

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

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The Rev. Rafe Allison, Pastor

A NALC Congregation



Silent Night

Welcome to worship at Cross of Christ!

In the Cross of Christ I glory †

Nativity of Our Lord Christmas Eve

December 24, 2022

***PROCLAMATION OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST**

Many ages after God created the heavens and the earth,
when man and woman were formed
in God's own image;
long after the great flood,
when God set the rainbow in the clouds
as a sign of the covenant;
Twenty-one centuries from the time of Abraham and Sarah;
Thirteen centuries after Moses led God's people to freedom;
Eleven centuries from the time of Ruth and the judges;
A Thousand years from the anointing of David as king;
in the sixty-fifth week as Daniel's prophecy takes note;
in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad;
the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the founding
of the city of Rome;
the forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus;
in the sixth age of the world,
all earth being at peace:
Jesus Christ, eternal God, Son of the Eternal Father,
willing to hallow the world by his coming in mercy,
was born of the virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judea.
Today is the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, God made flesh.
Alleluia, Christ is born! Glory to the newborn king!

* OPENING HYMN

"O Little Town Of Bethlehem"

LBW 41

*GREETING

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

And also with you.

*KYRIE



A Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **C** Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:



A Chri - ste e - le - i - son: **C** Christ, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy:

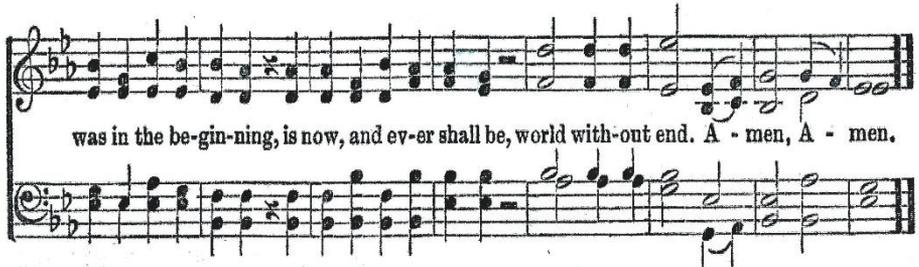


A Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **C** Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:

HYMN OF PRAISE: "Glory Be To The Father"



Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; As it



was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men, A - men.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light.

Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 9: 2-7

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. ³You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. ⁴For

the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The Word of God for the people of God!
Thanks be to God!

PSALM 96

READ RESPONSIVELY BY VERSE

Oh sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth!

² **Sing to the LORD, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.**

³ Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous works among all the peoples!

⁴ **For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;
he is to be feared above all gods.**

⁵ For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols,
but the LORD made the heavens.

⁶ **Splendor and majesty are before him;
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.**

⁷ Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!

⁸ **Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
bring an offering, and come into his courts!**

⁹ Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness;
tremble before him, all the earth!

¹⁰ **Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns!
Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity."**

¹¹ Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

12 let the field exult, and everything in it!

Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy

13 before the LORD, for he comes, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness, and the peoples in his faithfulness.

SECOND READING: TITUS 2: 11-14 (ESV)

1For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, **12**training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, **13**waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, **14**who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

The Word of God for the people of God!

Thanks be to God!

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2nd chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: St. Luke 2: 1-20 (ESV)

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 while 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!”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.

This is Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

PASTOR RAFE ALLISON

*SPECIAL MUSIC *“O Holy Night”*

Solo by Robin Drye, Yvonne Yost accompanist

*RESPONSE TO THE WORD

In Christ you have heard the Word of truth, the Gospel of your salvation.

We believe in Him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.

Living together in trust and in hope, we confess our faith:

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;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.
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.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He 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

Build yourselves up on you most holy faith;

pray in the Holy Spirit

(Jude 20)

Keep yourselves in the love of God;

look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.

(Jude 21)

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

Everything old has passed away;

behold, everything has become new!

(2Corinthians 5:17)

God has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen**

RECEIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*THE OFFERTORY



C Let the vine-yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence, Lord,
and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Merciful Father,

we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us--ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



The image shows a musical score for the Great Thanksgiving hymn. It consists of six staves of music in G major, 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a red square icon. The lyrics are: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*EUCHARISTIC PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.

In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son,

that all those who believe in him

should not perish, but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you

for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.

Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,

that we may receive our Lord with a living faith

as he comes to us in his holy supper.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

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.

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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**

ADMINISTRATION OF THE HOLY SACRAMENT



☐ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

*POST COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen

*POST COMMUNION CANTICLE: "Thank the Lord"

The musical score is written on six staves of music. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a common time signature (C). The lyrics are printed below the notes. The first staff includes a red square icon with a white 'C' symbol. The lyrics are: "Thank - ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry - one what God has done. Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name. Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and lead us forth in joy with shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia."

*POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

*BENEDICTION

Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen

*CANDLELIGHTING

*SENDING HYMN

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

LBW 65

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*POSTLUDE

(* *Please stand as you are able*)

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Christmas Eve Prayer

Father, you have favored us with the greatest gift ever given—

Your only begotten Son, light of true light, God of true God.

May we never take this, Your gift, for granted.

May our songs of praise never fade.

And may we treasure it in our hearts always and forever.

Bless all of us gathered here in worship as well as our loved

ones at home. May peace and joy ring in our hearts and

reverberate through our communities tonight and always

in the name of Jesus the new-born King we pray.

Amen.

Christmas pokes are provided this year by the church. Thank you to the Barbee family for coordinating them.