

Welcome to St. Michael Lutheran Church

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2024 + 4:00 pm

A Service of Lessons & Carols

PRELUDE

WELCOME

*** PROCESSIONAL HYMN #376:** "Once in Royal David's City"

* INVOCATION

A: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

A: Beloved in the Lord, it is again our delight on this Christmas Eve to hear the message of the angels; to go in heart and mind even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which has come to pass, and to find our Savior wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the account of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience to the glorious redemption that He has brought to us through this Holy Child;

C: And let us make glad this holy place with the carols of Christmas.

HYMN #380: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

* PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. O God, our Father, we rejoice again on the Eve of the celebration of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, who took on our human flesh so as to bear our sin and be our Savior. Grant that as we joyfully know Him as our Redeemer who came to save us from the penalty of our sins, we may also with sure confidence receive Him with faith and joy when He comes again in glory on the last day to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Genesis 3:8-15

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

HYMN #362: "O Sing of Christ"

SECOND LESSON: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

CHOIR: "On Christmas Night," (Sussex Carol) arranged by Dan Forrest

THIRD LESSON: Isaiah 11:1-6

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

CHOIR: "Advent Alleluia," by Pavel Tschesnokoff, arranged by Keith Christopher

FOURTH LESSON: Micah 5:1-5a

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

*** GOSPEL PROCESSIONAL HYMN #359:1-2** "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

*** FIFTH LESSON:** Luke 2:1-20

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord. *(after the reading, the following is said. . .)*

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

*** GOSPEL PROCESSIONAL HYMN #359:3-4** "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

BIBLE MESSAGE

*** APOSTLES' CREED**

P: God had made us His people through our baptism into Christ Jesus. Living together in trust and hope, let us confess our common Christian faith in the words of the ancient creed. . .

C: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

HYMN #364: "Away in a Manger"

SIXTH LESSON: Colossians 1:9-20

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

HYMN #361: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

SEVENTH LESSON: Titus 2:11-14

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

*** CHRISTMAS PRAYER**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

A: Let us pray to the Lord for the needs of His whole world;

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For peace and goodwill over all the earth; and for unity and Christian love within the Church that He came to build;

C: Lord, have mercy.

A: Because this of all things would rejoice His heart, let us at this time remember in His name the poor and the helpless, the cold and the hungry, the suffering and the oppressed, those who are ill in body or mind, and all those who mourn.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Let us remember those who are lonely and unloved; the aged and the little children; all who do not know the Lord Jesus as their personal Savior from sin, and all those who in rebellion have grieved His heart of love.

C: Lord, have mercy.

A: Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we forevermore are one.

C: Lord, have mercy.

A: These prayers and praises we humbly offer up to the throne of heaven in the words that Christ Himself has taught us:

C: 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.

*** HYMN #363:** "Silent Night"

*** BLESSING AND SENDING**

P: May Almighty God, the King of Angels, bless us with His grace; give us the joys of everlasting life;
And bring us at last into the fellowship of the citizens above, through (+) Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

A: Let us go forth in heavenly peace, Jesus Christ is born!

C: Thanks be to God!

*** CLOSING HYMN #387:** "Joy to the World"

POSTLUDE

SERVING TODAY (12/24)

Preacher and Assisting Minister (A): Rev. Dr. Paul Naumann

Presiding Minister (P): Rev. Daniel Maske

Organist: Keith Eiser

Lay Ministers:

Greeters: Meg Bess, Nonie Knight

Genesis 3:8-15

⁸ And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." ¹¹ He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹² The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." ¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." ¹⁴ The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. ¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

² 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 to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty 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.

Isaiah 11:1-6

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. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, ⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. 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.

Micah 5:1-5a

Now muster your troops, O daughter of troops; siege is laid against us; with a rod they strike the judge of Israel on the cheek. ² But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. ³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴ And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. ⁵ And he shall be their peace.

Luke 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be registered, each to his own town. 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. 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. ¹⁷ And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸ And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Colossians 1:9-20

⁹ And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰ so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹ being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. ¹³ He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. ¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

Titus 2:11-14

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹² training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³ waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.