

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

3220 Columbus St., Grove City, Ohio

614.875.2314 www.stjohnsgc.org

CHRISTMAS DAY 2022

10:00 am

CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION

PRELUDE The Holly and the Ivy arr. by Noel Rawsthorne
"The Holly and the Ivy" is a Christmas carol which foretells the events of Good Friday. The thorns of the holly represent Jesus' crown of thorns, and its red berries symbolize his blood.

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Amid the shadows of this world, let us confess our sins and welcome the light of God's forgiveness.

(period of silence for reflection and self-examination)

P: God of grace and truth:

C: In Christ Jesus You come among us as light shining in the darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light, nor trusted the good news of great joy. Forgive us and renew our hope, so that we may live in the fullness of Your love, trusting in the grace of Christ our Lord. Amen.

P: The angel said, "You shall call His name Jesus for He will save His people from their sins." With great joy, I announce to you the entire forgiveness of your sins, in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

HYMN 275 "Angels from the Realms of Glory"

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,

once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

The musical score is written in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. It features a treble and bass clef staff for each system. The lyrics are aligned with the melody in the treble staff. The refrain is marked with a double bar line and the word 'Refrain' above it.

GREETING

P: The grace and loving kindness of our Savior Jesus Christ, Word made flesh, born of the Virgin Mary, be with you all.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

R: The Word of The Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 1:1-4

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

R: The Word of The Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 97: 1, 6, 11, 12

P: The Lord is King! Let the earth rejoice!

C: The heavens proclaim His righteousness; and all the people behold His glory!

P: Light dawns for the righteous, and joy for the upright in heart.

C: Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous, and give thanks to His holy name!

P: The Holy Gospel according to the first chapter of John.

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

THE HOLY GOSPEL: John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And 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.

P: The Gospel of our Lord. C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 98:1-4

P: O sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things.

C: **His right hand and His holy arm have gotten Him victory.**

P: The Lord has made known His victory.

C: **He has revealed His vindication in the sight of the nations.**

P: He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

C: **All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.**

P: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into song and sing praise!

HYMN 296 "What Child Is This?"

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?

**Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?**

**This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!**

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!**

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.**

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Response:

P: ...Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P. The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

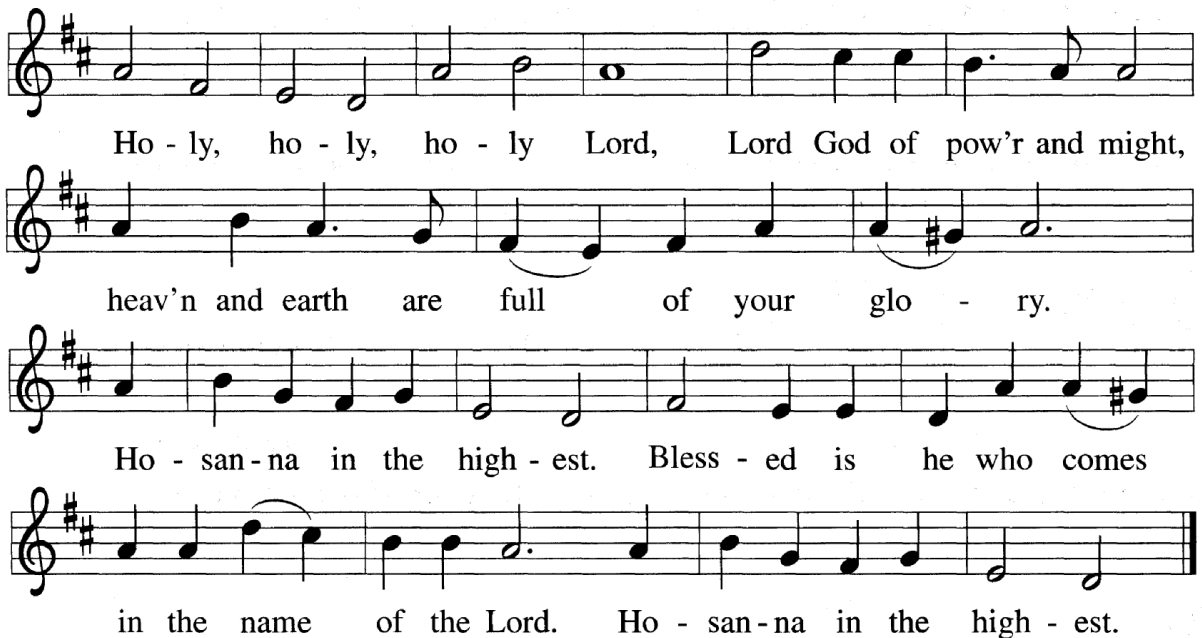
C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY HOLY HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n 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.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

C: **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

- ◆ *All baptized believers who trust that Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and wine are encouraged to partake in communion.*
- ◆ *Children and adults who do not receive the meal are invited forward for a blessing.*
- ◆ *If you cannot come forward but wish to receive the sacrament, please let an usher know and a server will bring the sacrament to you.*
- ◆ *If you require grape juice or wafers as a substitute for the wine and/or bread, please let the servers know.*

BLESSING, PRAYERS, AND BENEDICTION

HYMN 288 “Good Christian Friends Rejoice”

see next page

POSTLUDE Postlude for Christmas

by Lani Smith



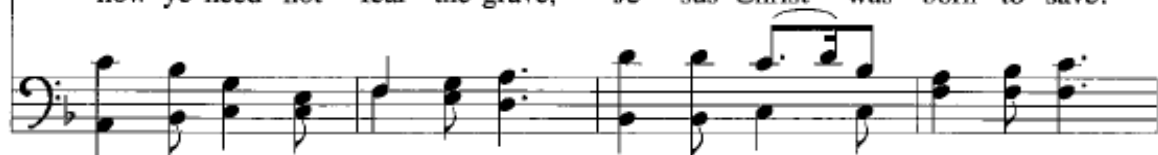
HYMN 288 "Good Christian Friends Rejoice"



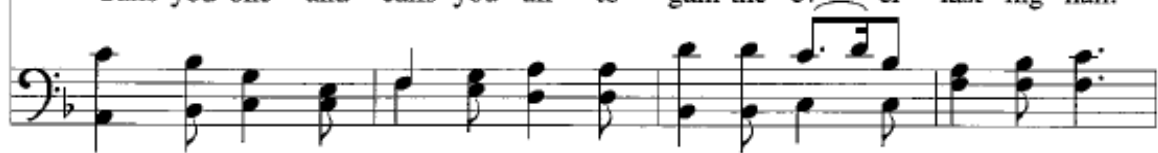
1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.
He has o - pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!



Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Nativity of Our Lord (Christmas Day) – December 25, 2022

*“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,
the Word was God.”*

-John 1:1-

The Christmas story according to St. John is not one filled with angels or shepherds. St. John does not even mention a manger or a donkey, let alone Joseph or Mary. For many, it seems strange, out of place to include the first chapter from the Gospel of John on Christmas Day. That said, St. John's account of Christ's arrival is a special one. It takes us on a journey back in history - not just to the physical birth of Jesus - but all the way back to the beginning of creation.

The Word, spoken into the midst of darkness and chaos, brought order into being through the creation of the universe. The Word created again in Jesus Christ, our Savior. And the same Word creates today when one receives the gift of faith in Jesus Christ.

The Word made flesh is the Living Word. The Word continues to create each and every day. St. John's account of the Christmas story is special and unique. Throughout the season of Advent, we visited the many ways that God comes to us. *Emmanuel*, the name given to the Word made flesh, means “God with us.” St. John reminds us that God has always been and always will be with us. It wasn't just in a manger over 2,000 years ago. St. John doesn't focus so heavily on the details of Jesus' birth. Rather, his interest is in *our* birth - our new birth in Christ as a child of God.

One of my favorite Christmas hymns dates back to around the fourth century - one of the oldest hymns of the early church - called *Of the Father's Love Begotten*. The original words were written by Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, who lived from 348 A.D. - ca. 413. The words to the first verse are: “Of the Father's love begotten, Ere the worlds began to be, He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending He, Of the things that are and have been, And that future years shall see, Evermore and evermore.” Everything begins and ends in God. His promises last forever. His presence is forever. His love and forgiveness are forever. May we be filled with the hope and good news of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayer: Gracious God, on this day as we celebrate the greatest gift ever given, we give you thanks for our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Rev. Seth Jersild, Senior Pastor
The Rev. Patti Morlock, Associate Pastor
Mark Meuser, Organist

Serving Today

Communion Assistants

Charlie Brown

Pat Larick

Sarah Schmitz

Betty Lewis

Altar Guild

David and Karen Grossman

Reader

Christine Hank

Acolytes

Brooklyn Cress

Corban Allman

*If you have ordered poinsettias to take home,
please do so after the service today.
Poinsettias left at the altar will be donated to shut-ins.
Thank you and Merry Christmas!*