

## The Nativity of our Lord, Christmas Day

---



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

The images of what the stable must have looked like have grown their own following over the years. The manger, that lunchholder for the farm animals, is often stylized with a variety of fancy styles made out of wood and filled with hay.

The reality might look more like this manger from a valley outside of Jerusalem. Little comfort other than what scant grain they might toss inside of the stone to feed the critters with what obviously was a tiny amount. Because of the abundance of stone everywhere, there's a good chance that the original manger looked a lot like what is pictured.

No matter what it looked like, the manger represents the first bed of our Lord Jesus as He entered the world. A world which was full of difficulties. A hard bed, to be sure. Yet in the fullness of time, God chose to send His son, born of a Virgin, to be the Savior of mankind. One might think that these were rather harsh beginnings for the King of Kings to be born into!

We can't recreate the barnyard outside of the Inn with any degree of certainty, but we are certain that THIS child was born with a purpose. He would grow into adulthood with one purpose to accomplish. He was born to die. On His shoulders, the weight of the sin of all man would come to rest.

So this day, we thank God for the gift of His Son Jesus, as well as the gift which would be accomplished on the hill known as Golgotha. Those who walk by faith know the end of the story, so today is an awesome day. God said yes to all of the promises made over the entire Old Testament.

A Savior was born in Bethlehem, a Savior, Christ the Lord!

Merry Christmas to you all!

Pastor Jonathon Kosec

## **OUR WORSHIP TODAY**

### **GATHERING AND MEDITATION TIME**

Pre-Service Music

Welcome and Announcements

### **CONFESSIONAL PRAYER**

As we celebrate this Christmas season, we are reminded of the many gifts we have exchanged with each other, as well as the greatest gift God that you have shared with us, the gift of Jesus our Savior. Even with this great gift, we often forget and even worse neglect our relationship to God, lose respect for His Word, and fail to carry out our responsibilities as we live out our daily lives. For this, we pause to offer our confession 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: Almighty God, in His mercy, has given His Son to die for us, and for His sake, and by His promise, forgives us all our sin. Therefore on His behalf, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Go and sin no more, that the rest of your life might be pure and holy and modeled after our Lord Jesus in all we say and all we do, we pray in His Holy Name, Amen.

### **HYMN 90     "O Come, All Ye Faithful"     1,3,5**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY (Unison): **Almighty God, you gave us your only Son to take on our human nature and to illumine the world with your light. By your grace adopt us as your children and enlighten us with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**Alleluia. I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. Alleluia.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC: "DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR?"**

**Dean Carson**

**FIRST LESSON : Isaiah 52:7-10**

**New Living Translation (NLT)**

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of the messenger who brings good news, the good news of peace and salvation, the news that the God of Israel reigns!

The watchmen shout and sing with joy, for before their very eyes they see the Lord returning to Jerusalem. Let the ruins of Jerusalem break into joyful song, for the Lord has comforted his people.

He has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has demonstrated his holy power before the eyes of all the nations. All the ends of the earth will see the victory of our God.

**THE SECOND LESSON: Hebrews 1:1-4**

**New Living Translation (NLT)**

Long ago God spoke many times and in many ways to our ancestors through the prophets. And now in these final days, he has spoken to us through his Son. God promised everything to the Son as an inheritance, and through the Son he created the universe. The Son radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God, and he sustains everything by the mighty power of his command. When he had cleansed us from our sins, he sat down in the place of honor at the right hand of the majestic God in heaven. This shows that the Son is far greater than the angels, just as the name God gave him is greater than their names.

**HYMN: 92 "Joy to the World" 1,2,4**

**THE HOLY GOSPEL: John 1:1-14**

**New Living Translation(NLT)**

In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He existed in the beginning with God. God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him.

The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.

God sent a man, John the Baptist, to tell about the light so that everyone might believe because of his testimony. John himself was not the light; he

was simply a witness to tell about the light. The one who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him. He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.

So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son.

The Gospel of our Lord.

**PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST.**

SERMON "The Word Made Flesh"

Pastor Jonathon Kosec

**SERMON HYMN: 93 "Hark the Herald Angels" 1,2,3**

OUR CONFESSION OF FAITH: The Apostles Creed (C)

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. 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.**

THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

-PRAYERS OF PRAISE, WORDS OF INSTITUTION, LORD'S PRAYER

THE DISTRIBUTION

THE COMMUNION BLESSING

**HYMN 97      "The First Noel"      1,2,3,4**

**THE BENEDICTION & THE DISMISSAL**

P. Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C. **Thanks be to God**

+ + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + +

**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! If you are visiting, we welcome you and invite you to participate in our service this morning. Pastor Jon will give specific directions as all are always welcomed at the Lord's Table this morning. We are glad you are here to join with us in our Christmas celebration!

**LCMC's FIFTH ANNUAL THREE DAYS OF PRAYER** is coming January 3-5, with a focus Day One on Confession, our Petitions on Day Two, and Seeking God's Vision on Day Three. We pray on every day, but these three days provide our Association the chance to join together and offer our prayers. Please take the time to focus your prayer on these days, in each of the three areas.

**YEAR END & SPECIAL GIFTS** must be received no later than today, Sunday December 25th, 2016 for inclusion on this year's giving statement.

**CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS TO YOU ALL** from Pastor Jon and Cheryl!

**POINSETTIAS-** Kindly take your poinsettia home with you today following worship if you purchased one. Thank you for sharing them with us!

**Our Savior Lutheran Church, LCMC**

14344 Jamison Way Port Charlotte, FL 33953

Website: <http://www.oslc-lcmc.com>

Worship Time: Sunday 10 A.M.

Bible Study Twice Monthly, Wednesdays at 10:00 AM

**Rev. Jonathon Kosec, Lead Pastor**

Pastor's email: [jonathonkosec@gmail.com](mailto:jonathonkosec@gmail.com)

Cell Phone: (941) 916-7300