C** **Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy**
- P** before the LORD, for he comes, for he comes to judge the earth.
- C** **He will judge the world in righteousness, and the peoples in his faithfulness.**

Epistle Reading

Titus 2:11-14

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹² training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³ waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

Alleluia

- P** Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it.

Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le - lu-ia! Al-le-lu - ia! These words are
 writ - ten that we may believe that Je-sus is the Christ, the
 Son of God. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le - lu-ia! Al-le-lu - ia!

Confession of Faith

Luther's Explanation to the Second Article

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord.

He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death.

All this He did that I should be His own, and live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He has risen from death and lives and rules eternally.

This is most certainly true.

Hymn

WS 712 – What Child Is This

Sermon Text

Luke 2:1-20

¹ In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. ⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!” ¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷ And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸ And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.



The Sign in the Manger

Offertory



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir-it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Your pres - ence. Take not Your Ho - ly
Spir-it from me. Restore to me the joy of Your sal -
va - tion. Up - hold with Your Spir - it free.

Hymn

TLH 92 – Now Sing We, Now Rejoice

General Prayer

The 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.



Benediction

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C Amen.

Hymn

TLH 87 – Joy to the World

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WS 708 – Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful

1 Oh, come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant, Oh,
 2 God of God, Light of Light,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion;
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;

come ye, oh, come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 Born of a vir - gin, to earth He comes,
 Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove.
 Je - sus, to Thee be all glo - ry giv'n.

Come and be - hold Him, Born the King of an - gels.
 Ve - ry God, Be - got - ten, not cre - a - ted.
 Glo - ry to God, In the high - est.
 Word of the Fa - ther, Now in flesh ap - pear - ing.

Refrain

Oh, come, let us a - dore Him, Oh, come, let us a - dore Him,

Oh, come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is written in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The music ends with a double bar line.

WS 712 – What Child Is This

1 What child is this who, laid to rest, On Mar-y's lap is
 2 Why lies He in such mean es - tate Where ox - en now are
 3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to

sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet With an - thems sweet While
 feed - ing? Good Chris - tians, fear; For sin - ners here The
 own Him. The King of kings Sal - va - tion brings; Let

shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is
 si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall
 lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the

Christ the King, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing.
 pierce Him through; The cross He'll bear for me, for you.
 song on high; The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by.



Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the Son of Mar - y!
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the Son of Mar - y!
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the Son of Mar - y!



TLH 92 – Now Sing We, Now Rejoice

Luke 2: 1-14

6. 6. 6. 6. 6. 5. 5.

In dulci iubilo

Author unknown, c. 1300

Tr., Arthur T. Russel, 1851, alt.

In dulci iubilo

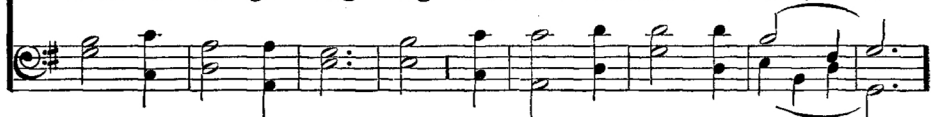
German melody, 14th century



| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 Now sing we, now re - joice, | Now raise to heav'n our voice; |
| 2 Come from on high to me; | I can - not rise to Thee. |
| 3 Now thro' His Son doth shine | The Fa - ther's grace di - vine. |
| 4 Oh, where shall joy be found? | Where but on heav'n - ly ground? |



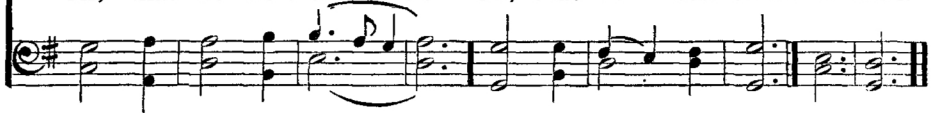
He from whom joy stream - eth Poor in a man - ger lies;
 Cheer my wea - ried spir - it, O pure and ho - ly Child; . . .
 Death o'er us had reign - ed Thro' sin and van - i - ty;
 Where the an - gels sing - ing With all His saints u - nite,



Not so bright - ly beam - eth The sun in yon - der skies. . . .
 Thro' Thy grace and mer - it, Blest Je - sus, Lord most mild, . . .
 He for us ob - tain - ed E - ter - nal joy or high. . . .
 Sweet - est prais - es bring - ing In heav'n - ly joy and light. . . .



Thou my Sav - ior art! Thou my Sav - ior art!
 Draw me un - to Thee! . . . Draw me un - to Thee!
 May we praise Him there! . . . May we praise Him there!
 Oh, that we were there! . . . Oh, that we were there! A - men.



TLH 87 – Joy to the World

C. M.

Luke 2: 10; Ps. 98
Isaac Watts, 1719

Antioch
Georg F. Händel, 1742, arr.

Congregation and Choir

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re-
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in-
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the

Choir only

ceive her King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him
songs em - ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; He comes to make His bless - ings
na - tions prove The glo - ries of His right - eous-

room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
plains, Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His

Congregation and Choir

sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love. A - men.

✝ Announcements ✝

Welcome to all of our guests and visitors this morning in our Savior's name. We are glad that you have come to worship with us this morning, and hope that you will come back and join us again. It is our prayer that your faith will be strengthened by the preaching of our Lord's pure Word and by the psalms and hymns that our Scripture-based liturgy offers. If you have any questions about our church or are interested in learning more about the Scriptures, please ask Pastor Sauers.

Upcoming Schedule – Online Calendar @ FDLlutheran.com/calendar

| | | |
|-------------|----------|--|
| December 25 | 10:00 am | Christmas Day Worship Service |
| December 27 | 6:30 pm | Elders |
| December 31 | 6:00 pm | New Year's Eve Worship Service |
| January 1 | 10:00 am | New Year's Day Worship Service w/ Holy Communion |
| January 3 | 6:30 pm | School Committee |
| January 6 | 6:30 pm | Fellowship Gathering – Bowling |
| January 8 | 9:00 am | Sunday School/Bible Class |
| | 10:00 am | Worship Service |
| | 11:00 am | Fellowship Hour – Welcome for Ms. Gamble |

2023 CLC Mission Helper Trip: Applications are being accepted for the 2023 Mission Helper Trip to Nepal. Space is limited for this trip so please apply early. Find more information at: <https://mht.lutheranmissions.org/>

Kinship: The Church of the Lutheran Confession - India (CLCI) plans to hold a large memorial service to thank the Lord of the Church for the work and ministry of Pastor VS Benjamin, the founder of the CLCI who recently was called home to heaven. The CLCI requested financial assistance for outstanding hospital and funeral expenses, as well as for costs associated with a memorial service at which they expect 5,000 attendees. The CLC Board of Missions has sent funds from Kinship to help with these expenses. As a result, Kinship is in need of replenishment. Please consider this opportunity for us to express our gratitude to the Lord for Pastor Benjamin's service and for the blessing of Christian fellowship with the CLCI through offerings designated to Kinship.

ILC Building Project: The ILC Building Committee has produced promotional materials for the new ILC Fieldhouse and Fine Arts Center project, which was approved by the 2022 CLC Convention. The Building Committee presentation and brochure are available in our narthex. The PDF

presentation can be seen at www.tinyurl.com/ilcbp-pres. An impressive video "walk-through" of the future facilities can be seen at www.tinyurl.com/ilcbp-walkthru. Additional publicity materials will follow, including an online presence and progress reports. Contributions toward this project should be identified as "ILC Building Project."

CLC Call News: Pastor Tim Daub of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Hecla, SD, has returned the dual call to serve Redemption Lutheran, Lynnwood, WA and Ascension Lutheran, Tacoma, WA.

| Fruits of Faith – December 14 & 18 | | Attendance: 12/14 – 32 12/18 – 79 | |
|---|-----------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| Luther Memorial Church | | Church of the Lutheran Confession | |
| Budgetary (Regular Expenses) | | Budgetary (Regular Expenses) | |
| \$1,288.01 | LM General Budget | \$185.00 | CLC General Budget |
| \$2,923.08 | Weekly Need | \$384.62 | Weekly Need |
| -\$1,635.07 | -Under / +Over | -\$199.62 | -Under / +Over |
| \$130,697.62 | Year to Date Offerings | \$8,015.00 | Fiscal Year to Date Offerings |
| \$149,077.08 | Year to Date Need | \$9,615.50 | Fiscal Year to Date Need |
| -\$18,379.46 | Year to Date (+/-) | -\$1,600.50 | Fiscal Year to Date (+/-) |
| Non-Budgetary (Unplanned Expenses) | | Non-Budgetary (Unplanned Expenses) | |
| | LM School | | ILC Student Aid Fund |
| | LM Student Aid Fund | | ILC Building Fund |
| | LM Debt Retirement | | ILC Improvement Fund |
| | LM M & I | \$50.00 | Mission Development (MDF) |
| | LM Local Missions/ Outreach | \$155.00 | Project Kinship/Orphanage |
| \$20.00 | LM Building Fund | | Fall Mission Festival |
| \$25.00 | LM Ladies Orphan Fund | | Miscellaneous |

