

# **OUR WORSHIP TODAY December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017      Christmas Eve Morning Service**

## **GATHERING AND MEDITATION TIME**

*Pre-Service Music, Welcome, and Announcements*

## **CONFESSIONAL PRAYER**

Pastor: We celebrate the season of Your birth with joy, hope, love, and peace in our hearts. We realize the difficulties that we face, and the poor job we have done with our response Your Word. For that, dear Lord, we make our confession to you this day.

**Most merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by the things we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

## **ABSOLUTION**

Pastor:

As a result of the love of God, the work of Jesus, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, I, as a called and ordained servant of The Word, and by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, forgive you all your sins in the name of the, Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. We celebrate our Christmas joy of our coming salvation in His Holy Name. **Amen.**

**ENTRANCE HYMN:** #98 Angels from the Realms of Glory, vs 1,2,3

**THE PRAYER OF THE DAY** (Unison):

**As we celebrate the joy of the birth of our Savior, let us take a moment and reflect on all of the many blessings we receive each and every day from our joy in our Lord. Amen.**

**Alleluia. May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our hearts, so that we may know the hope to which God has called us. Alleluia.**

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: ISAIAH 9:2-7**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

**PSALM - Psalm (ESV) (Recited whole verse by whole verse, congregation in BOLD)**

I Will Sing of the Steadfast Love of the Lord

A Maskil of Ethan the Ezrahite. I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever; with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.

**For I said, “Steadfast love will be built up forever; in the heavens you will establish your faithfulness.”**

You have said, “I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant:

**‘I will establish your offspring forever, and build your throne for all generations.’”**

Let the heavens praise your wonders, O LORD, your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!

**Of old you spoke in a vision to your godly one, and said: “I have granted help to one who is mighty; I have exalted one chosen from the people.**

I have found David, my servant; with my holy oil I have anointed him, so that my hand shall be established with him; my arm also shall strengthen him.

**The enemy shall not outwit him; the wicked shall not humble him.**

I will crush his foes before him and strike down those who hate him.

**My faithfulness and my steadfast love shall be with him, and in my name shall his horn be exalted.**

I will set his hand on the sea and his right hand on the rivers.

**He shall cry to me, ‘You are my Father, my God, and the Rock of my salvation.’**

And I will make him the firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth.

**My steadfast love I will keep for him forever, and my covenant will stand firm for him. I will establish his offspring forever and his throne as the days of the heavens.**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and forever shall be, world without end. Amen**

**THE EPISTLE LESSON: TITUS 2:11-14 (ESV)**

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 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.

## **THE HOLY GOSPEL: MATTHEW 1:18-25 (ESV)**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 1<sup>st</sup> Chapter.

### **Glory to you Oh Lord.**

#### **The Birth of Jesus Christ**

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.

And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.

But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).

When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

### **Praise to you Oh Christ.**

**SERMON**    *"A Light to Lighten the Gentiles"*    **Pastor Steve Dygert**

**SERMON HYMN:** #78 Hark the Glad Sound the Savior Comes

### **OUR CONFESSION OF FAITH: The Nicene Creed (C)**

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; [God of God], Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made. "Who, for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;

He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

"And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father [and

the Son]; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen."

**THE OFFERING:**

*After the consecration of the Offering, we will sing the Doxology.*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, Praise him, all creatures here below, Praise him above, Ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING:**

**PRAYERS OF PRAISE,** Let us Pray: *(Prayer Response)* Lord in your Mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER; WORDS OF INSTITUTION; PREPARATION OF THE TABLE; THE DISTRIBUTION; THE COMMUNION DISMISSAL BLESSING**

**SENDING HYMN: #90 O Come, All Ye Faithful, vs 1,5,6**

**THE BENEDICTION & THE DISMISSAL**

P. Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C. **Thanks be to God**

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**WELCOME TO OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN!** Thank you for joining us as we worship our Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! We are happy you are here! As a kindness to one another, ***please place your cell phones on mute*** for the time we are together in worship. If you are a visitor, let us know you are here!

**CHRISTMAS EVE DAY AND EVENING.** Christmas Eve is TODAY. We will be having our regular worship at 10 am Sunday morning, and our Christmas Eve Tenebrae service at 6 pm.

**Bible Study.** Bible Study after church will resume on January 7<sup>th</sup>. We will also begin our study of the Book of James on Wednesdays starting January 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10 am at the church. Y'all are invited and please bring your friends!

**RE-CREATION PERFORMANCE:** Remember our New Years gift to our community of our sponsorship of the Gospel group Re-Creation, who will be performing at our church on Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. There is no charge for the event, but because of fire regulations, we are limited to only 89 seats at the performance. Let us know as soon as possible how many tickets you will need for your family and friends so we can plan!

**WE WELCOME ALL OF OUR VISITORS!:** Welcome to our family today! We are so happy you chose to visit us today. If you are looking for a church home, feel free to call Pastor Steve and let

us introduce ourselves to you. God Bless you and welcome to His church!

**IN OUR PRAYERS:** Please use a prayer request card if you have a specific prayer request this morning. It is our joy and our privilege to share in these petitions to Almighty God. If you have them ready before the service, hand them to Pastor when you have them completed, otherwise give them to the ushers at the time the offering is collected.

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