

*HYMN - "Joy To The World"

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.

*DISMISSAL

Leader: Go in peace. Share the joy of Christ!

All: Thanks be to God!



REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Rev. Heidi Link – Pastor

Brian Conover - Music Director

CHRISTMAS EVE 2024

ENTRANCE RITE

P In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with
God, and the Word was God.

C **He was in the beginning with God.**

P All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.

C **What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

P The light shines in the darkness,

C **and the darkness did not overcome it.**

P And the Word became flesh and lived among us.

C **Jesus has come into our world!**

P Tonight is born the light which shines in the darkness.

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

WE OFFER OUR PRAISE

*HYMN - "Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful"

Oh, come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant!

Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;

Come and behold him. Born the king of angels;

Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,

Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

The highest, most holy, Light of light eternal,

Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;

Son of the Father. Now in flesh appearing!

Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,

Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,

Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God. In the highest:

Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,

Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

***THE PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray: Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

LESSONS AND CAROLS

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 9:2-7

HYMN - "It Came Upon The Midnight Clear

**It Came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold.
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.**

**Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats, o'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains, they bend on hov'ring wing,
And ever o'er its babel sounds, the blessed angels sing.**

SECOND LESSON Titus 2:11-14

HYMN - "What Child Is This"

**What child is this who laid to rest on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!**

**Why lies he in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!**

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born the babe, the son of Mary.**

***LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

***THE WORD – John 1:1-14**

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

***CANDLELIGHT HYMN - "Silent Night, Holy Night"**

**Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright.
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior is born! Christ, the Savior is born!**

**Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light.
Radiant beams from your holy face, With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.**

***BLESSING**

And now a blessing: God the Creator who delights in you, Jesus the Savior who is born for you, and the lifegiving Spirit who shines on you, ✠ bless you and keep you in hope and peace. **Amen.**

***EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER/WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

P: We declare we are Christmas people and as Jesus was born in Bethlehem, we affirm His birth in us.

C: We come to worship and bow down. We come to kneel and give thanks. We come to worship Jesus.

P: In this family meal, we celebrate the gift of God in Christ Jesus.

C: In the sharing of the bread and wine we find forgiveness of sin and God's resurrection presence.

P: God gives us this gift to share.

C: We come to eat and drink, and to be changed.

(The worship leader continues with the Words of Institution.)

P: And now, let us affirm:

C: Christ was promised. Christ was born. Christ will come again. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus, come.

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

(BAPTIZED CHRISTIANS who believe that the risen Christ is present in the Eucharist to forgive sin and renew life are invited to share at your pew with a pre-filled communion packet, or at the altar. If there are other special needs, please speak to an usher.)

SPECIAL MUSIC

***COMMUNION BLESSING**

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray: God of wonder, in Jesus we behold the light of the world come near. As you have come among us now, send us out in joy, hastening to share the good news of your love. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit dwelling among us now and forever.
Amen.

THIRD LESSON Luke 2:1-20

HYMN - "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth, the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

**For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above.
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth!**

**How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming; But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him still the dear Christ enters in.**

SERMON

HYMN - "Angels We Have Heard on High"

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plain,
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 heav'nly 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.**

***NICENE CREED**

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

***PRAYERS**

As heaven and earth rejoice, let us pray for the needs of the church and all the world.

A brief silence.

Your great compassion, O God, has increased our joy. Give us gratitude each day for your light and the bread of life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Because of your generosity, the trees clap their hands, the deep waters teem with varied creatures, and the stars burn with distant fire. Make us grateful for all that you call us to nurture and protect. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Because you know our need for order, you give us nations, cities, and neighborhoods. Help us to welcome the expertise of leaders, to uphold their good direction, and to oppose what harms the vulnerable. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Because you are a God of healing and renewal, you make whole what is broken. We beg your mercy on all who find this time of year a burden. Strengthen the grieving and comfort those who struggle with addictions. We pray especially for those we name aloud or silently (*a brief silence*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

By the power of the Holy Spirit, you have given us to each other to encourage and challenge. Give us hearts that remember your Christmas gifts beyond this night. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for those before us who witnessed to your presence, taught us to pray, and strengthened us in the truth (*especially*), and all with whom we share the feast of eternal life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERING / SPECIAL MUSIC

***OFFERING SONG** - "Hark the Herald Angels"

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

**Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, incarnate deity,
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!
"Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"**

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray: Holy God, your beauty shines forth from the manger and your love flows from the cross. As you gather us around these signs of your love come among us, warm us to extend your care among the hungry and all in need. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**