

THE BIRTH OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP
WITH HOLY COMMUNION
11:00 PM



CHRISTMAS EVE 2023

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
601 Washington Avenue, Hagerstown, MD 21740
Pastor Brian McClinton, Senior Pastor
Telephone: 301-733-7550 Website: stmarkslc.org

PRELUDE ~ 10:30 PM

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE ~ 11:00 PM

PRELUDE

- O Come, O Come Emmanuel* arr. M. McDonald & S. Nelson, adapt. J. Schmidt
Carol of the Bellsarr. K. Snell
The Sussex Mummers' Christmas Carol P. Grainger
Katelyn McClinton, violin
The Little Drummer Boy K. Davis, arr. R. Hovermale
Bailey Hovermale, soloist
PastoraleD. Zipoli, ed. W. Wold
God Rest You Merry Gentlemen arr. J. Rutter
Breath of Heaven C. Eaton & A. Grant, arr. L. Larson
Bailey Hovermale, soloist

PRELUDE MUSICIANS

- Kathy Barr keyboards
Staci Calder flute, keyboards
Bailey Hovermale piano, percussion
Bethany Hovermale cello
Rob Hovermale percussion, keyboards
Morgan Jenkins flute
Katelyn McClinton violin
Angie Mogensen percussion
Michael Mogensen keyboards
Rick Mogensen clarinet
Erin Petrella piano, organ

This evening's Prelude Music and Candlelight Service are presented with
Glory to God for His most precious gift. May the wonder of our Savior's
birth fill our hearts with praise and thanksgiving. Merry Christmas!

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

+ *Stand if you are able*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

+ *CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION*

+ *GATHERING HYMN - "O Come, All Ye Faithful"*

ELW 283

1 O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant!

O 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 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 Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
in the highest: *Refrain*

4 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*

Let us pray,
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 only Son, Jesus
Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now
and forever.

Amen.

PRAISE ANTHEM - "Sing We the Song of Emmanuel"

Getty, Papa

+ *HYMN - "Once in Royal David's City"*

ELW 269

1 Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ, her little child.

3 And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love;
for that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heav'n above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

2 He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and meek and lowly,
lived on earth our Savior holy.

4 Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him; but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;
there his children gather round,
bright like stars, with glory crowned.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 11: 1-9

¹A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ²The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. ³His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. ⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. ⁷The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ⁹They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

+ ***HYMN - "O Little Town of Bethlehem"***

ELW 279

1 O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

2 For Christ is born of Mary,
and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king,
and peace to all the earth!

SECOND LESSON

Titus 2:11-14

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

HYMN - "It Came upon the Midnight Clear"

ELW 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.



+ **THE GOSPEL**

Luke 2:1-20

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 2nd chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And 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!"

¹⁵When 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." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

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

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise be to you, O Christ.**

HYMN - "It Came upon the Midnight Clear"

ELW 282

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.

PRAISE ANTHEM - "Light of the Stable"

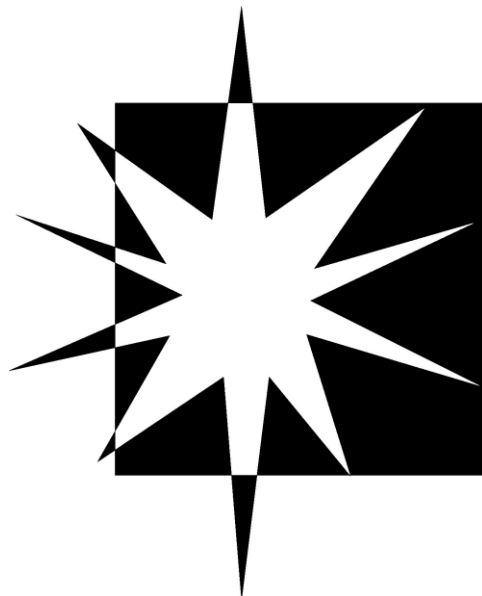
E & S Rhymer

+ BLESSING OF THE CRÈCHE

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. With Mary and Joseph, with the angels and shepherds, and with the animals in the stable we gather around your Son, born for us. Bless us, and fill us with joy and wonder as we look upon this manger scene. May Jesus be born in our lives, that we might share his love with all the world, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.

SERMON

Pastor Brian McClinton



+ **HYMN - "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"**

ELW 270

1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain:

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"

2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel! *Refrain*

3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of
peace!

Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth,
born to give us second birth. *Refrain*

OFFERING

MUSIC OFFERING - Christmas Day is Come

James Biery

+ **OFFERTORY HYMN - "Angels We Have Heard on High"**

ELW 289

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

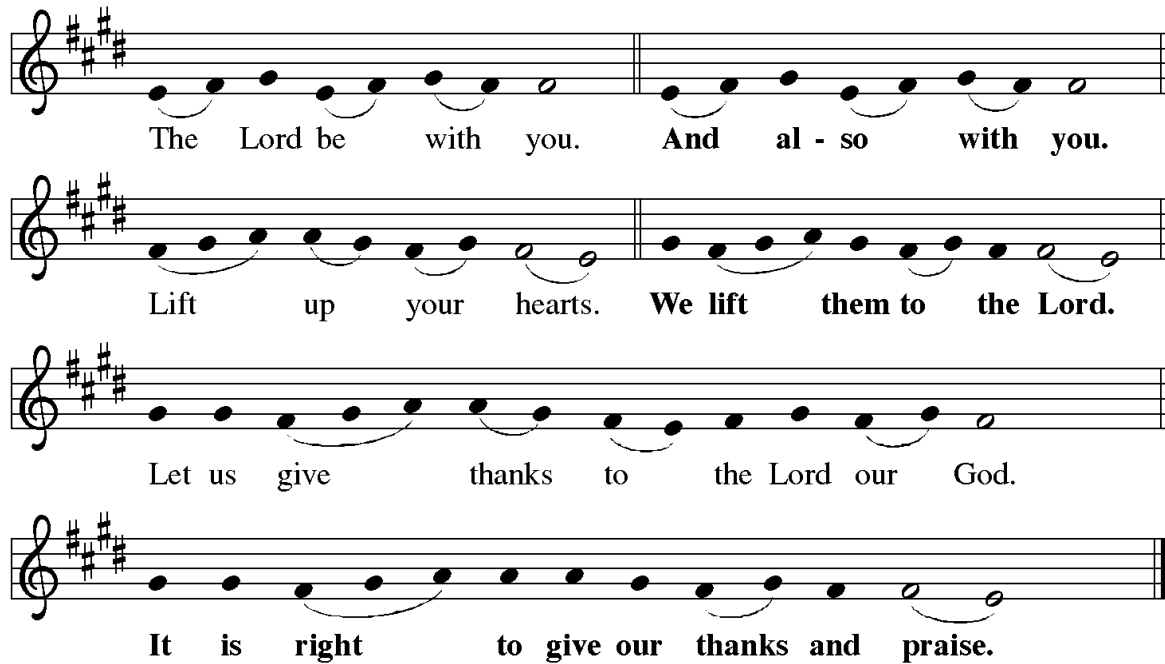
Refrain

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

+ **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

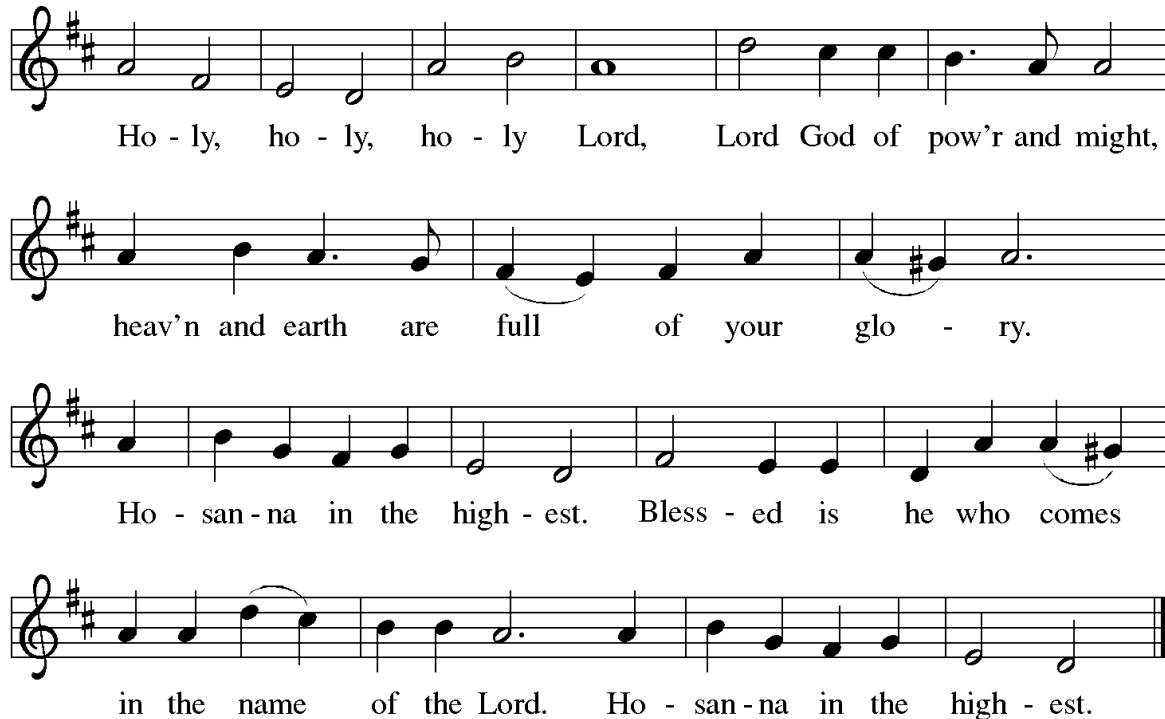


The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

+ **PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

+ **SANCTUS**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

+ WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

+ 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

+ INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the manger to behold the child, Jesus our Lord.

+ ANGUS DEI



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION

“What Child Is This”

ELW 296

“The First Noel”

ELW 300

“Away in a Manger”

ELW 277

TABLE BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

+ PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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. **Amen.**

+ LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

+ HYMN OF LIGHT - “Silent Night, Holy Night!”

ELW 281

1 Silent night, holy night!

2 Silent night, holy night!

All is calm, all is bright

Shepherds quake at the sight;

round yon virgin mother and child.

glories stream from heaven afar,

Holy Infant, so tender and mild,

heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!

sleep in heavenly peace,

Christ, the Savior, is born!

sleep in heavenly peace.

Christ, the Savior, is born!

Please raise candles for the last verse and sing acapella

3 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.

Please Extinguish “Candles”

+ BENEDICTION

May the Lord God, who has called you out of darkness to be servants of light, grant you the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, and the peace of the Christ Child. Almighty God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

+ **DEPARTURE HYMN - “Joy To The World”**

ELW 267

1 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 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 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 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.

+ **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace, serve the newborn king.
Thanks be to God.

+ **POSTLUDE - In dulci jubilo, BWV 729**

J. S. Bach

Please return your candle to the baskets near the exit doors.

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Please be sure to turn your cell phone off as you enter for worship.

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

OFFICIATING MINISTER	Pastor Brian McClinton
ORGANIST	Erin Petrella
LECTOR	Rhonda Bowers
PRAISE TEAM PIANISTS	Kurt Dela Paz and Matt Dela Paz
PRAISE TEAM	Patrick Albright, Libby Stouffer-Fitz, John & Kathy Gundling, Julie Stouffer, Addison Zeigler
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Sue Kessler

THANKS TO ALL OF THE MUSICIANS & SINGERS who contributed to this evening's service. A special thank you to Rick Mogensen who coordinated the music and musicians for the prelude.

A SPECIAL THANKS to all who helped to beautify our sanctuary for our Christmas celebration. We owe a special debt of appreciation to the members of the Altar Guild who have done so much work in preparation for this wonderful celebration.

WELCOME to all who have come to this place to hear the story one more time of the birth of the Christ Child, the Hosannas of the angels, and the witness of the shepherds. Welcome to all who have come to sing the carols and light the candles as we offer our Christmas greeting. We are blessed by your presence and wish you all the joy and peace and hope that this celebration represents for us all.

We invite you to come worship with us on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am.

A blessed and joyful Christmas and New Year to you all!