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The stories and songs of Christmas invite us to worship wherever we are. In our homes and around the world, we are united with our loved ones by the Spirit of God in worship. Come let us adore Christ whose promises of hope, peace, joy and love resound in our troubled world.



Prelude

Welcome

Song “All Earth is Hopeful” (ELW 266)

Prayer

First Reading

Job 12:7-13

“But ask the animals, and they will teach you; the birds of the air, and they will tell you; ⁸ ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you. ⁹ Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? ¹⁰ In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of every human being. ¹¹ Does not the ear test words as the palate tastes food? ¹² Is wisdom with the aged, and understanding in length of days? ¹³ “With God are wisdom and strength; he has counsel and understanding.

Song “Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming” (ELW 272)

Psalms 104

¹ Bless the Lord, O my soul.

Bless the Lord, O my soul. Praise the Lord!

O Lord my God, you are very great. You are clothed with honor and majesty, ² wrapped in light as with a garment. You stretch out the heavens like a tent, ³ you set the beams of your chambers on the waters, you make the clouds your chariot, you ride on the wings of the wind, ⁴ you make the winds your messengers, fire and flame your ministers. ⁵ You set the earth on its foundations, so that it shall never be shaken. ⁶ You cover it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains.

Bless the Lord, O my soul. Praise the Lord!

¹⁰ You make springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow between the hills, ¹¹ giving drink to every wild animal; the wild asses quench their thirst. ¹² By the streams the birds of the air have their habitation; they sing among the branches. ¹⁴ You cause the grass to grow for the cattle, and plants for people to use, to bring forth food from the earth, ¹⁵ and wine to gladden the human heart, oil to make the face shine, and bread to strengthen the human heart.

Bless the Lord, O my soul. Praise the Lord!

¹⁶ The trees of the Lord are watered abundantly, the cedars of Lebanon that he planted. ¹⁷ In them the birds build their nests; the stork has its home in the fir trees. ¹⁹ You have made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows its time for setting.

²⁰ You make darkness, and it is night, when all the animals of

the forest come creeping out. ²¹ The young lions roar for their prey, seeking their food from God. ²² When the sun rises, they withdraw and lie down in their dens. ²³ People go out to their work and to their labor until the evening.

Bless the Lord, O my soul. Praise the Lord!

²⁷ These all look to you to give them their food in due season; ²⁸ when you give to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things. ²⁹ When you hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust. ³⁰ When you send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the ground. ³¹ May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord rejoice in his works—

Bless the Lord, O my soul. Praise the Lord!

Choir Anthem (5:00 pm only) “I Wonder as I Wander”

Song (7:00 pm only) “Away in a Manger” (ELW 278)

Second Reading

Colossians 1 :15-20a

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, ¹⁶ for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven.

Song “Hark the Herald Angels Sing” (ELW 270)

Gospel Reading

Luke 2:1-20

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

Pastor: Rev. Trish Schmermund (she, her, hers)

Associate Pastor: Rev. Lindsey Jorgensen-Skakum (they, them, theirs)

Musician: Kathy Robinson (she, her, hers)

Council President: Toby Schneider (he, him, his)

Ministers: Every Member

Video Editor/Live Streaming: Anton Chell

there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” When 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.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Choir Anthem (5:00 pm only) “Hallelujah Chorus”

Sermon – Rev. Lindsey Jorgensen-Skakum

Offertory “Love Has Come” (ELW 292)

A Christmas Creed

I believe in Jesus Christ

and in the beauty of the gospel begun in Bethlehem.

I believe in the one whose spirit glorified a little town; and whose spirit still brings music to persons all over the world, in towns both large and small.

I believe in the one for whom the crowded inn could find no room, and I confess that my heart still sometimes wants to exclude Christ from my life today.

I believe in the one who the rulers of the earth ignored and the proud could never understand; whose life was among common people, whose welcome came from persons of hungry hearts.

I believe in the one who proclaimed the love of God to be invincible:

I believe in the one whose cradle was a mother’s arms, whose modest home in Nazareth had love for its only wealth, who looked at persons and made them see what God’s love saw in them, who by love brought sinners back to purity, and lifted human weakness up to meet the strength of God.

I confess my ever-lasting need of God: The need of forgiveness for our selfishness and greed, the need of new life for empty souls, the need of love for hearts grown cold.

I believe in God who gives us the best of himself. I believe in Jesus, the son of the living God, born in Bethlehem this night, for me and for the world. Amen.

The Prayers

With the heavens and stars, wild beasts and ocean creatures, with atoms, mountains and rivers we pray in the name of the One who created...

Creating God, angels sang your song as you came among us. The skies and stars are our witness and they guide our days from beginning to end. Make us mindful of this place we call

home; bless us in our stewardship of the earth, teaching us to share and conserve resources with great respect so that we may live with and learn from Creation.

Where we have been careless, forgive us. Show us how to love the creation we live within so that our lives may be whole. In excelsis gloria!

Song “Twas in the Moon of Wintertime” (ELW 284, vs 1)

In Christ you call us to a new way of life. You have given the human race rich lands, streams and springs, wheat and barley, vines, oil and honey. Open our hearts to share the abundance of the world so that all may have enough. Guide us to new farming practices, sustainable transportation and fair economies.

Where we have been wasteful forgive us. As we celebrate the newborn Jesus, renew in us a willing spirit to live in harmony with the earth. In excelsis gloria!

Song “Twas in the Moon of Wintertime” (ELW 284, vs 2)

God of nations, tear down walls and attitudes that divide us, redirect the aim of world leaders to the welfare of all. May our voices be heard as we call for clean air, healthy habitats, and life-filled oceans. Fund new energy initiatives and enliven our learning to develop policies and laws that are mindful of the gifts of land, sea and sky.

Where we are unwilling to change, move us. May we learn to sing in harmony with the giftedness of all. In excelsis gloria!

Song “Twas in the Moon of Wintertime” (ELW 284, vs 3)

Jesus is born, love has come and hope is ever present. As Creation waits with eager longing, we long for wholeness and healing. For all who suffer in body, mind or spirit we pray. Color our hearts with compassion and understanding, illuminate ministries that uphold the inclusion and dignity of all. Make our lives to be a rainbow of welcome.

Where we are in pain heal us. As we gather with loved ones, open hearts to forgiveness and love. In excelsis gloria!

Song “Twas in the Moon of Wintertime” (ELW 284, vs 4)

Creating God, you give us hope in our lives. As you became one of us in the Bethlehem babe, we know you are alongside of us. Inspired by the child of Christmas may we remember the entirety of Jesus’ life and love as we pray in the way he taught us:

The Lord’s Prayer

Sharing of the Peace

Song “O Little Town of Bethlehem” (ELW 279)

Song “Silent Night” (ELW 281)

Blessing

Dismissal

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Merry Christmas
From the pastors, staff
and council of
Holy Spirit Lutheran Church