

A detailed illustration of the Nativity scene. The Virgin Mary is seated in the center, holding the infant Jesus in a manger. Joseph is kneeling to the right, and a shepherd is kneeling in the foreground. A donkey and an ox are present, and a star is visible in the night sky. The scene is set in a cave with a rocky entrance.

HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED

Christmas Day

Worship

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH - HAMBURG
CHRISTMAS DAY**

December 25, 2024 8:30 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.

John 1:12 – “But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.” In the beginning we were made in God's image. When Adam and Eve sinned, the image was tarnished, and in some ways, it was even lost. But Christ has come to restore us, to make us God's children again, to restore the image of God within us. The Christian life is a life of growing into that image, of struggling against sin and striving to imitate our Lord in His mercy, generosity, love, faithfulness and kindness.



WELCOME VISITORS:

We extend a warm welcome to all our visitors today. We pray that your worship with us is rewarding. Please be sure to sign your name and address in our guest register, located in the

narthex. If you are looking for a church home we would like to invite you to be a part of our Bible Based Church family.

PRESERVICE MUSIC

OPENING HYMN

“O, Come, All Ye Faithful”

LSB #379, vs. 1, 2, 4

**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 Highest, most holy,
Light of Light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;
Son of the Father
Now in flesh appearing! **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**

Text: Public domain

THE INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: Behold I bring you tidings of great joy which shall be to all people!

People: **For unto us in born a Savior who is Christ the Lord.**

Pastor: Oh, come let us sing unto the Lord.

People: **Let us make a joyful noise unto the rock of our salvation.**

Pastor: Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving.

People: **And make a joyful noise to Him with psalms of praise.**

Pastor: Oh, come let us worship and bow down.

People: **Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.**

Pastor: Unto us a Son is Given.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

MUSICAL RESPONSE:

“Now Sing We, Now Rejoice”

LSB #386

**Now sing we, now rejoice with heart and soul and voice.
Life’s most precious treasure Here poor in manger lies:
He brings purer pleasure, Thank sunlight from the skies.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!**

Pastor: Jesus, our Emmanuel, You dwell with us, but how can we abide Your dwelling?

People: **For we are sinful, unworthy of Your presence, unready for Your coming, undeserving of Your mercy.**

Pastor: We are guilty of sin by thought, word, and action, and merit death and eternal judgement.

People: **Yet we seek Your forgiveness, for the sake of Your Divine love, shown to us in Christ Jesus, remember our sins no more. Remove our transgression from us and wipe our records clean. In humble repentance, we ask you to dwell among us with Your forgiving presence.**



MUSICAL RESPONSE

“Now Sing We, Now Rejoice” LSB#386

**We see God’s love divine, For us in Jesus shine.
Guilt of sin had taught us, But death and misery;
Then our Ransom bought us, God’s bright eternity.
Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!**

Pastor: God has forgiven your sin for Jesus' sake. Jesus has ransomed us from death and sin, and eternity in God's presence is ours. Hail to the Prince of Peace! The Sun of Righteousness shines in our hearts, bringing life and light.

MUSICAL RESPONSE

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

LSB #380 verse 4

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.

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

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,

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

ALL: Gracious God, we celebrate this day of our Lord's birth, as the fulfillment of Your promise of the forgiveness of sins. We welcome You Jesus, as the Savior of the world, and the Lord of our minds, hearts, souls, and all that is within us. We pray this through Jesus the Christ who lives and rules with the Father and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. Amen!



**+ THE HOLY SPIRIT SPEAKS TO US
THROUGH HIS SCRIPTURES +**

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 52:7-10

*The prophet proclaims the salvation of our God
to all the ends of the earth.*

*Your
God
reigns*

ISAIAH 52:7-8

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!" Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices; together they shout for joy. When the LORD returns to Zion, they will see it with their own eyes. Burst into songs of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD will lay bare his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

EPISTLE

Hebrews 1:1-9

*In many and various ways God spoke to His people of old
but now He has spoken through His Son.*

In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of

God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.



For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"? And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." In speaking of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, his servants flames of fire." But about the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever, and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy."

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

GOSPEL

John 1:1-14

The Word was made flesh and we beheld His glory.

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The

light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.



Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

THE CHRISTMAS CREED

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord. Who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sin, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with his holy precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death. That I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness,

innocence, and blessedness, just as he is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

SERMON HYMN

“Joy To The World”

LSB #387

- 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 men 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 sins and sorrows 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.

Text: Public domain

SERMON

WE BRING OF OUR GIFTS UNTO THE CHRIST CHILD

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs...Open our hearts to Your Spirit that we may welcome our Lord with faith and proclaim His coming to the salvation of many; Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Fill us with the joy of His birth that we may not give in to sorrow or disappointment but rejoice in His gifts today and always; Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Keep us faithful amid all the chances, changes, and challenges of this mortal life and in the face of so many and great temptations; Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Bless Your Church, all her pastors, lay leaders, and the members that they may be faithful and that we may follow all the Words and will of Jesus' Holy Book, the Very Word of God. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Bring peace and justice to all people; bring an end to war and violence; give relief to all victims of natural disaster, and help us all work together for the common good; Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Give healing and peace to all the sick, especially to those who suffer; we commend to Your care the aged, the weak, the lonely, the afflicted, and the dying... (*special petitions ...*) and all whom we name before the Lord in our hearts... (*silence*) ...; Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: As we have experienced Your rich and wonderful gift of grace, we pray that we may be giving people, who support the poor and needy, and who delight in returning to You the tithes and offerings that enable Your Church to fulfill her calling, Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

People: 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.

THE BLESSINGS

Pastor: Go in the peace of Christmas, with the blessings of the Christ Child in your heart.

People: Amen!

CLOSING HYMN

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

LSB #361 verse 4

**O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
Oh, come to us, Abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel!**



¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And 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, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And 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.

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths 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, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!"

¹⁵When 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." ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

LUKE 2:1-20

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