

**Sunday, December 18, 2022**

**Prelude**

***O Come O Come Emmanuel***

O come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel, shall come to you, O Israel.

**Welcome**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.  
**Blessed be God's name forever. Amen.**

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep. Let us confront our sins,  
and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

*God of new beginnings,*

**We confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign. We have strayed from your paths.  
We prepare for war instead of peace. We dishonor one another and your creation. Purify us with  
your refining fire and set us again on your way of love, that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance,  
and welcome your coming among us. Amen.**

People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign. By water and the  
Spirit you are joined to this wonder. You have put on Christ, and your sins have been washed away.  
Rejoice in the way of the Lord. **Amen.**

**Opening Hymn**

***Joy to the World***

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King,  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n, and heav'n, and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,  
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness,  
And wonders of His love, and wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders, of His love.

**Invocation**

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

## Prayer of the Day

God of promise, you sent your son, Jesus, into the world so that he would be a Savior to all. By your grace, adopt us all as your children, and enlighten us with your Spirit so that all may know the saving grace of your son. In your name we pray. **Amen.**

## Anthem

### *Away in a Manger*

Sunday School Choir

## Reading

### Luke 2

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 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. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to God's people on earth!"

## Message

## Hymn of the Day

### *Angels We Have Heard on High*

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.

*Chorus:* Glo - - o - - o - - ria, in excelsis De - o,  
Glo - - o - - o - - ria, in excelsis De - e - o!

Shepherds why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song? (*Chorus*)

Come to Bethlehem and see, him whose birth the angels sing,  
Come adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord the newborn King. (*Chorus*)

## 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.**

## Sharing of the Peace

### Offering

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### Offertory Response

#### ***Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am***

Take, oh, take me as I am, summon out what I shall be,  
Set your seal upon my heart and live in me.

### Closing Prayer

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. As we prepare to receive your Son, Jesus, during this Advent season, strengthen us to serve you with pure hearts and minds. By his coming, give to all the people of the world knowledge of new life in you. Transform us by your grace so that we may walk in your way. In your name we pray.

**Amen.**

### 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.**

### Benediction

May Almighty God, Creator, Christ, and Comforter, keep you in God's light, God's truth,  
and God's love, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### Closing Hymn

#### ***Go Tell It on the Mountain***

*Refrain:*

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.  
Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold throughout the heavens, there shone a holy light... *(Refrain)*

The shepherds feared and trembled, when, lo, above the earth,  
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth... *(Refrain)*

Down in a lonely manger our humble Christ was born,  
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn... *(Refrain)*

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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**In Our Prayers this Week:**

Maci Peterson (granddaughter of Denise Kaduk), Brinlee Loehrs (daughter of Mike & Kara Loehrs),  
Elvina Nelson, Leon Fritzke, Sean Stephanson (nephew of Steve & Bernie Venske),  
Bruce Morem (father of Nikki Hunkins), Stella Halvorson, Gwen Dalchow,  
Aiko Landgraf (niece of Sue Magnuson), Delmer Malo (father of Pam Olson),  
Rick & Laurie Mann, Lyle Kuntz (father of Kim Kuntz)