

Christmas Eve

3:00 p.m. & 5:00 p.m.



December 24, 2021

HOLY NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

New Hope, Minnesota

www.holynativity.net

(Cover artwork: Nora Leverson)



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

HOLY NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
3900 Winnetka Avenue North ~ New Hope, MN 55427 ~ 763-545-1647
Rev. Jason Wahlstrom Rev. Ashley Updegraff

The nursery is staffed during the 3:00 & 5:00pm services.

Quote: *“No powerful person dares to approach the manger, and this even includes King Herod. For this is where thrones shake, the mighty fall, the prominent perish, because God is with the lowly.”*
-Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Christmas Eve Worship
3:00 p.m. In-Person and Online
5:00 p.m. In-Person
10:00 p.m. In-Person

PRELUDE MUSIC (3:00) Isaac Daniels, drums; Joshua Daniels & Blake Holt, sousaphone duet; Charlie Grimes, trumpet; Addie & Wendy Grimes, flute duet; Greg Eklund, trumpet; Brian Hanson, euphonium; Krista Ehrenberg, accordion; Denise Prosek, piano & Lisa Baker, organ

(5:00) Joshua Daniels, euphonium; Isaac Daniels, bells; Ted Davis & Bruce Holt, trombone duet; Maddie Monner, violin; Ryan Holt, piano

CALL TO WORSHIP

“Murmurs In A Stable”
Nativity Choir

Craig Courtney

*Murmurs in a stable in the silence of the night, murmurs first of pain, then of joy.
Murmurs in a stable in the silence of the night, quiet cries from Mary’s baby boy.*

*Sweet, holy Child, murm’ring myst’ries divine, Son of God, son of man.
The holy Word in a helpless baby’s cry, born to be the spotless Lamb.*

*Murmurs in a stable from the tiny infant King, proclaiming the Word divine.
Give me grace to listen, teach my silent heart to sing that I am Yours, You are mine.*

READING

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness; on them light has shined. ⁶ For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Reader: Holy Wisdom, Holy Words... **Cong.: THANKS BE TO GOD.**

PROCESSIONAL HYMN “O Come, All Ye Faithful”
(please stand as you are able)

Hymnal #283

1. (ALL) *O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant! Oh come, ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him, born the king of angels:*

*(Refrain) O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

2. (ALL) *The highest, most holy, light of light eternal, born of a virgin,
a mortal he comes; Son of the Father now in flesh appearing! (Refrain)*

3. (Choir) *Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God...in...the...highest: (Refrain)*

4. (ALL) *Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: (Refrain)*

GREETING

Pastor: May the grace of our God, the presence of God's Spirit and the hope of the Christ Child, be with you all. **Cong.: And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray together,

Congregation: 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.

(please be seated)

HYMN

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

Hymnal #282

1. (ALL) *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.*

2. (Women) *Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heav'nly 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.*

3. (Men) *And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow:
Look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing;
Oh, rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing!*

4. (ALL) *For lo! The days are hast'ning on, by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.*

READING

Luke 2:1-7

¹ In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Reader: Holy Wisdom, Holy Words... **Cong.: THANKS BE TO GOD.**

INTERLUDE

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”
Nativity Choir

German Carol

*Lo, how a rose e’er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse’s lineage coming as seers of old have sung, it came, a flow’r so bright,
Amid the cold of winter, when half-spent was the night.*

READING

Luke 2: 8-14

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth 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 heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

Reader: Holy Wisdom, Holy Words... **Cong.: THANKS BE TO GOD.**

HYMN

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Hymnal #289

*1. Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.*

(Refrain) Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

*2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav’nly song? (Refrain)*

3. *Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king. (Refrain)*

READING

Luke 2: 15-16

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

Reader: Holy Wisdom, Holy Words... **Cong.: THANKS BE TO GOD.**

HYMN

"Away in a Manger"

Hymnal #277

*1) Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.*

*2) The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.*

*3) Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.*

READING

Luke 2: 17-20

¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Reader: Holy Wisdom, Holy Words... **Cong.: THANKS BE TO GOD.**

HYMN

"Joy to the World"

Hymnal #267

*1. (ALL) Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her 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.*

*2. (ALL) 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.*

*3. (Choir) 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.*

4. (ALL) *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.*

SERMON

“Surprise!”

Rev. Jason Wahlstrom

MOMENT TO REFLECT (*We pause in silence*)

ANTHEM

*“Cold December Flies Away”
Nativity Choir*

Arr. Daniel Schreiner

*Cold December flies away at the rose-red splendor,
April’s crowning glory breaks while the whole world wonders
At the holy unseen pow’r of the tree that bears the flow’r.
On the blessed tree blooms the rose-red flow’r.
On the tree blooms the rose here in love’s own garden, full and strong in glory.*

*In the hopeless time of sin shadows deep had fallen
All the world lay under death. Eyes were closed n sleeping
But, when all seemed lost in night, came the sun whose golden light
Brings unending joy, of our hope, highest hope, of our hope’s bright dawning,
Son beloved of heaven.*

*Now the bud has come to bloom, and the world awakens.
In the lily’s purest flow’r dwells a wondrous fragrance.
And it spreads to all the earth from the moment of its birth;
And its beauty lives, in the flow’r it lives,
In the flow’r, and it spreads in its heav’nly brightness*

Sweet perfum delightful. Full and strong in glory. Son beloved of heaven.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (Pastor: Lord, in your mercy. **Cong: Hear our prayer.**)

SHARING OF THE PEACE (Please stand as you are able.)

CHILDREN’S TIME/CHILDREN’S OFFERING

OFFERING

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be a blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

All are welcome to this Communion table – you may also commune in your pew.

Prefilled communion cups are available as you enter the worship area. Gluten-free are available as well – please take a gluten-free wafer and a regular communion cup for the juice.

Please place your empty glasses in the baskets provided.

You may return to your place of seating via the side aisles.

If you are worshipping at home, you are invited to share Holy Communion in your homes, saying, “The body of Christ, given for you,” and “The blood of Christ, shed for you,” as you distribute the bread and wine. (You may use any bread or crackers, and wine or juice you have at home!).

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

Hymnal #294

- 1) In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan, earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, in the bleak midwinter, long ago.*
- 2) Heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain; heav’n and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign; in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed the Lord God almighty, Jesus Christ.*
- 3) What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man I would do my part; yet what I can I give him – give my heart.*

“What Child Is This”

Hymnal #296

- 1) 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!*
- 2) 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!*
- 3) 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!*

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

Hymnal #276

*1) Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging, angels singing, bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!*

*2) Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new
Saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!*

POST COMMUNION PRAYER:

L: We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus, God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine. As we have shared this feast of love, strengthen us to share your love with all the world. In Jesus' name we pray. **C: Amen**

SHARING OF THE CHRIST LIGHT

*~ Please be wise with candles and children
~ Please tilt only unlit candles to receive the light*

HYMN

“Silent Night”

Worship Book #281

(Musical intros: 3:00 Denise Prosek, piano; 5:00 Maddie Monner, violin)

*1) (ALL) 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.*

*2) (ALL IN PARTS) 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!*

*3) (ALL A CAPPELLA IN PARTS) 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.*

RINGING OF THE BELL

BENEDICTION

P: May we glory in the birth of the Son of God, and may the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be among us this night and always. **C: Amen**

DISMISSAL Pastor: Glory to God in the highest!

Congregation: Peace to God's people on earth!

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

C: THANKS BE TO GOD!

POSTLUDE *“Joy to the World” & “Angels We Have Heard on High”* Peterson/Balcombe

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Pastors: Rev. Jason Wahlstrom
 Rev. Ashley Updegraff

Director of Music: Iver Hubert
Organist/Accompanist: Lisa Baker

Council Host: (3:00) Alan Sommervold (5:00) Milton Ferris

Acolytes: (3:00) (5:00) Harper Chamberlain (10:00)

Greeters: (3:00) Laura, Charlotte & Ingrid Sommervold (5:00) (10:00)

Nursery Coordinator: (3:00 & 5:00) Amy Laite

Brass: Greg Eklund, Tom Gratz, Joseph Kubly, Ted Davis, and Bruce Holt

Thank you to all of our worship assistants tonight! Thank you also to the Nativity Choir for being involved in worship tonight! A special ‘thank you’ to all of the musicians who have shared their talents, including our brass instrumentalists!

Thank you to our altar guild for decorating the altar!

And thank you to our stream team volunteers for live streaming worship online: Mark Chamberlain, Andrew Kubly, Chris Daniels, Greg Eklund, Brian Hanson, & Mark Eggert!

You are invited to worship at home on Christmas Day with our prerecorded video and guide here! <https://holynativity.net/2021/12/christmas-day-at-home-worship-video-and-bulletin/>



THANK YOU TO ALL FOR GIVING POINSETTIAS

Sharon Brynstad in memory of our dear parents, brothers and daughters

Alice Evans in honor of husband Bob Evans birthday

Jerry and Karen Gaasland in memory of parents Ed and Ida Gaasland and Joe and DeLores Ackert

Bruce Johnson and family in memory of Lois Johnson

Terri Johnson and family in memory of Stephen Homstad

Lynn Kvalness in memory of Gara and Palmer Kvalness

John and Marisa Lerum in honor of our parents and children

Nancy Nagle in honor of grandson Cameron Nagle's 18th birthday on Christmas Eve

Jackie Peterson in loving memory of Gary Peterson

Maxine Peterson and family in loving memory of Roger Peterson

Liz Rokala in memory of friends who have passed away this year: Georgia, Allen, Pat, Sherlyn and others

Sandee Stenzel in honor of my family

Todd and Leah Weisjahn and family in memory of Jerry Weisjahn

Andy and Mary Beth Zabel, Eleanor and Eliza in memory of Arlen Erickson