

*Welcome to St. Michael Lutheran Church and School*

# Christmas Eve

December 24, 2024 + 6:30 pm

## Candlelight Service

*(As you enter into the sanctuary this evening be sure to receive a small candle for use after the Bible Message through the conclusion of the service)*

( \* = please stand)

### PRELUDE

**\* SERVICE OF LIGHT** *(as the cross, torches, and the Bible process to the chancel)*

A: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world.

**C: The Light no darkness can overcome.**

A: Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening

**C: And the day is almost over.**

A: Let Your Light scatter the darkness

**C: And illumine Your Church.**

A: Joyous Light of glory:

**C: Of the immortal Father; heavenly, holy, blessed Jesus Christ.**

A: We have come to the setting of the sun,

**C: And we look to the evening light.**

A: We sing to our Triune God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen!**

A: You are worthy of being praised with pure voices forever.

**C: O Son of God, O Giver of life, the universe proclaims Your glory.**

A: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe,

**C: Who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.**

A: Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ;

**C: May His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path;**

A: For You are merciful, and You love Your whole creation,

**C: And we, Your creatures, glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**\* HYMN OF PRAISE #368:** "Angels We Have Heard on High"

**\* PRAYER OF THE DAY** *(speaking stanzas 8 & 13 of "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come")*

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray...

Welcome to earth, O noble Guest, through whom this sinful world is blest!

You came to share my misery that You might share Your joy with me.

**C: Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child, prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,**

**A quiet chamber set apart for You to dwell within my heart. Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING:** Isaiah 9:2-7

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**SONG:** "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen"

1) God rest ye merry gentlemen, let nothing you dismay.

Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day

To save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray.

*Refrain: Oh tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy;  
Oh tidings of comfort and joy*

- 2) From God our Heavenly Father a blessed Angel came;  
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same,  
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by Name. *(Refrain)*
- 3) The shepherds at those tidings rejoiced much in mind,  
And left their flocks a-feeding in tempest, storm and wind,  
And went to Bethlehem straightway the Son of God to find. *(Refrain)*
- 4) But when to Bethlehem they came, whereat this infant lay,  
They found Him in a manger, where oxen feed on hay;  
His Mother Mary kneeling down, unto the Lord did pray. *(Refrain)*
- 5) Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place,  
And with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace;  
This holy tide of Christmas all other doth efface. *(Refrain)*

**EPISTLE READING:** Titus 3:1-7

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**\* GOSPEL PROCESSIONAL HYMN #361:1-2** "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

**\* GOSPEL READING:** 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 #361:3-4** "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

**BIBLE MESSAGE**

**MUSICAL OFFERING** *(during this time the congregation is invited to make contributions electronically)*

**\* PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

P: With the light of these candles illuminating our faces, let us pray to the Father of lights from whom comes every good and perfect gift *(We pause for a time of silent prayer)*. Almighty God, by the incarnation of Your eternal Son, You revealed that You are love. Give us true faith in Christ and all Your promises in Him, so that by His miraculous conception, virgin birth, holy life, sacrificial death and victorious resurrection from the dead all our sins might be forgiven and we might be Yours for all eternity. Increase our love for You and for one another. Fill us with Your joy and peace, and lead us to proclaim Your glad tidings to all people. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: Lord God, by His birth in human flesh, Your dear Son took His place in the family of Mary and Joseph. Bless the families of our church, our country, and our world, that men and women everywhere would live faithfully as husbands and wives, loving and caring for their children, and nurturing them in the grace of holy Baptism and in all the truth of Your holy Word. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: Heavenly Father, by Your gracious provision You created Your Church to be Your family, that nurtured by Your Word and Sacraments, we may all find in Your Church a home filled with sisters and brothers in Christ who care for us, love us, and give us Your peace. Make Your Church a refuge for the weary, a family for the lonely, a safe place for those who are afraid, and a loving support for one another in midst of all of life's burdens. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: Almighty God, guide and defend the president, congress, and all who administer and judge our laws. Change the hearts of any who would cause us to stray from Your justice and truth. Preserve in this land the freedom to serve You, and lead us to be faithful citizens. On this night in which we remember that there was no room in the inn for the holy family, open up our hearts to receive all those in need of inclusion, of shelter, and of refuge. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: Father, in love You declared us to be Yours and promised to hear our prayers. Protect the police, fire personnel, and other emergency workers whose duty and service has called them away from their loved ones on this holy night. Keep safe all who are traveling during this holiday season. Relieve the sufferings of the lonely, especially those who grieve the absence of loved ones this Christmas night. Bring Your healing in Your good time and way to all who battle with disease and are seeking recovery from illnesses, injury, or surgery. May all those who look to You in any and every adversity find You to be their Immanuel, God with us, their ever-present help in time of trouble. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all those for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who has taught us to pray, saying . . .

**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.**

### **\* CAROLS TO SING BY CANDLELIGHT**

**#366:** "It Came upon the Midnight Clear"

**#364:** "Away in a Manger"

**#363:** "Silent Night"

### **\* BLESSING** *(based on Luke 2:30-32)*

A: Now may we, as God's servants, depart in His peace according to His Word

**C: For our eyes have seen His salvation,**

A: A light to enlighten the nations

**C: And the glory of His people, Israel.**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you;

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you;

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you His peace.

**C: Amen.**

### **\* RECESSIONAL SONG #380:** "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

## **POSTLUDE**

### **SERVING TODAY (12/24)**

**Presiding Minister (P):** Rev. Daniel Maske

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

**Lector:** Jesse Hogue

**Music Director:** Jane Connon

**Lay Ministers:** Arlan Wendzel, Rich Conklin

**Greeters:** Arlene Groll, ?

**Crucifer:**

**Torch Bearers:**

**Bible Bearer:**

**Christmas Day Communion Service**  
tomorrow morning at 10:00 am

*Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night!*

**Isaiah 9:2-7**

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. <sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. <sup>4</sup>For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. <sup>5</sup>For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>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.

**Titus 3:1-7**

Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, <sup>2</sup>to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people. <sup>3</sup>For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. <sup>4</sup>But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup>he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup>whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup>so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

**Luke 2:1-20**

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup>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, <sup>5</sup>to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup>And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" <sup>15</sup>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." <sup>16</sup>And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup>And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup>And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.