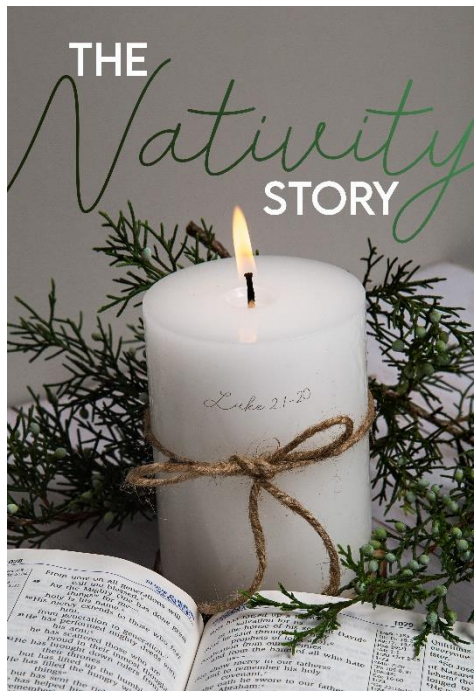


ASCENSION
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Christmas Eve Service



WELCOME To all of you who are visiting our service this morning, we extend a most cordial welcome in Jesus' name. It is our hope that you will feel at home in our midst and will be blessed by our message of Christ crucified and risen for the sins of the world.

If you are looking for a church home or would like to know more about our beliefs and practices, please see the pastor. He will be glad to visit with you at your convenience. Be sure to join us again.



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Pre-Service Meditation:

Exodus 34:6 ⁶ The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness,

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, Through Your grace and unmediated love, You showed Your servant Moses Your glory in passing. In Your grace and unmediated love, You have shown the world Your glory through the birth of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Through Him we have gained access to You without fear of death, but with joy and peace knowing that You are our Heavenly Father. Let this peace rule in our hearts this Christmas season and always. Through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who rules and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, One God, world without end. Amen.

Service of the Word

Opening Hymn

WS 711 See in Yonder Manger Low

P: In the beginning was the Word,

C: And the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

P: He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him,

C: And without Him nothing was made that was made.

P: In Him was life,

C: And the life was the light of men.

TLH 85 Vs 1-2

“From heav’n above to earth I come
To bear good news to ev’ry home;
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,
Whereof I now will say and sing:

“To you this night is born a child
Of Mary, chosen virgin mild;
This little child of lowly birth
Shall be the joy of all the earth.

P: Death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam,

C: Who is a type of Him who was to come.

P: Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation,

C: Even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life.

P: For when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son,

C: Born of a woman, born under the law,

P: To redeem those who were under the law,

C: That we might receive the adoption as sons.

Verses 3,4

“This is the Christ, our God Most High,
Who hears your sad and bitter cry;
He will Himself your Savior be
From all your sins to set you free.

“He will on you the gifts bestow
Prepared by God for all below,
That in His kingdom, bright and fair,
You may with us His glory share.

P: He was in the world, and the world was made through Him,

C: And the world did not know Him.

P: He came to His own,

C: And His own did not receive Him.

P: But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to
become children of God,

C: To those who believe in His name:

P: Who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor
of the will of man,

C: But of God.

Verse 6-7

How glad we'll be to find it so!
Then with the shepherds let us go
To see what God for us has done
In sending us His own dear Son.

Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes,
And see what in the manger lies.
Who is this child, so young and fair?
It is the Christ Child lying there.

P: Let this mind be in you,

C: Which was also in Christ Jesus,

P: Who, being in the form of God,

C: Did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,

P: But made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant,

C: And coming in the likeness of men.

P: And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death,

C: Even the death of the cross.

P: For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor,

C: That you through His poverty might become rich.

Verses 8

Welcome to earth, O noble Guest,
Through whom the sinful world is blest!
You came to share my misery
That You might share Your joy with me.

Scripture Reading:

Micah 5:2-5

²But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. ³Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴And he shall stand and shepherd his flock ^bin the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. ⁵And he shall be their peace. When the Assyrian comes into our land and treads in our palaces, then we will raise against him seven shepherds and eight princes of men;

Hymn:

TLH 647 O Little Town of Bethlehem vs 1-3

Scripture Reading:**Matthew 1:18-25**

Now the birth of Jesus Christ¹ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed² to Joseph, before they came together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³ "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). ²⁴ When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵ but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Hymn: TLH 97 Let Us All With Gladsome Voice vs 1-3**Scripture Reading:****Luke 2:1-14**

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴ 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, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶ And ^awhile they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ 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. ⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³ And 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!"

Hymn: **TLH 94 Hark the Herald Angels Sing**

Scripture Reading: **Luke 2:15-20**

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

Hymn: **WS 715 Where Shepherds Lately Knelt**

Sermon: **Exodus 33:18-23;34:5-7**

¹⁸Moses said, "Please show me your glory." ¹⁹ And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name 'The LORD.' And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. ²⁰ But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live." ²¹ And the LORD said, "Behold, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, ²² and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by. ²³ Then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen." **34** ⁵The LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. ⁶ The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, ⁷ keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation."

Christmas Gives the Full View of God's Glory

Offertory:

TLH 85 Vs 13,15

13 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
A quiet chamber set apart
For You to dwell within my heart.

15 Glory to God in highest heav'n,
Who unto us His Son has giv'n!
While angels sing with pious mirth
A glad new year to all the earth.

Hymn:

LSB 377 On Christmas Night vs 1,3-4

1 On Christmas night all Christians sing
To hear the news the angels bring,
On Christmas night all Christians sing
To hear the news the angels bring,
News of great joy, news of great mirth,
News of our merciful King's birth.

3 When sin departs before His grace,
Then life and health come in its place,
When sin departs before His grace,
Then life and health come in its place;
Angels and men with joy may sing,
All for to see the newborn King.

4 All out of darkness we have light,
Which made the angels sing this night,
All out of darkness we have light,
Which made the angels sing this night:
"Glory to God and peace to men
Now and forevermore. Amen."

Offering of Thankful Hearts

Prayer and Lord's Prayer

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

Benediction

C Amen.

Hymn:

TLH 87 Joy to the World!

Silent Prayer

Acknowledgments

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Announcements

Upcoming Events:

- **Church Forum:** January 12th, the whole congregation is invited to a potluck meal where we will be updating everyone on the status of our church. Our annual meeting will follow.
- **Service Time Change:** January 26th, Ascension's service will be held at 9am to accommodate Redemption's Annual Meeting.
- **Lay Service:** Lord willing, I'll be flying back East to spend time with family over January 19th weekend. Our service time will not change, but we will have a lay service. If you need to contact me during that time, please call or text 507-329-2641

'Call News:

- Pastor George Dummann of Salem Lutheran Church in Eagle Lake, MN ***is considering the call*** to Faith Lutheran in Manchester, MO
- Pastor Del Mass of Gift of God Lutheran in Mapleton, ND **is considering the call** to St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Mt View, CA.

Usher Schedule:

Month:

Name:

December

Scott Radcliffe

January

Jim Hansen

Upcoming Schedule:

Sunday, January 5th Ascension Sunday Service at 11:30

Sunday, January 12th Ascension Communion Sunday at 11:30

Sunday January 19th Ascension Lay Service at 11:30