

St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church
1615 N. Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa, WI 53213

December 25th, 2021

10:00 a.m. Service

Christmas Day Service

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 the newborn King!

✧ Glory to the Newborn King! ✧

Prelude

O Little Town of Bethlehem arr. Dan Forrest
John Paradowski, Piano

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.

In the midst of our darkness, we can see light.

Light in the night sky, light in deep space--

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.

✧ In the Beginning Was the Word ✧

Word

(Please be seated)

First Reading

Isaiah 52:7-10

Isaiah proclaims news of great joy: "Your God reigns!" Just as God saved the people from oppression in Egypt, God delivers Israel from exile. All the earth will witness the saving acts of God.

A reading from Isaiah, chapter 52.

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion.

Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.

The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Hebrews 1:1-4

This letter opens with a lofty declaration of Jesus' preeminent status as the Son through whom God created the world and through whom our sins are cleansed. God speaks to us now through the Son, who is exalted even above the angels.

A reading from Hebrews, chapter 1.

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds.

He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Word of God, word of life.

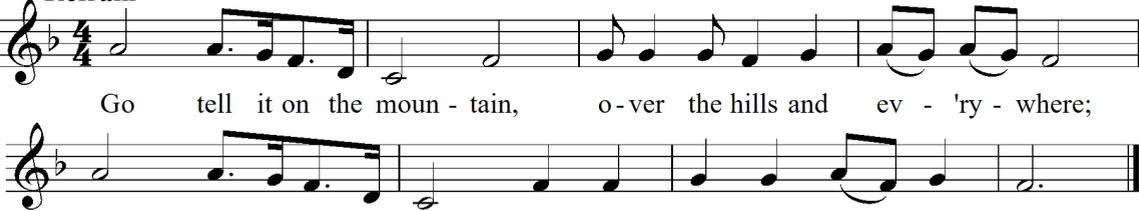
Thanks be to God.

(Please stand as you are able)

Gospel Acclamation

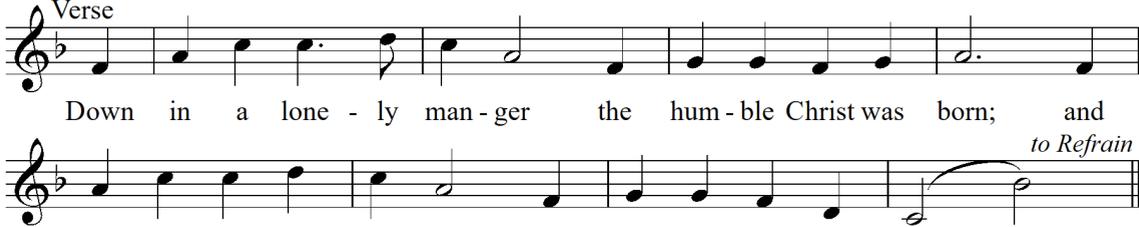
Go Tell It on the Mountain

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. Text: African American Spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr. 1872-1925, stanzas, alt.

Gospel

John 1:1-14

The prologue to the Gospel of John describes Jesus as the Word of God made flesh, the one who reveals God to be "full of grace and truth."

A reading from the Gospel of John, Chapter 1.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

(Please be seated)

Sermon

Pastor Karen Natterstad

(Please stand as you are able)

Hymn of the Day

#267 Joy to the World

(Prayer Cards will be collected during the Hymn of the Day)

Profession of Faith

The 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

Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

...Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

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.

✧ And the Word was Made Flesh ✧

Meal

(Please be seated)

Musical Offertory

Wexford Carol arr. by Howard Helvey

Offertory Carol

#288 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

(Please stand as you are able)

Offertory Prayer

Gracious God, your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth. As we offer ourselves and these your gifts, prepare us to receive the grace and truth you offer at this table and renew in us the song of your salvation, in Jesus Christ our Savior.

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 Carol

#282 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

(Please stand as you are able)

Communion Response

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

Amen.

Post-Communion Prayer

We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus, God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine.

As we have shared this feast of love, strengthen us to share your love with all the world. In Jesus' name we pray.

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

Postlude on "Puer Nobis Nascitur"
by Aaron David Miller

✧ And of His Reign There Will Be No End ✧