



Welcome!

We are glad that you are here and hope that you will be enriched by this time of worship. In this unprecedented time, we are exploring worship in new ways and ask for your input and patience. If you are new with us today – welcome!

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Christmas Day Service of Holy Communion

Welcome

Gathering Song

“Joy to the World” (ELW 267)

Greeting

Prayer of the Day

All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading

Isaiah 62:6-12

Read by Wanda C

⁶I have posted sentinels upon your walls, Jerusalem; all day, all night, they will endlessly cry, ‘You who call on God’s name, do not rest, ⁷and do not let God rest until the Almighty establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the world!’ ⁸Yhwh swore this with a raised hand and a mighty arm: ‘Never again will I give your grain to feed your enemies; never again will foreigners drink your wine for which you toiled; ⁹but its harvesters will eat it and praise Yhwh; and those who gather the grapes will drink the wine in the courts of my sanctuary.’ ¹⁰Pass through, pass through the gates! Prepare the way for the people! Repair! Repair the roads! Remove the boulders! Raise a banner for the nation! ¹¹This is Yhwh’s proclamation to the ends of the earth— Say this to Zion, your beloved: ‘Look, your Deliverer comes with a sure reward and abundant recompense ¹²called the Holy People, and the Redeemed of Yhwh. You yourself will be named Sought After, and A City Not Forsaken.’”

Second Reading

Titus 3:4-7

Read by Wendy S

⁴But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, ⁵we were saved, not because of any righteous deeds we had done, but because of God’s own mercy. We were saved through the baptism of new birth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. ⁶This Spirit God lavished on us through Jesus Christ, our Savior, ⁷that we might be justified through grace and become heirs to the hope of eternal life.

Children's Time

Gospel Reading

Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20

¹In those days, Caesar Augustus published a decree ordering a census of the whole Roman world. ²This first census took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All the people were instructed to go back to the towns of their birth to register. ⁴And so Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to “the city of David”— Bethlehem, in Judea, because Joseph was of the house and lineage of David; ⁵he went to register with Mary, his espoused wife, who was pregnant. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her delivery. ⁷She gave birth to her firstborn, a son; she put him in a simple cloth wrapped like a receiving blanket, and laid him in a feeding trough for cattle, because there was no room for them at the inn. ⁸There were shepherds in the area living in the fields and keeping night watch by turns over their flock. ⁹The angel of God appeared to them, and the glory of God shone around them; they were very much afraid. ¹⁰The angel said to them, “You have nothing to fear! I come to proclaim good news to you—news of a great joy to be shared by the whole people. ¹¹Today in David’s city, a savior—the Messiah—has been born to you. ¹²Let this be a sign to you: you’ll find an infant wrapped in a simple cloth, lying in a manger.” ¹³Suddenly, there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴“Glory to God in high heaven! And on earth, peace to those on whom God’s favor rests.” ¹⁵When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go straight to Bethlehem and see this event that God has made known to us.” ¹⁶They hurried and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger; ¹⁷once they saw this, they reported what they had been told concerning the child. ¹⁸All who heard about it were astonished at the report given by the shepherds. ¹⁹Mary treasured all these things and reflected on them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds went away glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as they had been told.

Sermon

Song

“What Child Is This” (ELW 296)

Creed

The Prayers

God of glory, you bring your Word to birth among us. As we read and hear your word, empower the church to ring out your never ending salvation to all the corners of the earth. Hear us O God.

Your mercy is great.

You created the earth and all that is within. Protect the mountains and valleys. Save glaciers, tundra and arctic lands from the threat of changing climates. Sustain all things by your powerful Word.

Hear us O God.

Your mercy is great.

You provide resources for those trained in their field to discover a viable vaccine for COVID that is set to be available soon. May it be deployed in a worthy manner. Continue to give the front line and all related workers strength and perseverance to continue administering to those in need. Hear us O God.

Your mercy is great.

You are the fullness of grace and truth. Praise and thanks for giving us the members of Holy Spirit who give of their time enabling us to keep our church as active as possible in continuing the word through this mystifying time. Thanks to you for our pastors, our administrator, Council members, all the people behind the scenes who make our services available and the groups who also continue to meet through technology, the Food Bank and all other facets.

Hear us O God.

Your mercy is great.

Your birth brings new hope. Let your light radiate restoration to all who are tired in body and spirit. Bring peace to those who are battling with anxiety about the present and future in these unknown times. Bring your healing, comfort and wholeness to all who are longing for mercy, especially *Clarence M, Henry P, Tom d, Cody M, Emmitt B, Myrtle W, Ramon J, Tonia & Jason, Susan K, Tim, Janice S, Charlotte, Diana M, Brendan S, Pastor Richard R, Muriel A, Yvonne, Eva H, Darren F, AnnE & Joel Z, Diane R, the Anderson family, Roland S, Roman W, Wayne & William, Anne L, Jaxon, and Elijah P. And we lift up those who are on our hearts.....*

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Our prayers are many more than these, and we entrust them and ourselves into your expansive love through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Choir: *Calypto Carol*

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

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Offering Prayer

Gracious God, you came to us as one unknown, bringing joy and salvation to the earth. Nourish us at your banquet table, that with all who welcome your birth we may proclaim your peace, revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

Holy Communion

God be with you

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts

We live them up to God

Let us give thanks to God

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Holy God, Creator of all and Source of life, at the birth of time your word brought light into the world. In the fullness of time, you sent your Word, born of Mary, to shine in our darkness and to make us your children.

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 in remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his birth and life among us, his death and resurrection, we await his coming again when all things will be restored in him. By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup, that held and nourished, by you, we may live as your children, shining with the light of your Son.

*Through him all glory and honour is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen.***

The Lord's Prayer

Communion Song "Away in a Manger" (ELW 277)

Prayer after Communion

Community Life

Blessing

Almighty God, who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary, proclaimed joy through the angels, sent the shepherds with good news, and led the magi by a star, bless you this day ✠ through the Word made flesh.

Amen.

Sending Song "The First Noel" (ELW 300)

Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

Thanks be to God!