

Christmas Day 2022

“The Star of Bethlehem”

December 25, 2022 at 9:30 am --- Immanuel Lutheran Church

Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn: *“Joy to the World”* 387 vs, 1, 2

Invocation: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C:** *Amen.*

P: God’s Son has been born **C:** *The Star over Bethlehem announced His birth.*
P: His name is Jesus **C:** *The One and only Savior!*
P: He came as the Christ-Child **C:** *He came as the long awaited Messiah.*
P: He was the anointed King **C:** *He was anointed with the Holy Spirit without measure.*
P: He is our Lord **C:** *He is our everlasting God.*
P: He was born in a stall **C:** *He was born “The King” of all!*

Confession: *I confess to God Almighty, that I have sinned in thought, word and deed, I have failed to hold true to Your Commandments, I have failed to witness of the faith I possess, I have failed to stand up for Your principle and morals, and I have failed to hold the Christ-Child before the world as I should. Forgive me, for Your sake, and cleanse me of all my sin. I am a poor miserable sinner!*

Absolution: Almighty God, has given me the privilege to announce to you His grace, You have given me the privilege of standing in the Office of the Ministry, and this morning, in the Lord’s place and by His command; I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Introit: *Psalm 23*

P: The Lord is my shepherd, **C:** *I shall not be in want.*
P: He makes me lie down in green pastures, **C:** *He leads me beside quiet waters, He restores my soul.*
P: He guides me in paths of righteousness **C:** *For His name’s sake.*
P: Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, **C:** *I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.*
P: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. **C:** *You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.*
P: Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, **C:** *And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*

ALL: *Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

Christmas Prayer: Heavenly Father, this day we are given the privilege to celebrate the Birth of Your Son, the Christ-Child, the long awaited Messiah. We ask You to lead, guide, and carry us daily to enable us to be effective witnesses for Your Son, a true blessing in the lives of others, and ones who influence the world with Your goodness. Help us Lord to rejoice this day, celebrate the Wonder of Your gift, and live in everlasting hope. We pray this in the Christ-Child's name. **C: Amen.**

Hymn: "O Come, All Ye Faithful" 379

O. T. Lesson: *Isaiah 52: 7-10*

Epistle Lesson: *Hebrews 1: 1-6*

Gospel Lesson: *Luke 2: 1-20 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register.*

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped Him in cloths and placed Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests."

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen Him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Confession of Faith: *Nicene Creed (Back of Hymnal)*

Hymn: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" 361 vs. 1, 2

Sermon *“The Star of Bethlehem”*

Hymn: *“O Little Town of Bethlehem”* 361 vs. 3, 4

Offering

Prayers: The families of Vandergriff, Gary, Janet and Lisa; Vandergriff, Steve, Leah, Nolan and Madison; and Vandergriff, Steven, Mackenzie, Ainsley and Walker.

Lord’s Prayer

Blessing of the Elements

Distribution: Hymn: *“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”* 370

P: Sing to the Lord a new song! **C:** *For He has done marvelous things!*

P: The Word became flesh and dwelt among us **C:** *And we have seen His glory!*

P: Glory as of the only Son of the Father **C:** *Full of grace and truth!*

P: His name shall be called: **C:** *Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.*

P: Jesus is Born! **C:** *He is the Savior of all mankind!*

Closing Hymn: *“Joy to the World”* 387 vs., 3, 4

Benediction

Kirk Horstmeyer, Pastor
Beth Vance, Organist

WHAT THE SCRIPTURES TEACH CONCERNING THE LORD'S SUPPER

In I Corinthians 11 the Holy Spirit led Paul to write, "This is my body" and "This cup is the new covenant in my blood" to explain the spiritual truth of the Supper: Christ is truly present in His body and blood in the bread and wine. This is a mystery, a Heavenly gift; one we can only understand in faith. Paul further says, "Therefore whoever eats the bread and drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord" and, "let a man examine himself...for he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself if he does not judge the body rightly." There is no doubt from our Lord's Word, we are receiving His body and blood. The Father offers us forgiveness, unity of faith, strengthening of faith, etc.; it is never our right, we approach His altar only by His invitation. If you are visiting we ask that you please speak with the Pastor before receiving the Lord's Supper. We strive to lovingly carry out our responsibility to ensure the supper remains a blessing for all, never a curse. May His richest blessing be upon you all.

THIS WEEK

TODAY: Christmas Morning Worship w/HC 9:30 am *"The Star of Bethlehem"*
10:15 am

Next SATURDAY: New Year's Eve Worship w/HC 5:30 pm

Next SUNDAY:

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE: Sat, Dec 17: 64 LS: 55; Sun. Dec 18: 8 am: 61 LS: 53; 10:15 am: 81 LS: 48

Member Prayer List: This week's prayer list Velazquez, Ivan, Lori, Sabrina and Mateo; Wallace, Cindy; and Wallace, Ed and Betty.