

First Sunday of Christmas

Luke 2: 22-40

Luke's narrative continues with stories that emphasize Jesus' connection to Judaism. His family is devout in its observance of the law, and Jesus himself is recognized as one who will bring glory to Israel.



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HOLY NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

New Hope, Minnesota

www.holynativity.net



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Welcome to WORSHIP at Holy Nativity!

Holy Nativity Lutheran Church ~ 3900 Winnetka Avenue North ~ New Hope, MN 55427
Phone 763-545-1647 www.holynativity.net Email: office@holynativity.net

Our Mission & Ministry: "Grounded in Christ's love, Holy Nativity Lutheran Church is a welcoming community dedicated to helping all know God's love through worship, service, and fellowship."

Join us for Sunday worship at 9:30am
on Facebook "LIVE"
at facebook.com/holynativitynewhope!

Staff Members:

Rev. Jason Wahlstrom, Senior Pastor
Rev. Ashley Updegraff, Associate Pastor
Iver Hubert, Director of Music & Worship
Lisa Baker, Organist & Communications Coordinator
Kristen Chamberlain, Sunday School Director
Linda Lien, Congregational Care Coordinator & Funeral Coordinator
Wendy Grimes, Youth Ministry Associate
Tom Wiblishauser,
Custodial Care & Activity Set-Up
Kara Holt, Financial Coordinator
Amy Laite, Sunday Nursery Coordinator
Tawn Hanson, Wedding Coordinator
Brittany Anderson, Director of Week-Day
Childcare Center (hncccc.org)

Worship Tech & Sound Team:

Mark Chamberlain
Andrew Kubly
Chris Daniels
Greg Eklund
Brian Hanson
Mark Eggert

ORDER FOR WORSHIP

WE PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

This is a time to quietly listen, pause to pray, and reflect on why we are here.

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

P: We gather in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS (P-Pastor, C-Congregation)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who was in the beginning, who makes a dwelling among us, who covers us with justice and mercy.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(silence is kept for reflection)

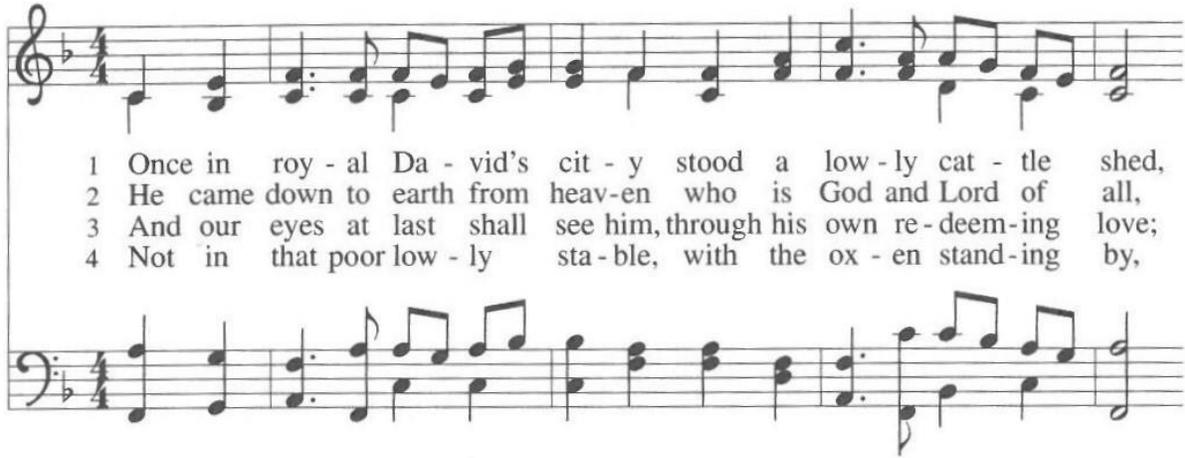
P: God of goodness and lovingkindness,

C: we confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbors. We have turned away from your invitation to new life. We have turned away from the lowly and downtrodden. In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins, those we know and those known only to you, for the sake of the one who came to live among us, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

P: Hear the good news of peace and salvation! God forgives us all our sins, not through our own work, but through †Jesus Christ, made known to all people. With all who come to the manger, rejoice in this amazing gift of grace.

C: Amen.

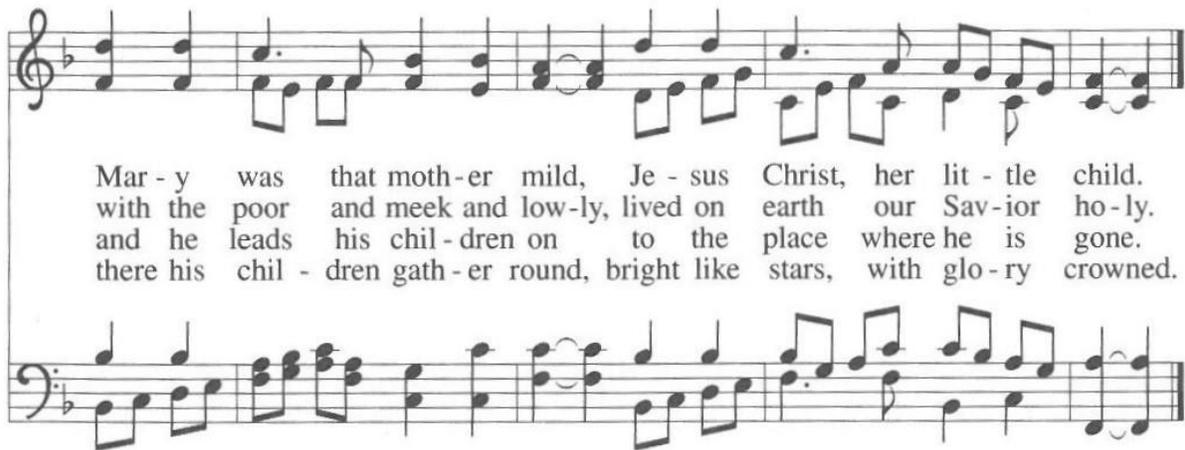
WE PRAISE GOD
"Once in Royal David's City"
(verses 1 & 4)



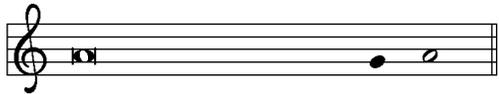
1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,
2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of all,
3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love;
4 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing by,



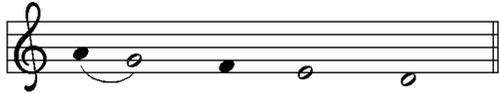
where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:
and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;
for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;
we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;



Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
with the poor and meek and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.
there his chil - dren gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



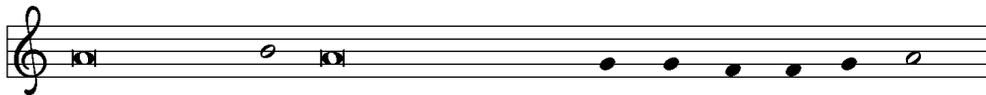
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

Assisting minister



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray together:

(unison) **Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity. Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

ANTHEM

"I Wonder As I Wander"
Greg Eklund, trumpet

Arr. David Ledgerwood

GOD'S WORD IS READ AND PROCLAIMED

FIRST READING

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

To the people who returned to Jerusalem after the exile, the prophet proclaims that God's salvation will fully come to pass. Jerusalem will become a shining light to the nations and righteousness and praise will spring up as surely as the earth puts forth vegetation.

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. ¹For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. ²The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. ³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Reader: Holy Wisdom, Holy Words... **Congregation: Thanks be to God!**

SECOND READING

Galatians 4:4-7

Paul seeks to show the Galatians that the purpose of Christ's birth was to liberate us from the law's condemnation so that we would be fully adopted into God's family as beloved children.

⁴But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Reader: Holy Wisdom, Holy Words... **Congregation: Thanks be to God!**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 2:22-40

Pastor: The holy gospel according to Luke... **Congregation: Glory to you, O Lord.**

²² When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), ²⁴ and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." ²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷ Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ²⁹ "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; ³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples ³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." ³³ And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too." ³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. ³⁹ When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Pastor: The gospel of the Lord... **Congregation: Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Bishop Ann Svennungsen, Minneapolis Area Synod

MOMENT TO REFLECT (*We pause in silence.*)

WE RESPOND

APOSTLES' CREED

Hymnal Pg. 105

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 to the dead. 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 catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING

(You are invited to mail or drop off your offering, or donate online – go to our website at holynativity.net and click on "Make Donation." Thank you!)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(After each prayer petition... P: Lord, in your mercy, C: hear our prayer.)

LORD'S PRAYER (unison) **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 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: Now may the light of God surround us, the love of God enfold us, and the presence of God watch over and protect us. For wherever we are, our God is also there. We close as we began, in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. C: Amen

Refrain

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;
 go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born;

Refrain

be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
 rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
 and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

C: Thanks be to God.

SENDING MUSIC

WEEKLY INFORMATION

<p>Sunday, December 27 First Sunday of Christmas 9:30am Worship (Online) 12:00pm Word of Life worship 6:00pm Word of Life Youth</p>	<p>Thursday, December 31 Office Hours 9:00am – 3:00pm</p>
<p>Monday, December 28 Office Closed – Contact Pastor Ashley or Linda at home 5:30pm – 6:30pm Centering Prayer (on Zoom) 6:30pm New Hope Women of Today</p>	<p>Friday, January 1 New Year's Day Office Closed 7:00pm Word of Life Choir</p>
<p>Tuesday, December 29 Office Hours 9:00am – 3:00pm 2:30pm Staff Meeting (on Zoom)</p>	<p>Saturday, January 2 10:00am – 4:00pm Word of Life</p>
<p>Wednesday, December 30 Office Hours 9:00am – 3:00pm</p>	<p>Sunday, January 3 Second Sunday of Christmas 9:30am Worship w/Communion (Online) 10:30am Sunday Forum (online) 12:00pm Word of Life worship 6:00pm Word of Life Youth</p>
<p>PRISM is accepting food donations Monday to Thursday, 9-3. Items in short supply are ramen noodles, pasta, pancake mix and breakfast cereal. December's Mission Offering is Beacon's Families Moving Forward.</p>	

TODAY...

Thank you to Denise Prosek for accompanying worship today!

No Education Hour today. Education Hour returns next Sunday, January 3rd with Sunday Forum online at 10:30am. The topic will be “America’s Unholy Ghosts: Exploring the Racist Roots of Our Faith and Politics Part 1 of 5.”

THIS WEEK...

The church office is closed on Monday but Pastor Ashley and Linda are working from home. You can contact them by phone or email (their contact info is in the Tidings newsletter each month – also on the website here: <https://holynativity.net/resources/newsletters/>).

The church office is also closed on Friday for the New Year’s Day holiday. Happy New Year!

MORE INFORMATION...

Equipping Parents is back in January – online!

- **The Social Dilemma: A Zoom Conversation about Netflix's New Movie is coming up on Wednesday, January 6th, 7-8:30pm.** Social media connects us, but it also controls us. The Social Dilemma is a new documentary exploring the powerful impact that a relatively small number of engineers in Silicon Valley have over modern-day society. The film deftly tackles concepts like technology addiction, social engineering, and surveillance capitalism and makes them visceral, understandable, and urgent. This is a must-view movies for families. Watch the film, and then join us for a conversation so we can unpack the implications for our daily lives.
- **When the World Feels Like a Scary Place: A Zoom Conversation with Author Abigail Gewirtz is on Sunday, January 17th, 7:00 – 8:00pm.** In a complicated world, big issues make

both parents and children anxious--from disturbingly routine active shooter drills at school, to frightening news about climate change, pandemics, social justice issues, and violence. It's all too easy for parents to feel at a loss for how to equip their child to deal with it all in a healthy way. Join us as Dr. Abigail Gewirtz, an award-winning child psychologist and leading expert on families under stress, offers parents a clear and practical guide to discussing these sensitive topics in a calm, reassuring, and productive way that will help kids comprehend and process the world around them.

- **Use this Zoom link for BOTH dates:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85255480757?pwd=b1grcURXR1daS1pLNVBlcmFLMTgvUT09>.

Holy Nativity Book Club is back! You are invited to participate in an online discussion of the book, “How to Be an Antiracist,” by Ibram X. Kendi. In this book, Ibram X. Kendi, the founding director of the Antiracist Research and Policy Center at American University, presents an original approach to understanding and uprooting racism and inequality in our society – and in ourselves. Antiracism is a transformative concept that reorients and reenergizes the conversation about racism – and, even more fundamentally, points us toward liberating new ways of thinking about ourselves and each other. In his book, Kendi takes readers through a widening circle of antiracist ideas – from the most basic concepts to visionary possibilities – that will help readers see all forms of racism clearly, understand their poisonous consequences, and work to oppose them in our systems and in ourselves. Pastor Jason will lead the discussion on Google Meet. We will meet on three Wednesdays, from 7-8pm: January 20, 27, and February 3. Read the introduction and the first six chapters for the first meeting. The book is available on Amazon or at your favorite local bookseller. The Google Meet link for all three sessions is: <https://meet.google.com/vtp-vrog-pre>. If the link doesn't work, open Google Meet and enter: vtp-vrog-pre.

Scripture readers needed for Sunday morning worship! Readers come to church in-person. Please sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050b48afad2fa4fb6-scripture1>.

Thank you for your continued financial support! During this time of online worship, there are still many ways you can financially support Holy Nativity!

1. **Mail your offering** (you may use your offering envelopes or mail checks to us at Holy Nativity, 3900 Winnetka Avenue N, New Hope, MN 55427).
2. **Give online** via [our link](#). Or just go to our website at holynativity.net and click on “Make Donation.”
3. **Ask the office to send you a Simply Giving form** for automatic withdrawals.

*Today's cantor: Greg Eklund
Today's scripture reader: Kathy Davis*

*People & needs to keep in your prayers this week:
Geri Lingen, Roiger family*

If you have a prayer request or update, or wish to be added to our prayer group, please contact the church office at 763-545-1647 or office@holynativity.net.