

# St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church

1615 N. Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa, WI 53213

December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023

10:00 am Service

## Christmas Day

**Introduction for the Day:** As on the first day of creation, on this Christmas Day the Word illumines the world, shining forth to bring all things into being. Today we celebrate the incarnate Word, God becoming flesh to live among us in the person of Jesus Christ then and now. Emboldened by the good news of Christ's birth, along with the shepherds, Mary and Joseph, and all witnesses to the light of Christ, we declare to the world that we have indeed seen and been transformed by the arrival of "the salvation of our God." O come, let us adore!

✧ Glory to the Newborn King! ✧

Prelude

*Concerto in B Minor: Allegro* by Johann G. Walther

Christmas Greeting

Pastor Karen Natterstad

## Gathering

*Please stand as you are able.*

### Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who sends the word with angels, who is made flesh among all peoples, and who breathes peace on all the earth.

**Amen.**

Amidst the darkness of this world, let us confess our sin and welcome the light of God's forgiveness.

*Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.*

Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus.

**Forgive our lack of faith and trust in your will.**

Your Son was born in the poverty of a stable

**Forgive our neglect of the poor.**

The shepherds left their flocks and went to Bethlehem.

**Forgive our selfishness and complacency.**

The Magi will follow the star to find the Savior of the nations.

**Forgive our reluctance to seek you with all our hearts.**

The angel said, you shall call his name Jesus for he will save his people from their sins.  
 With great joy, I announce to you the entire forgiveness of your sins, in the name  
 of the Father, and of the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Gathering Carol

**#283 Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful**

Christmas Litany and Apostolic Greeting

Love's pure light dawns on the world.

**Stars shine upon the kingdom of love.**

Light in the stable, light in the stall.

**Jesus Christ glows with love from above.**

Light on the hillside, light in the field.

**Angels in glory tell of God's love.**

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy  
 Spirit be with you always.

**And also with you.**

Carol of Praise

**#289 Angels We Have Heard on High**

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you gave us your only Son to take on our human nature and to illumine the  
 world with your light. By your grace adopt us as your children and enlighten us  
 with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord, who lives and  
 reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

✧ In the Beginning Was the Word ✧

Word

First Reading

Isaiah 62:6-12

*The prophet invites the people to give God no rest until God reestablishes Jerusalem. In  
 turn, they will receive names full of promise: The Holy People, The Redeemed of the  
 Lord, A City Not Forsaken.*

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading

Titus 3:4-7

*God saves us not because of what we do. Rather, God is a God of mercy and salvation who graciously cleanses us in baptism and renews our lives through the Holy Spirit.*

Word of God, word of life.

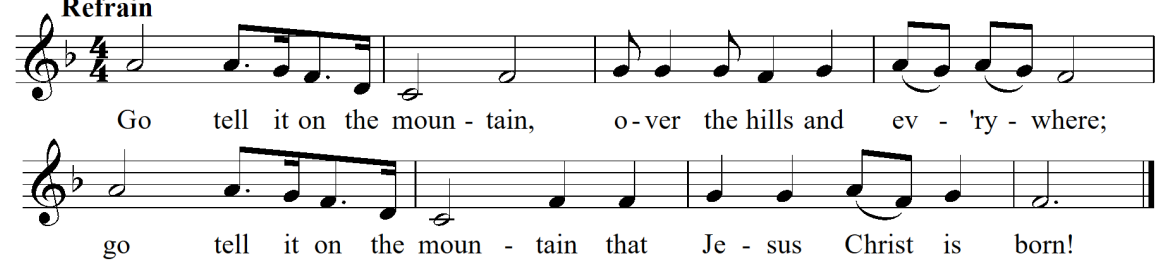
**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## Gospel Acclamation

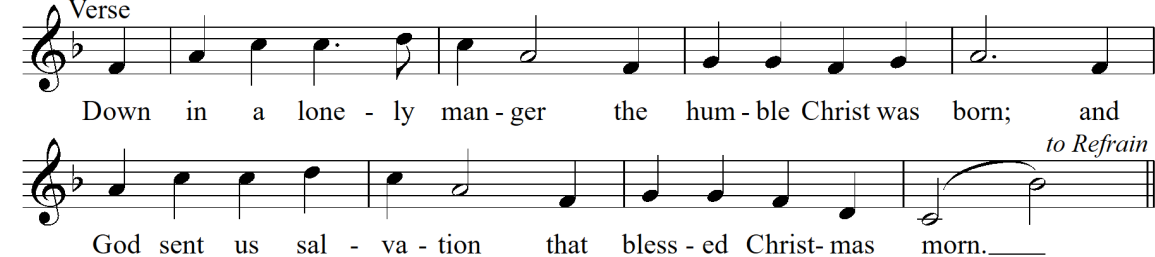
## Go Tell It on the Mountain

**Refrain**



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;  
go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

**Verse**



Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born; and  
God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.\_\_\_\_\_ *to Refrain*

Music: African American Spiritual. Tune: Go Tell It 78 76 76 76. Text: African American Spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr. 1872-1925, stanzas, alt.

## Gospel

Luke 2:8-20

*The world's deep night is shattered by the light of God's new day. The glory of God is revealed to poor shepherds, who share the good news with others.*

The Gospel of the Lord for you.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please be seated.*

Sermon

Pastor Karen Natterstad

*Please stand as you are able.*

Carol of the Day

## **#288 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice**

*(Prayer Cards, which can be found in the pew racks, will be collected during the Hymn of the Day)*

Profession of Faith

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God,  
Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the  
Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

Trusting in God's good news of great joy for all people, we offer our prayers for  
ourselves, our neighbors, and the world God loves.

...Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you,  
 confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
**Amen.**

### Sharing of Christmas Peace

At the birth of Christ the angels sang of peace and goodwill. May the peace of the Lord  
 be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Please be seated.*

✧ And the Word was Made Flesh ✧

### Meal

*Please stand as you are able.*

Offertory Carol

**#296 What Child Is This?**

Offertory Prayer

God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with  
 the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us  
 to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in  
 Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.

**Amen.**

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
 your kingdom come, your will be done,  
 on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
 and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## Invitation to Communion

The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory.

**Make yourself known to us, O Christ, in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup.**

*Please be seated.*

Communion Hymn

**#274 On Christmas Night**

*Please stand as you are able.*

Communion Response

May the body of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his light and grace.

**Amen.**

Post-Communion Prayer

God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

✧ And Dwelt Among Us ✧

## Sending

Benediction

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh.

**Amen.**

Closing Carol

**#270 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

Dismissal

Glory to God in the highest!

**Peace to God's people on earth!**

Filled with the joy of Christ's birth, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

✧ And of His Reign There Will Be No End ✧