

+ WE HEAR THE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE +

Music

“Come, See”

**Old Testament Reading**

**ISAIAH 9:2-7**

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined.  
<sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.  
<sup>4</sup>For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.  
<sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.  
<sup>6</sup>For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
<sup>7</sup>His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.  
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn

“Your Little Ones, Dear Lord”  
(The congregation is invited to hum along.)

LBW #52

**New Testament Reading**

**HEBREWS 1:1-4**

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.  
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Music

“Beautiful Star of Bethlehem”

**\* The Gospel Reading**

Alleluia! A holy day has dawned upon us.  
**Come, you nations, and adore the Lord.**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see--I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Hymn

“Angels We Have Heard on High”  
(The congregation is invited to hum along.)

LBW #71

Sermon

Pastor Nathan Sager

Hymn

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”  
(The congregation is invited to hum along.)

LBW #60

+ WE RESPOND WITH LOVE AND JOY +

**\* 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**

For each petition: [P] Hear us O God, [C] **your mercy is great!**

**\* Sharing of the Peace**

+ THE SACRAMENT OF THE SAVIOR +

**A Christmas Thanksgiving at the Table**

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:  
**Blessed are you for the birth of creation.**

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.  
**Blessed are you for your promise to your people.**

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.  
**Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.**

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,  
**the Word made flesh.**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.  
**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**The Lord's Prayer**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**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**

Hymn

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”  
(The congregation is invited to hum along.)

LBW #54

+ THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD +

Darkness and Candles

Dialog

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God's people on earth.

Blessed are you, Prince of Peace.  
You rule the earth with truth and justice.  
Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.

Blessed are you, Wonderful Counselor.  
You enlighten the heart with steadfast love.  
Enliven your church that it might bear good tidings of great joy  
to all people.

Blessed are you, Emmanuel.  
You promise to be with us even to the end of the age.  
Open our eyes to see your presence in all who are hungry,  
lonely or homeless.

Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.  
Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.

Blessed are you, Son of God.  
You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.  
Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament  
that we may bear your light to all the world.

Solo "O Holy Night" Bill Garnett

Prayer

Hymn "Silent Night, Holy Night" LBW #65  
(The congregation is invited to hum along.)

\* Benediction

God the Creator who delights in you,  
Jesus the Savior who is born for you,  
And the lifegiving Spirit who shines on you,  
+ bless you and keep you in hope and peace. Amen.  
(Please extinguish the candles.)

\* Hymn "Joy to the World" LBW #39  
(The congregation is invited to hum along.)

\* Sending

Go in peace. Share the joy of Christ!  
Thanks be to God!

\* Offering Recessional (Please place offerings and worship cards in the  
offering plates as you exit the sanctuary)

\* Holy Communion (Pastor Nathan will distribute communion hosts  
in the parking lot in person or in vehicles.  
Please remain masked while you receive the host.)

Thank you for worshipping with us. Please come again!

All worshippers are asked to complete a Worship Card in the bulletin and  
place it in the offering plate.

Pandemic Protocols must be followed:

1. Wear facial masks at all times.
2. Do not sing the hymns. Instead, hum along as soloists sing the words.
3. Maintain six feet or more of social distance.
4. Share Peace while remaining in place and without touching anyone  
outside of your immediate family.

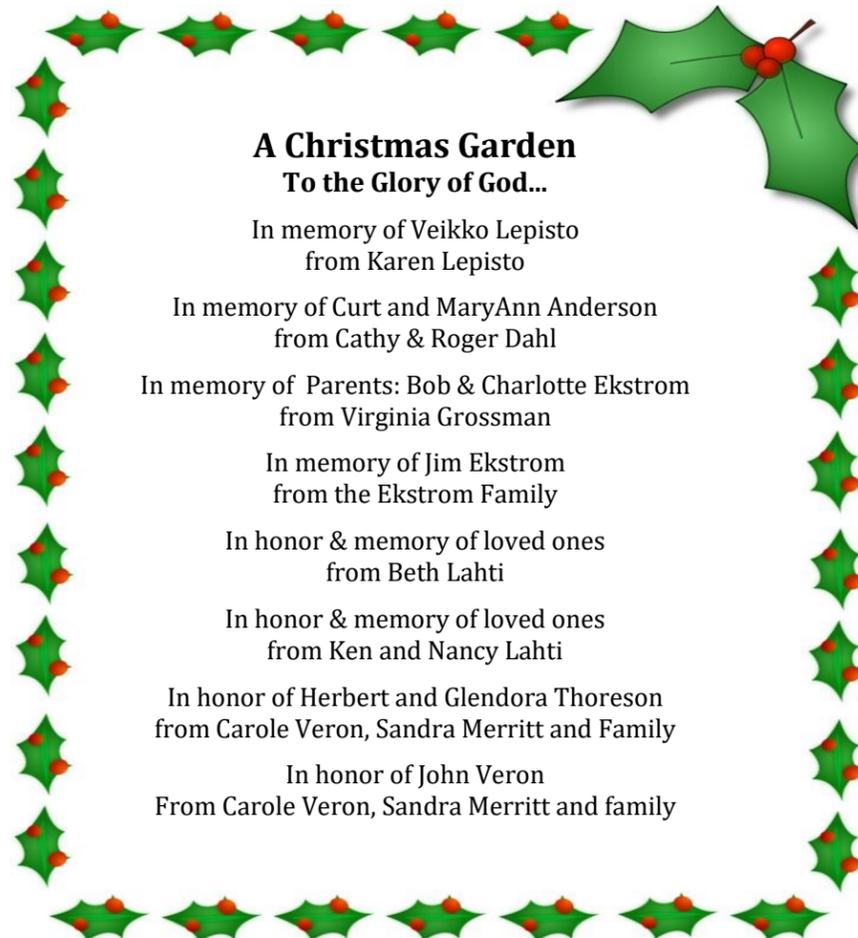
WORSHIP LEADERS

Organist: Jaime Avenall  
Vocalists: Bill and Paula Leland Garnett

The Altar Flowers are given by Dr. Paula and William Leland Garnett in loving  
memory of Paula's parents, Clarence H. and Agnes G. (Feiring) Leland. Agnes'  
birthday would have been December 27th. Also, the flowers are given in honor  
of our friend, Marion Bloom, whose birthday is December 26th.

"And never give up...for with God nothing will be impossible."  
Ephesians 6:18 and Luke 1:37

"Those who have taught many people to do what is right  
will shine like the stars forever and ever." Daniel 12:3



Spirit of God Lutheran Church



+ WE GATHER TO WORSHIP THE CHRIST CHILD +

Gathering Music

A Christmas Litany Herman Stuempfle and Ralph Vaughan Williams

We come to you for healing, Lord, of body, mind and soul,  
And pray that by your Spirit's touch we may again be whole.  
As once you walked through ancient streets  
and reached toward those in pain,  
Come risen Christ, among us still with pow'r to heal again.

All: **In this pandemic year we pray,  
For all in need today,  
We turn to God this Christmas Eve,  
Our frailty relieve.**

We come to you, O loving Lord, in our distress and pain,  
In trust that through our nights and days your grace will heal, sustain.  
You touch us through physicians' skills, through nurses' gifts of care,  
And through the love of faithful friends who lift our lives in prayer.

**O Healer of the nations, come,  
With glory of the Son.  
And as God's angels had foretold,  
Our savior Christ behold.**

When nights are long with wakefulness,  
through days when strength runs low  
Grant us your gift of patience, Lord, your calming peace to know.  
We come to you for healing, Lord, of body, mind and soul,  
And pray that by your Spirit's touch we may again be whole.

Gathering Hymn "Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful" LBW #45  
(The congregation is invited to hum along.)

Invocation and Prayer of the Day

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God  
sent from heaven above, be with you all. **And also with you.**  
Let us pray together.  
**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. Amen.**