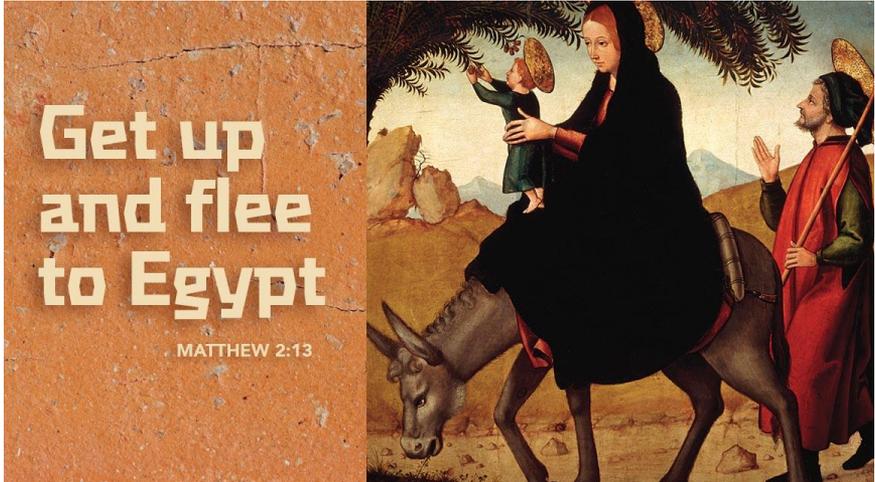


Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

945 W. Round Bunch Rd., Bridge City, TX 77611

(409) 735-4573



First Sunday of Christmas

December 29, 2019

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Variations on *St. Louis*

- David Sims

Please stand if you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, Love from the beginning,
Word made flesh, Breath of heaven. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sinfulness before God and one another, trusting
in God's endless mercy and love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God, we confess that we are not perfect. We have said and done things we regret. We have tried to earn your redeeming grace, while denying it to others. We have resisted your call to be your voice in the world. Forgive us, loving God. Give us your righteousness, the strength to put aside our failures, and the courage to try again. Amen.

Dear people of God, hear the good news: Christ the Savior is born! You are loved and forgiven in the name of ✝ Jesus, who has come among us. You are freed from proving that you deserve to be loved, because God's love is given to you as the most precious gift of all. Rejoice in this love and share it with the world. **Amen.**

ENTRANCE HYMN

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

ELW 275

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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

“Joy to the World”

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: "I Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king: let ev - 'rv heart pre - pare him room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing." The melody is simple and joyful, with a final double bar line at the end of the fourth staff.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. **As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S TIME

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 63:7-9

⁷I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD,
the praiseworthy acts of the LORD,
because of all that the LORD has done for us,
and the great favor to the house of Israel
that he has shown them according to his mercy,
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

⁸For he said, "Surely they are my people,
children who will not deal falsely";
and he became their savior
⁹in all their distress.

It was no messenger or angel
but his presence that saved them;
in his love and in his pity he redeemed them;
he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 148

Worshipers are invited to sing the refrain as indicated below. The choir will present the psalm text.



The splen-dor of the Lord is o-ver earth and heav'n.

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights. Praise him all you angels of his; praise him all his host. Praise him sun and moon; praise him all you shining stars. Praise heaven of heavens; and you waters above the heavens. Let them praise the name of the Lord; for he commanded and they were created. He made them stand fast forever and ever; he gave them a law which shall not pass away. REFRAIN

Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea-monsters and all deeps; fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind doing his will; mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars; wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and winged birds; king of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world; young men and maidens old and young together. Let them praise the name of the Lord; for his name only is exalted; his splendor is over earth and heaven. He has raised up strength for his people, and praise for all his loyal servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near him. Hallelujah! REFRAIN

SECOND LESSON

Hebrews 2:10-18

¹⁰It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters,

¹²saying,

“I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters,
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”

¹³And again,

“I will put my trust in him.”

And again,

“Here am I and the children whom God has given me.”

¹⁴Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸Because he himself was

tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Word of God, word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand if you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

All worshipers are invited to sing the Alleluias. The choir will chant the proper.



Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, and let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.

GOSPEL

Matthew 2:13-23

The gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹³Now after [the wise men] had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” ¹⁴Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

¹⁶When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸“A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

¹⁹When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a

dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰“Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” ²¹Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazorean.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

SERMON

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

ELW 279

THE NICENE CREED

Let us confess our faith in the words of 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,
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

Gathered with all who seek the Christ child, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Praise is on our lips and in our hearts, Holy One, for the gracious deeds and acts that you have bestowed upon your church. Give to your whole church open hearts that we might work together to share your good news in Christ Jesus. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Praise to you, Creator of all, for you have created a rich diversity of nature and creatures: sun, moon, stars, mountains and all hills, oceans and rivers. Sustain all that you made and keep us faithful in our care for creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We bless you, Ruler of all, for the communities and nations of which we are a part. Gather into your arms the many peoples of the world and grant humility to all leaders, so that all may find blessing and peace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O Holy One, you overcame death and freed us from all fear. Give courage to all who are afraid and comfort to all who suffer in any way (*especially*). Give patience and compassion to those who provide care. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Nurturing God, you care for your children in any danger. Grant courage to our congregation, that we are present with children who need our love and protection, with parents who grieve the loss of children, and with those who seek safety from hurtful situations. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Light of life, you claim us as your children forever. We praise you for those who have gone before us in the faith, serving as witnesses to your presence. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Into your gracious hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your steadfast mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

RECEIVING OUR OFFERING

ANTHEM “Coventry Carol” - Traditional carol

OFFERTORY PRAYER *Please stand if you are able.*

Let us pray. Generous God, you have given us life, this community, and these gifts of the earth that become the meal of your grace. **Move in our hearts, that we might use your gifts to**

bring hope and blessing wherever we go, through 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 our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

ELW 193a

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
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

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.

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Love has come: God’s love for all people. Come and eat, for Christ invites you.

LAMB OF GOD

ELW 195

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.

MUSIC DURING THE DISTRIBUTION

“Divinum Mysterium”

- Wilbur Held

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Please stand if you are able.

Let us pray. Emmanuel, God with us, you grace us with life and breath and give us bread for the journey. **Send us out in service to this world that you love, telling the amazing news of your coming to be Savior and Lord of all. Amen.**

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

“Go, Tell it on the Mountain”

ELW 290

SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

POSTLUDE

“Allein Gott in der Hoh’ sei Her”

- F. W. Zachau

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