

# St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church

1615 N. Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa, WI 53213

December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023

10:00 am Service

**Introduction for the Day:** The psalmist calls on the natural world, celestial bodies, fire and earth, creatures, and all humanity, to praise God. The voices of Simeon and 84-year-old Anna join the chorus today, recognizing what God is doing in Jesus. Simeon's song is often sung after communion, for we have seen God's salvation in the assembled community and have held Jesus in our hands in the bread. Then, like the prophet Anna, we tell of Jesus to all who look for the healing of the world.

## Gathering

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Pastor Karen Natterstad

*Please stand as you are able.*

Call to Worship

Joy to the World, the Lord has come!

**Let earth receive her King.**

All God's people

**Come and worship!**

Shepherds, Magi, saints, and angels

**Come and worship Christ, the newborn King!**

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.**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**The glory of the Lord has shone upon us, in the face of Jesus Christ.**

In his name let us make confession of our sins. For his sake let us seek forgiveness.

**The Lord has come! Prepare to welcome him with the open arms of faith.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God,

**We are not worthy to receive the gifts you give, for we have sinned. Let us welcome him with the open arms of faith. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**

I bring you good news of great joy for all people: God has come among us in the child born of Mary, Christ the Lord. In Christ your sins are forgiven and you are clothed in peace.

**The glory of the Lord has shone upon us, in the face of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Gathering Hymn

**#275 Angels, from the Realms of Glory**

Litany for the First Sunday of Christmas

The birth of Christ has come and the news of his salvation is being proclaimed.

**We praise our Messiah who has come at long last.**

Like Simeon in the temple courts, we see that this child is destined for greatness.

**We look forward to the glory he will reveal to every person on heaven and earth.**

Like Anna in the temple courts, we give thanks to our God who has answered the prayers of his people.

**We bow our heads in adoration, grateful to God for sending us a Savior.**

For Jesus alone will bring us wisdom and understanding;

**Christ alone will bring us grace and peace.**

Apostolic Greeting

Good news of great joy, light and grace and peace be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

Eternal God, you have placed us in a world of space and time, and through the events of our lives you bless us with your love. Grant that in the new year we may know your presence, see your love at work, and live in the light of the event that gives us joy forever—the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our 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 61:10 – 62:3

*To the people who returned to Jerusalem after the exile, the prophet proclaims that God's salvation will fully come to pass. Jerusalem will become a shining light to the nations and righteousness and praise will spring up as surely as the earth puts forth vegetation.*

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Second Reading

Galatians 4:4-7

*Paul proclaims the ultimate significance of the nativity: Jesus was born the Son of God so that, because of him, we all may be God's children.*

Word of God, word of life.

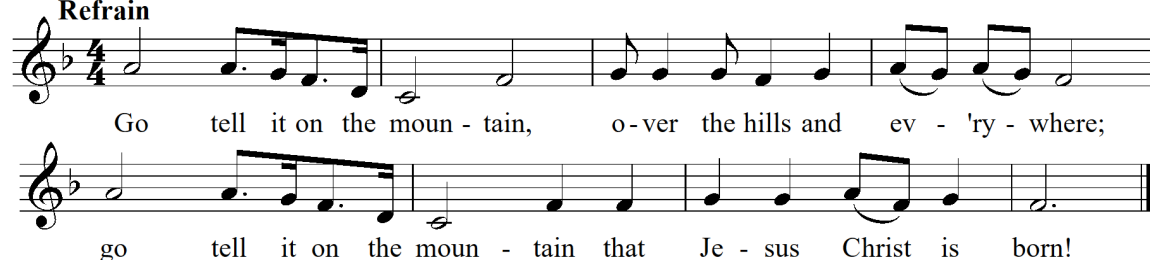
**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

### Gospel Acclamation

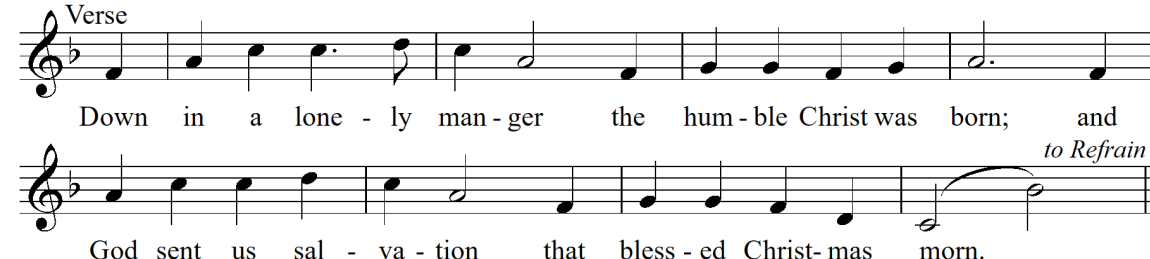
### Go Tell It on the Mountain

**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 2:22-40

*Luke's narrative continues with stories that emphasize Jesus' connection to Judaism. His family is devout in its observance of the law, and Jesus himself is recognized as one who will bring glory to Israel.*

The holy gospel according to Luke, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

## Sermon

Pastor Karen Natterstad

*Please stand as you are able.*

## Hymn of the Day

#284 'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime

*(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.**

Abide with us, O God of mercy, and receive our prayers according to your abundant grace.

**Amen.**

### Sharing of 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

Musical Offering

*Simeon* by Peter Cornelius  
 – Jan Johnson, Soloist

*Please stand as you are able.*

## Offertory

## Away in a Manger

1. A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed,  
 3. Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head;  
 close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.

the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay;  
 Bless all the dear chil - dren in your ten - der care

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
 and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

Text: North American, 19th Cent. Music: William J. Kirkpatrick, 1838-1921. Tune: Cradle Song 11 11 11 11.

## Offertory Prayer

We come to you as Simeon came, O God, guided by the Spirit. Accept these gifts, Spirit inspired, and with them, our lives. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## Eucharistic Prayer

### 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

In Christ's manger, at Christ's table,  
**come, see what God makes known for us.**  
 Come with joy to the feast.

*Please be seated.*

Communion Carol

**#300 The First Noel**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## Communion Response

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which you have now just received,  
 strengthen you and keep you in his love and grace.

**Amen.**

## Prayer After Communion

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

### New Year's Blessing

The world celebrates as we head into a new year.

**And we as Christians celebrate as we continue to become new in Christ day after day.**

A thousand ages in your sight, O Lord, are like an evening gone.

**On this New Year we thank you for all you have blessed us with.**

For all the blessings you continue to grant to us and to generations to come in the future  
 years,

**a thousand times we give you thanks and praise your name forevermore.**

## Blessing

God is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. May God grant you grace and peace at the dawn of this new year. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Sending Song

## #267 Joy to the World

## Dismissal

Glory to God in the highest!

**Peace on 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 ✧