

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD:  
**LIGHT OF THE WORLD**

DECEMBER 24, 2020  
9:00PM



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD  
Faribault, MN

**OPENING HYMN****“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”**

LSB 384, vv. 1-3

**OPENING SENTENCES***Isaiah 9:2; LSB 361:1*

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: The people who walked in darkness

**People: have seen a great light;**

Pastor: those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,

**People: on them has light shined.**

Pastor: O little town of Bethlehem,

**People: How still we see thee lie!**

Pastor: Above thy deep and dreamless sleep

**People: The silent stars go by;**

Pastor: Yet in thy dark streets shineth

**People: The everlasting light.**

Pastor: The hopes and fears of all the years

**People: Are met in thee tonight.**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION***Titus 2:11–14*

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God,

**People: We have walked in darkness and avoided the light. We have sinned against you and each other in what we think, say, and do. We ask, dear Lord, that for the sake of the newborn Savior, you would look upon us with mercy and forgive us.**

Pastor: The Savior has been born and He is the light that shines in the darkness. Jesus grew and went to the cross to forgive us our sins. This Christmas it is my joy to announce to you the grace of God. In the stead and by the command of, and with the authority of Jesus Christ, I forgive you all of your sins. In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

**SALUTATION**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Let us pray together:

**People: Dear Heavenly Father, we thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ. He is the Light of the world. We ask that you would help us to walk in the light, to avoid the darkness of sin, and to share the light of your salvation to all around us. In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**

<sup>10</sup>Sing to the LORD a new song,  
his praise from the end of the earth,  
you who go down to the sea, and all that  
fills it,

the coastlands and their inhabitants.

<sup>11</sup>Let the desert and its cities lift up their  
voice,

the villages that Kedar inhabits;

let the habitants of Sela sing for joy,  
let them shout from the top of the  
mountains.

<sup>12</sup>Let them give glory to the LORD,  
and declare his praise in the  
coastlands.

<sup>13</sup>The LORD goes out like a mighty man,  
like a man of war he stirs up his zeal;  
he cries out, he shouts aloud,  
he shows himself mighty against his  
foes.

**Isaiah 42:10-16**

<sup>14</sup>For a long time I have held my peace;  
I have kept still and restrained myself;  
now I will cry out like a woman in labor;  
I will gasp and pant.

<sup>15</sup>I will lay waste mountains and hills,  
and dry up all their vegetation;  
I will turn the rivers into islands,  
and dry up the pools.

<sup>16</sup>And I will lead the blind  
in a way that they do not know,  
in paths that they have not known  
I will guide them.

I will turn the darkness before them into  
light,  
the rough places into level ground.  
These are the things I do,  
and I do not forsake them.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC** *Rick and Lynn Schafer*

“Were You There on that Christmas Night?”

**EPISTLE READING**

<sup>1</sup>That which was from the beginning,  
which we have heard, which we have  
seen with our eyes, which we looked  
upon and have touched with our hands,  
concerning the word of life— <sup>2</sup>the life was  
made manifest, and we have seen it, and  
testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal  
life, which was with the Father and was  
made manifest to us— <sup>3</sup>that which we  
have seen and heard we proclaim also to  
you, so that you too may have fellowship  
with us; and indeed our fellowship is with  
the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup>And we are writing these things so that  
our joy may be complete.

<sup>5</sup>This is the message we have heard  
from him and proclaim to you, that God is  
light, and in him is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup>If

**I John 1:1-10**

we say we have fellowship with him while  
we walk in darkness, we lie and do not  
practice the truth. <sup>7</sup>But if we walk in the  
light, as he is in the light, we have  
fellowship with one another, and the  
blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from  
all sin. <sup>8</sup>If we say we have no sin, we  
deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in  
us. <sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he is faithful  
and just to forgive us our sins and to  
cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup>If  
we say we have not sinned, we make him  
a liar, and his word is not in us.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## HYMN FOR THE GOSPEL “Jesus, Name Above All Names” (AGPS 145)

1. Jesus, name above all names, beautiful Savior, glorious Lord,  
Emmanuel, God is with us, blessed Redeemer, living Word.
2. Jesus, loving shepherd vine of the braches, Son of God, Prince of Peace,  
Wonderful counselor Lord of the universe, Light of the world.
3. Jesus, Way of salvation, King of kings, Lord of lords,  
the Way, the Truth, and the Life, Mighty creator, My Savior and friend.

*1974, 1978 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing, CCLI #918029*

*The pastor will follow the processional cross into the center aisle to read the Holy Gospel. God’s Word is with His people.*

### HOLY GOSPEL

### John 1:1-18

**Pastor:** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

**People:** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

<sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.

<sup>12</sup>But to all who did receive him, who

believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup>(John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) <sup>16</sup>And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.

**Pastor:** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People:** **Praise to You, O Christ.**



## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Together, let us pray as Jesus has taught us:

### 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.

### HOLY COMMUNION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

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

**People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Pastor: Hear now, the Words of our Lord, spoken at the time of the Last Supper.  
*(Words of Our Lord spoken here)*

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**People: Amen**

### DISTRIBUTION

**"What Child Is This"** LSB 370, vv. 1,2

**Special Music:** "A Hallelujah Christmas" *Rick and Lynn Schafer*

**COMMUNION DISMISSAL**

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart in peace.

**People: Amen**

Pastor: Let us pray.

Grant to us, Lord, the gift of Your grace that we may believe in Jesus, our Savior and Lord, whom You have sent. Lead us to walk in Him all the days of our lives. Help us to live holy and up-right lives. We rejoice in this night when we celebrate the birth of Your Son, our only Redeemer and Savior. We pray through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES** *(Lights are dimmed.)*

Pastor: Jesus Christ is the light of the world. In our baptisms, as we rise to new life in Jesus, we light a candle to signify that we are a part of Christ's light and we are instructed to live in Christ's light. We know that in our sin we love darkness, sin causes us to hide in the dark. But Jesus has been born, He has come into the world, and His light shines to this day. The light of Christ expels the darkness from the world and calls us out of our darkness of sin to Jesus' glorious light. Let us now celebrate that light by lighting candles off of the Christ candle. As you light your candle and sing this evening, remember what Jesus Himself has told you, "Let your light shine before all mankind."

*(The light is passed from pastor to assistants who pass it on to the congregation. Do not let small children hold candles unattended. For your safety and to prevent wax from dripping, please do not tip the lit candle; tip only the unlighted. Hold the candles straight up and they will not drip. Blow them out gently.)*  
*(The candlelight begins to spread throughout the congregation.)*

**CLOSING PRAYER** *LSB 364:3*

Pastor: Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,  
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there. Amen

**BENEDICTION** *Luke 2:10-11*

Pastor: Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy

**People: that will be for all the people.**

Pastor: For unto you is born this day in the city of David.

**People: a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.**

**Pastor:** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.  
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
*Numbers 6:24–26*

**People:** **Amen.**

**HYMN**                      **“Silent Night, Holy Night”**                      *LSB 363*

*(Please extinguish your candle before leaving church this evening and put the candle and holder in the basket at the door of the sanctuary.)*

\* \* \* **TO GOD BE THE GLORY** \* \* \*

**LEADING WORSHIP**

**Presiding** The Rev. Tyler Werner  
**Preaching** The Rev. Paul Rieger  
**Music** Barbara Mrosko, Organist,  
Rick and Lynn Schafer, Special Music  
**Worship Assistants** Mitch Miller, AJ Miller

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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