

CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION

PRELUDE & Welcome Statement

*The Nativity Of Jesus Christ is proclaimed - **Luke 2:1-20.***

*The PROCESSIONAL HYMN - "**O Come All Ye Faithful**"*

1. O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him born the king of angels:
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

2. The highest, most holy, Light of light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing!
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

The GREETING:

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

*The HYMN OF PRAISE - "**Angels We Have heard on High**"*

1. Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.-

3. Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn king.
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo

PRAYER OF THE DAY

*The FIRST LESSON - **Isaiah 9:2-7***

The HYMN - " O Little Town of Bethlehem

1. O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above the deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the
everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.
2. For Christ is born of Mary,
And, gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king,
And peace to all the earth!

The HOLY GOSPEL - John 1:1-14

The CHRISTMAS MESSAGE - PS

The HYMN – "What Child is This"

1. What child is this who laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While silent stars are sleeping.
This, this is Christ the King
Whom shepherds guard and angles sing
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The babe the son of Mary.
2. Why lies he in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The babe, the son of Mary.

The Apostles CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

The PRAYERS

As we celebrate Christmas, let us praise God for the birth of our Savior and pray for all in need, responding to each petition with the words "Your mercy is great." *A brief silence.*

Mighty and merciful God, we praise you for bringing your Word to birth among us. Strengthen with your Spirit all the baptized, so that even where the faithful cannot assemble for worship, the whole church can together honor the birth of Jesus. *A brief silence.*

Hear us, O God our Redeemer. **Your mercy is great.**

We praise you for your created earth, the stars in the sky, the animals in stables, the flocks in the fields. Show us your majesty in the brightness of day and the darkness of night. Rouse our care for your magnificent creation. *A brief silence.*

Hear us, O God our Creator. **Your mercy is great.**

We praise you for each day that knows peace and welcomes justice. Inspire leaders of nations to seek concord where there is war and violence. Guard ambassadors, relief workers, and military personnel the world over. Visit both the Palestinians and the Israelis, and protect the many peoples who live under military rule. Make our own streets avenues of peace. *A brief silence.*

Hear us, O God our Sovereign. **Your mercy is great.**

We praise you for every sign of your loving presence, and we pray for all who suffer. Heal the sick. Feed the hungry. Shelter the homeless and the refugee. Visit those in prison. Comfort mourners. We pray especially for ... *Stacie, Debbie, Elaine, Beth, Lynne, Paul, Harley, Emma, Kevin, Jane, Terri, Todd, Shirley, Paula, Lorraine, Shadie, Sunshine & Wade....* all those we name in our hearts.
A brief silence.

Hear us, O God our Savior. **Your mercy is great.**

We praise you for the development of coronavirus vaccines. We pray for the millions who are afflicted with Covid-19. Uphold physicians, nurses, and all health care workers, and provide medical facilities for everyone. *A brief silence.*

Hear us, O God our Healer. **Your mercy is great.**

We praise you, the almighty God born on the earth; and so you transformed the cosmos. Come to each of us, and receive our silent prayers. *A longer period of silence.*

Hear us, O God our Beloved. **Your mercy is great.**

We praise you for all the saints who have proclaimed your glory in word and deed, especially those we remember in our hearts. With them, let us sing your praise, now and forever. *A brief silence.*

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

To you, Mighty God, Prince of peace, wonderful Counselor, we offer our praises for your grace upon grace. Receive our prayers in the name of the one who was born to live and die and rise again for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

The PEACE is shared:

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

The GREAT THANKSGIVING is said or sung:

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right and salutary .. and join their unending hymn:

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of Power and might:

Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The WORDS OF INSTITUTION.

The LORD'S PRAYER.

The COMMUNION

*The POST COMMUNION HYMN - "**Silent Night**" – CANDLES*

1. Silent Night, Holy Night!
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild.
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.
2. Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
4. Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from your holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

A POST COMMUNION PRAYER.

Blessing

*The HYMN - "**Joy to the World**"*

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive its King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room,
And heav'n and nature sing. 3X
2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills& plains
Repeat the sounding joy. 3X

A: Go peace, serve the Lord

C: Thanks be to God!

May you all have a very blessed Christmas!

TODAY'S LESSONS

GOSPEL: Luke 2:1–14 [15–20]

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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.

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

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵When 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." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

FIRST READING *Isaiah 9:2–7*

²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness —
on them light has shined.

³You 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.

⁴For 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.

⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For 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.

⁷His 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.

John 1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And 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.