

**Our Savior Lutheran Church, and First El JoBean Baptist Church  
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**WELCOME TO OUR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE!** Thank you for joining us as we worship the Nativity of our 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!

**THE MEANING OF THE THREE PICTURES IN THE BULLETIN:** The two pictures at the bottom of the bulletin are the church's logo and the LCMC logo. The church's logo is the descent of the Holy Spirit into 'Our Savior' at the time of His Baptism. The church in the top photo is First El JoBean Baptist Church that was damaged in Hurricane Ian, and is being rebuilt.

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**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE – Pastor Robert McDuffie, Pastor Steve Dygert**

**GATHERING AND MEDITATION TIME:** *Pre-Service Music, Welcome, and Announcements*

**CONFSSIONAL PRAYER** - *congregational responses in BOLD*

**Pastor Bob:** Lord, we approach your altar with with love for You and our concern for the price you paid for us on the cross. We realize the difficulties that we face, and we confess the poor job we have done with our response to your sacrifice. For that, dear Lord, we make our confession to you this night.

*1 John 1:8-9*

**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 Steve:** As a result of the love of God, the work of Jesus on His cross, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, we, as called and ordained servants of the Word, but by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, forgive you all your sins in the name of the, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In the name of Jesus we pray. **Alleluia and Amen.**

**ENTRANCE HYMN: Joy to the World 92**

**THE CHRISTMAS EVE PRAYER:** (Unison): **Pastor Bob** Let us pray.

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**Our Father in Heaven, because you once caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light, grant that we who have known the mystery of that Light here on earth may come to the full measure of its joys in heaven: through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Alleluia and Amen**

## **CHRISTMAS PRAYER**

**"Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" 93**

### **First Lesson from Isaiah 43:1-7 Pastor Steve**

**43** But now thus says the LORD,  
he who created you, O Jacob,

he who formed you, O Israel:

"Fear not, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name, you are mine.

**2** When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;

and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;

when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,

and the flame shall not consume you.

**3** For I am the LORD your God,

the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

I give Egypt as your ransom,

Cush and Seba in exchange for you.

**4** Because you are precious in my eyes,

and honored, because I love you,

I give men in return for you,

peoples in exchange for your life.

**5** Fear not, for I am with you;

I will bring your offspring from the east,

and from the west I will gather you.

**6** I will say to the north, Give up,

and to the south, Do not withhold;

bring my sons from afar

and my daughters from the end of the earth,

**7** everyone who is called by my name,

whom I created for my glory,

whom I formed and made."

### **Pastor Steve's thoughts**

Carol: **"The First Noel" - 97**

### **Second Lesson from Genesis 22: 15-18 - Pastor Bob**

**15** And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven **16** and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, **17** I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, **18** and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

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**Pastor Bob's Thoughts**

Carol: "Angels from the Realms of Glory" – 98

**Third Lesson from Isaiah 9: 2; 6–7 - Pastor Steve**

- 1 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.
- 6 For unto us a child is born,  
unto us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,  
and his name shall be called  
Wonderful, Counselor, Almighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**
- 7 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.

**Pastor Steve's thoughts**

Carol: "He is Born!" - 102

Meditation Moment: "For Unto Us a Child is Born" *From Handel's Messiah*

**Fourth Lesson from Isaiah 11: 1–3a; 4a; 6–9 – Pastor Bob**

- 11** There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.
- 2 And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,  
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and might,  
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.**
- 3** And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.
- 4 but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;**
- 5** Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.
- 6 The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,  
and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,  
and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;  
and a little child shall lead them.**
- 7** The cow and the bear shall graze;  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
- 8 The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra,  
and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.**
- 9** They shall not hurt or destroy

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in all my holy mountain;  
for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.

**Pastor Bob's Thoughts**

**Fifth Lesson from the Gospel of Luke 1: 26–35; 38 – Pastor Bob,  
Beverly Cisco, Pastor Steve**

**Pastor Bob**

**26** In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, **27** to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. **28** And he came to her and said,

**Pastor Steve**

"Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!"

**Pastor Bob**

**29** But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. **30** And the angel said to her,

**Pastor Steve**

"Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. **31** And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. **32** He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, **33** and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

**Beverly Cisco**

"How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

**Pastor Steve**

"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. **36** And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. **37** For nothing will be impossible with God."

**Beverly Cisco**

**38** "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word."

**Pastor Bob**

And the angel departed from her.

**Pastor Bob's thoughts**

**"Mary, Did You Know?"** Robert McDuffie vocal, George Stern – Pastor Steve - Saxophones

**Sixth Lesson from Luke 2: 1; 3–7 – Pastor Steve**

**2** In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. **3** And all went to be registered, each to his own town.

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**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.

### **Pastor Steve's Thoughts**

Carol: **"Away in a Manger" 105**

### **Seventh Lesson from Luke 2: 8–16 – Pastor Bob**

**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.

### **Pastor Bob's thoughts**

Carol: **"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" – 119**

### **Eighth Lesson from the Gospel of Matthew 2: 1–12 – Pastor Steve**

**2** Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, **2** saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." **3** When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; **4** and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. **5** They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

**6** "And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who will shepherd my people Israel."

**7** Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. **8** And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." **9** After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the

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place where the child was. **10** When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.

**11** And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. **12** And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

**Pastor Steve's thoughts**

Carol: "**We Three Kings of Orient Are**" **140 vs 1,2,5**

**Ninth Lesson from the Gospel of John 1: 1-14 – Pastor Bob**

**1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. **4** In him was life, and the life was the light of men. **5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

**6** There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. **7** He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. **8** He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

**9** The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. **10** He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. **11** He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. **12** But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, **13** who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

**14** 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.

**Pastor Bob's thoughts**

Carol: "**O Come, All Ye Faithful**" ("**Adeste Fideles**") **90**

**Rite of Friendship:**

P. The Peace of the Lord Be With You Always.

C. **And Also With You.**

P. We now have the opportunity to share back with the Lord a little of the bounty  
He has shared with us.

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**OFFERTORY HYMN: Psalm 51:10-12**

**C** 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 Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
 from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -  
 tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

**THE OFFERING: Offertory – O Holy Night – Dean Carson, George Stern piano**

*As our gifts are brought forward, we will sing the Doxology.*

Praise God, from Whom all bless - ings flow; praise  
 Him all crea - tures here be - low; praise  
 Him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host; praise  
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

*Doxology, written in England for Protestant Churches in 1674.*

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

P: Merciful Father,

**C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us - our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

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**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING OF OUR LORD'S SUPPER**

P: The Lord be with you. *2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 4:22*

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts. *Colossians 3:1*

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *Psalms 136*

**C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise**

P: It is indeed good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, We give you thanks and praise for your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, who for love of our fallen race humbled himself, was born of the Virgin Mary by the power of your Spirit, and lived as one of us.

In this mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused his light to shine in our hearts, to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

In him we see our God made visible and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see.

Therefore with angels and arch angel and all the hosts of Heaven, we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

**SANCTUS:**

1 Holy, Holy, Holy vs 1, *Revelation 4:8*

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God, Almighty**  
**Early in the morning, our song shall rise to Thee**  
**Holy, Holy, Holy, merciful and mighty**  
**God in three persons, blessed Trinity**

**PRAYERS:** Let us Pray: (*Prayer Response*) *Lord in your Mercy: You hear our 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.**

**Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,**  
**forever and forever. Amen**

**PREPARATION OF THE TABLE: Pastor Steve**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION:** *Matt. 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 11:23-25*

On the night he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ, took bread, and after giving thanks, He broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said; "Take and eat; this is My body, given for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of Me."

In the same manner, after supper He took the cup, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them saying, "Drink ye all of it; this cup is the new testament in My blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of Me."

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As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. *1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 11:26*

**EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER:**

**Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again.**

**THE DISTRIBUTION, Pastor Bob, Pastor Steve, Pastor Sarah**

**THE COMMUNION BLESSING - Pastor Bob;**

**Lighting of the Candles**

**SENDING HYMN: Silent Night 89,**

**Jeff Cisco violin, Pastor Steve Saxophone, George Stern piano**

**THE AARONIC BENEDICTION: Pastor Steve**

**THE DISMISSAL Pastor Bob**

P. Go in peace and a Blessed Christmas to you all!

**C. Amen! Come Lord Jesus**

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