

Christmas Eve



December 24, 2023

10:00 p.m.

HOLY NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

New Hope, Minnesota

www.holynativity.net



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

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

*Quote: "Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love."
-Hamilton Wright Mabie*

Christmas Eve Worship

10:00 p.m.

PRELUDE MUSIC Iver Hubert, piano; Greg Eklund, trumpet; Denise Prosek, piano

CALL TO WORSHIP "Resonet in Laudibus" Z. Randall Stroope
Nativity Ensemble

Resonet in laudibus (Resounding with Praise)

*Cum iucundis plausibus, Syon cum fidelibus.
(With pleasant applause, Zion with the faithful.)*

*He who was born of Mary, of Mary has appeared.
Joy, The Word of Gabriel is fulfilled.*

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.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN "O Come, All Ye Faithful" Hymnal #283
(please stand as you are able)

*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. (Ensemble) *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

"Cold December Flies Away"

Hymnal #299

*1. 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 which bears the flow'r.
On the blessed tree blooms the reddest flow'r.*

On the tree blooms the rose here in love's own garden, full and strong in glory.

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

*3. 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 perfume delightful.*

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.

HYMN

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Hymnal #289

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

3. (ALL) *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: 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!"

ANTHEM

“The First Noel”
Nativity Ensemble

Arr. Pinkzebra

*The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep, on a cold winter’s night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.*

*They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.*

Noel, Noel. The angels sang Noel.

*Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord
that hath made heaven and earth of nought, and with His blood mankind hath bought.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.*

READING

Luke 2: 15-20

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. 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.

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

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. (Ensemble) *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*"Hidden Blessings"*

Rev. Jason Wahlstrom

MOMENT TO REFLECT (*We pause in silence*)**ANTHEM***"All Praise to Thee"*
Nativity Ensemble

Brent Pierce

*All praise to Thee, eternal God, Who, clothed in garb of flesh and blood,
Dost take a manger for Thy throne, While worlds on worlds are Thine alone.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

*Thou comest in the darksome night to make us children of the light,
To make us in the realms divine, like Thine own angels, round Thee shine.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

*A little Child, Thou art our Guest that weary ones in Thee may rest;
Forlorn and lowly is Thy birth that we may rise to heav'n from earth.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

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

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

OFFERING/OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.

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 ~*This sacrament is open to ALL who gather here~*

~*Proceed forward via the center aisle~*

~*Pre-filled glasses contain juice; empty glasses will be filled by our servers~*

~*Gluten-free wafers are available beside the prefilled and empty glasses~*

~*Return via the side aisles and place your empty glasses in the baskets provided~*

~*If you wish to receive communion in your pew, please notify an usher or pastor~*

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"

Red Hymnal #295

*1) Of the Father's love begotten ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore.*

*2) Oh, that birth forever blessed, when the virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race,
and the babe, the world's redeemer, first revealed his sacred face, evermore and evermore.*

*3) This is he whom seers in old time chanted of with one accord,
whom the voices of the prophets promised in their faithful word;
now he shines, the long-expected; let creation praise its Lord evermore and evermore.*

4) *Let the heights of heav'n adore him; angel hosts, his praises sing;
pow'rs, dominions, bow before him and extol our God and King;
let no tongue on earth be silent, ev'ry voice in concert ring evermore and evermore.*

5) *Christ, to thee, with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unwearied praises be:
honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory evermore and evermore! Amen.*

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

Red Hymnal #272

1) *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.*

2) *Isaiah had foretold it, the rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind. To show God's love aright,
she bore to us a Savior, when half-spent was the night.*

3) *This flow'r, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor the darkness ev'rywhere. True man, yet very God,
From sin and death he saves us and lightens ev'ry load.*

4) *O Savior, child of Mary, who felt our human woe;
O Savior, king of glory, who dost our weakness know: bring us at length, we pray,
To the bright courts of heaven and into endless day.*

"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!*

“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.*

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

Hymnal #282

1) *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) *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) *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) *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.*

“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

*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: Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.
C: THANKS BE TO GOD!

POSTLUDE

“Pastorale ‘Gesù Bambino’ (on ‘Adeste, fideles’)”

Pietro A. Yon

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Pastor: Rev. Jason Wahlstrom

Director of Music: Iver Hubert

Organist/Accompanist: Lisa Stockert

Acolytes:

Greeters:

Reader: Scott Hennessy

Communion Assistants: Scott Hennessy

Ushers:

The "Silent Night" piano introduction is written by Iver Hubert.

Thank you to our brass instrumentalists: Greg Eklund - trumpet, Ted Davis - trombone, Joshua Daniels - euphonium

Thank you to all of our worship assistants and musicians tonight!

Thank you to our altar guild for decorating the altar!



THANK YOU TO ALL FOR GIVING POINSETTIAS

Sharon Brynstad in loving memory of family members

Alice Evans in memory of husband Bob, Parents Ray and Hazel, and sister Anita

Joe and Deb Gartner in memory of our beautiful granddaughter Eliza Mae and in honor of Joe's mother Ruth Gartner

Harold Hubbard in memory of Ruth Hubbard

Bruce and Terri Johnson in memory of Lois Hallcock Johnson and Steve Homstad

Lynn Kvalness in memory of Palmer and Gara Kvalness

Wayne and Jan Moen in memory of our parents

Nancy Nagle in honor of grandson Cameron Nagle's 20th birthday on Christmas Eve

Maxine Peterson and family in loving memory of Roger Peterson

Suzanne Schatt and Kristin Daniels in memory of Reverend Dennis Schatt

Betty Stelck in memory of LeRoy Stelck

Leann Stelck in memory of Charlene Stelck

Sandee Stenzel in honor of her family – children, grandchildren and great -grandchildren

Umana Family in memory of Jack Loso

Noah and Luke Weisjahn in memory of Jerry Weisjahn and Lois Hallcock Johnson