

The Nativity of Our Lord

Christmas Day

Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church
Morton Grove, Illinois

Sunday, December 25, 2011 10 A.M.



The Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord

Christmas Day

A warm welcome to everyone who has joined us for worship this morning, especially to **visitors**. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask an usher or another of our members. We are here to serve you. We ask all visitors to please speak to the pastor about receiving **Holy Communion** before doing so. **Restrooms** are located in the hallway outside the worship space.

Entrance Hymn

Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful (CW 55)

+ THE SERVICE OF THE WORD +

Introit

Psalm 98

Choir Refrain

Congregation Refrain

Refrain

The Word be - came flesh and lived a - mong us.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Choir

*Sing the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvelous things.*

*The LORD has made his salvation known
and revealed his righteousness to the nations.*

*He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to the house of Israel;
all the end of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.*

Congregation Refrain

Choir

*Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth,
burst into jubilant song with music;*

*make music to the Lord with the harp
with the harp and the sound of singing.*

*Shout for joy before the Lord, the King.
He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity.*

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.*

Congregation Refrain

Confession of Sins

Loved in the Lord, this day the Almighty God has come to us, an infant child, and by his holy angels he has offered a tender plea to trembling sinners: “Do not be afraid!” The eternal Father invites us to peer into the lowly manger of his perfect love and forgiveness. With the prophet Micah we stand in awe:

“Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives transgression?”

With St Paul we humbly confess:

“Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the worst.”

With the whole Christian church in heaven and on earth we marvel at the mystery of the incarnate God coming to be the servant of all.

“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.”

God has been born to a virgin; he has come to be our brother!

Truly, we must confess, we are not worthy of our God’s humble coming, for we have sinned against him. We have failed to love and trust him with our whole heart. We have failed to love one another as we love ourselves. We deserve that he come to us in anger and wrath. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us:

Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

“God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.



Lord, Have Mercy

For the blessings of life – for food and drink, for house and home, for family and friends, for Word and Sacrament – and for the privilege of using and enjoying all these gifts to the glory of your holy name, hear our prayer, O Lord. **♪ Lord, have mercy.**

For the mercy you showed us in the manger of Bethlehem, and for a deeper appreciation of the glorious riches and majesty you surrendered to become our Savior, hear our prayer, O Christ. **♪ Christ, have mercy.**

For the forgiveness you grant us through the life, death and resurrection of our Savior Jesus, and for the courage to share that good news with others, hear our prayer, O Lord. **♪ Lord, have mercy.**

Heavenly Father, with heartfelt thanks we glorify you for the priceless gift of our Savior from sin, so lovingly wrapped in the flesh of our humanity. Comfort us with the message of his birth, and keep us in your tender care. **♪ Amen.**

The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise:

Hymn of Thanksgiving

**♪ Let all together praise our God before his highest throne;
Today he opens heav'n again and gives us his own Son,
And gives us his own Son.**

*Choir: He leaves his heav'nly Father's throne, is born an infant small,
And in a manger, poor and lone, lies in a humble stall,
Lies in a humble stall.*

**He veils in flesh his pow'r divine a servant's form to take;
In want and lowliness must die who heav'n and earth did make,
Who heav'n and earth did make.**

*Choir: He serves that I a lord may be – a great exchange indeed!
Could Jesus' love do more for me to help me in my need?
To help me in my need?*

**For us he opens wide the door of paradise today.
The angel guards the gate no more; to God our thanks we pay,
To God our thanks we pay.**

Prayer of the Day

Flmighty God, grant that the birth of your only Son in the flesh may set us free from our old bondage under the yoke of sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **♪ Amen.**

First Lesson

Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, “Your God reigns!” Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices; together they shout for joy. When the Lord returns to Zion, they will see it with their own eyes. Burst into songs of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem, for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord will lay bare his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God.

Anthem

African Gloria (Jerusalem Choir)

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

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

*Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song?*

*See him in a manger laid, whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise.*

Second Lesson

Hebrews 1:1-9

In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, “You are my Son; today I have become your Father”? Or again, “I will be his Father, and he will be my Son”? And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, “Let all God's angels worship him.” In speaking of the angels he says, “He makes his angels winds, his servants flames of fire.” But about the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever, and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy.”

**YOU HAVE APPEARED, O CHRIST, THE
LIGHT OF LIGHT! TO YOU THE MAGI
BRING GIFTS! ALLELUJA · ALLELUJA!**



Verse of the Day

Alleluia. When the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law. Alleluia.

Gospel

John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God – children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

♪ Praise be to you, O Christ!

Creed

We All Believe in One True God

*We all believe in one true God, who created earth and heaven,
The Father, who to us in love, has the right of children given.
He in soul and body feeds us; all we need his hand provides us.
He through snares and perils leads us, watching that no harm betides us.
He cares for us by day and night; all things are governed by his might.*

*We all believe in Jesus Christ, His own Son, our Lord, possessing
An equal Godhead, throne and might, source of ev'ry blessing,
Born of Mary, virgin mother, by the power of the Spirit,
Made true man, our elder brother, that the lost might life inherit,
Was crucified by sinful men and raised by God to life again.*

*We all confess the Holy Ghost, who, sweet hope and comfort giving,
Now with the Father and the Son in eternal light is living,
Who the Church, his own creation, keeps in unity of spirit;
Here forgiveness and salvation daily come through Jesus' merit.
All flesh shall rise, and we shall be in bliss with God eternally.*

Hymn of the Day

Christ the Lord to Us is Born (CW 59)

Choir – sts. 1,3

Men – st. 2

Women – st. 4

Congregation – all refrains

Sermon

The Lord enters into history

Offering & Prayers

+ THE SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

The Prefaces

M: The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

M: Lift up your hearts!




C: We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

raise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. When the time had fully come, he sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.



Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy)

Cantor: Isaiah, in the days of old,
The Lord of hosts once did behold
High on his throne in splendor bright,
With robes that filled his courts with light.

Choir: Above the throne were seraphim,
Six wingèd messengers of him.
They veiled both face and feet from sight
In humble service, as was right.

Congregation: And with two wings aloft they soared
And praised the one Almighty Lord:
“O, Holy, holy, holy, He
Whose glory fills the earth and sea.”

Congregation: The thresholds trembled at the song,
Whose echo bellowed loud and long.
With blinding smoke the temple filled.
The prophet cried; his heart was stilled.

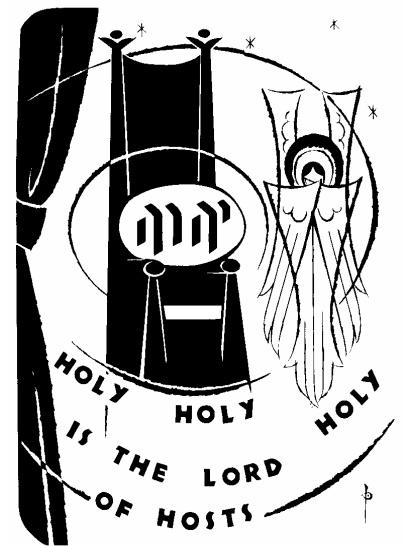
Cantor: “O woe to me; the sight I’ve seen!
I am a man of lips unclean.
And now my eyes behold the King!
What off’ring to him can I bring?”

Choir: Our God responds with soft reply,
As seraphs to us swiftly fly
And bring the word of sins forgiv’n,
The gift of life, a place in heav’n.

Congregation: To him our works cannot ascend,
Instead our God must condescend.
He comes to us in gracious Word,
And of his love we are assured.

Choir: He comes by water, wheat and wine.
His Word makes these his gifts divine,
That we might rightly see his face
And trust him and his pard’ning grace.

Congregation: O Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,
Who is by heav’nly hosts adored,
Our voices now to you we raise
To offer loud, eternal praise!



Words of Institution



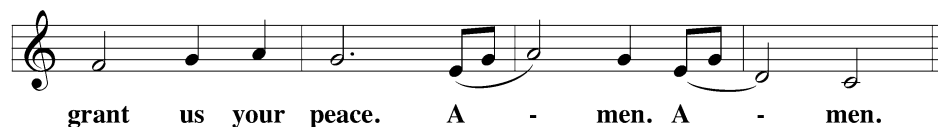
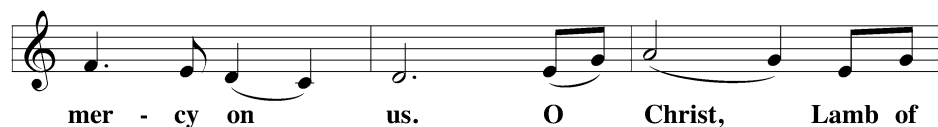
ur Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: (spoken) Amen.

Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)



Distribution

All guests are asked to speak with the pastor before receiving Holy Communion at Jerusalem. Thank you.

Distribution Hymn **Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence (CW 361)**

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

Choir: *In peace and joy I now depart as my Lord wills it;
Serene and quiet is my heart; gladness fills it.
This the Lord has promised me, that death is but a slumber.*

*Christ Jesus brought this gift to me, my faithful Savior,
Whom you allowed my eyes to see by your favor.
Now I know he is my life, my friend when I am dying.*

*You sent the people of the earth their great salvation;
Your invitation summons forth ev'ry nation
By your holy, precious Word, in ev'ry place resounding.*

*Christ is the hope and saving light of those in blindness;
He guides and comforts those in night by his kindness.
He is Israel's righteousness, their joy, reward, and glory.*

Thanksgiving



God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **♪ Amen.**

Blessing



The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. **♪ Amen. Amen. Amen.**

Recessional Hymn **Now Sing We, Now Rejoice (CW 34)**
