

Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church

Monday, December 24, 2018
Christmas Eve Worship – 7:30pm



*And Mary said: “My
soul glorifies the Lord and
my spirit rejoices in God
my Savior ...”*

LUKE 1:46-47, NIV

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Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod
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Sunday Worship – 9:00am
Monday Worship - 6:30pm

OUR MISSION IS TO SHARE THE TIMELESS MESSAGE OF SALVATION IN LOVE AND TO SHOW OUR FAITH IN WORDS AND ACTIONS.

Welcome We welcome you to this hour of worship and pray that this time together might be a blessing for all of us.

Large print hymnals and hearing impaired receiver units are available in the Narthex by the bulletin board. Just ask an usher. We are also equipped with a Hearing Loop System that can be used with hearing aids featuring a t-coil.

If you are a resident of this area and have no church home, we invite you to give consideration to Immanuel. Please worship with us again!

We ask that everyone in attendance please take the time to sign our Friendship Register. These red folders can be found in each pew. Thanks!



Hearing Loop System We are pleased to offer a Hearing Loop system to aid members & guests with hearing loss. If you wear hearing aids with a telecoil (T-coil), the system will either automatically amplify the sound or you may need to turn that function on. If you do not wear hearing aids or your hearing aids are not equipped with the T-coil, please ask an usher for a headset. If you experience problems with the hearing loop receivers, please ask an usher for help.

“Dear Theophilus”

Hymn: CW 80:1-2,4 “Angels from the Realms of Glory”

Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Once you sang creation's story;
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing --

Yonder shines the infant light.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In his temple shall appear.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Invocation:

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

C: **Amen.**

Opening Dialog:

(Please Stand)

M: On this day all earth shall ring
With the songs God's children sing
To the Lord, the Christ, our King.

C: **We hear the words that Luke recorded
Of his birth that sacred night.**

M: His the doom, ours the mirth
When he came to dwell on earth.
Now let us view his glorious birth.

C: **We read the words that Luke recorded:
Of a precious, holy sight.**

M: On this day the angels sing.
With their song the earth shall ring
Praising Christ the heavenly King.

C: **We love the words that Luke recorded,
Words of peace and joy and light.**

Prayer:

M: As we observe your birth, O Savior, we come with a sincere prayer that you would move our hearts so we may celebrate Christmas in a manner pleasing to you. Help us to rejoice with the Gospel writer Luke as he shared the joy of your birth with his friend Theophilus. Lead us to treasure your Word which shows us our redemption from sin, the pardon for all we have done wrong, and the promise of eternal life offered to all who now worship at your manger. Let the true meaning of your birth never be forgotten with all the many activities of this season, and do not let any cares or worries disturb our Christmas joy. Grant that as we bow at your manger, we may also look forward to your glorious return on that day when you will take us and all believers into the eternal Christmas joys of our heavenly Father's home. May your Holy Spirit grant this.

C: Amen.

(Please Be Seated)

Introductory Devotion

Hymn: CW 52 "On Christmas Night All Christians Sing"

On Christmas night all Christians sing
To hear the news the angels bring;
On Christmas night all Christians sing
To hear the news the angels bring,
News of great joy, news of great mirth,
News of our merciful King's birth.

When sin departs before your grace,
Then life and health come in its place.
When sin departs before your grace,
Then life and health come in its place.
Angels and saints with joy may sing
All for to see the newborn King.

From out of darkness we have light
Which made the angels sing this night.
From out of darkness we have light
Which made the angels sing this night:
"Glory to God and peace to men
Now and forevermore, Amen."

A Reading from Luke 1:1-4

Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. Therefore, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, it seemed good also to me to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

Hymn: CW 42:2-3 "Come, Your Hearts And Voices Raising

See how God, for us providing,
Gave his Son and life abiding;
He our weary steps is guiding
From earth's woe to heav'nly joy.

Christ, from heav'n to us descending
And in love our race befriending,
In our need his help extending,
Saved us from the wily foe.

A Reading from Luke 1:5-25

In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. Both of them were upright in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commandments and regulations blamelessly. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren; and they were both well along in years.

Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside.

Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to give him the name John. He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from birth. Many of the people of Israel will he bring back to the Lord their God. And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

Zechariah asked the angel, "How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years."

The angel answered, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their proper time."

Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering why he stayed so long in the temple. When he came out, he could not speak to them. They realized he had seen a vision in the temple, for he kept making signs to them but remained unable to speak.

When his time of service was completed, he returned home. After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion. "The Lord has done this for me," she said. "In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people.

Hymn: CW 67:1-2 "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 oxen now are feeding?
Good Christians, fear; For sinners here

The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through;
The cross he'll bear for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the Son of Mary!

A Reading from Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God."

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

Hymn: CW 24 "The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came"

(Male and Female Duet)

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
"All hail," said he to meek and lowly Mary,
"Most highly favored maiden." Gloria!

(Male Soloist)

"I come from heav'n to tell the Lord's decree:
A blessed virgin mother you shall be.
Your Son shall be Immanuel, by seers foretold,
Most highly favored maiden." Gloria!

(Female Soloist)

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;
"To me be as it pleases God," she said.
"My soul shall praise and magnify his holy name."
Most highly favored maiden, Gloria!

(Congregation)

**Of her Immanuel, the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say,
"Most highly favored maiden." Gloria!**

A Reading from Luke 1:39-56

At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished

And Mary said . . .

Female Solo:
"The Magnificat"

A Reading from Luke 1:57-80

When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy.

On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah, but his mother spoke up and said, "No! He is to be called John." They said to her, "There is no one among your relatives who has that name."

Then they made signs to his father, to find out what he would like to name the child. He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone's astonishment he wrote, "His name is John." Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue was loosed, and he began to speak, praising God. The neighbors were all filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things. Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, "What then is this child going to be?" For the Lord's hand was with him.

His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:

Male Solo:
"The Benedictus" (CW 276 "Praise Be To The Lord")

Hymn: CW 50:1-2 "Once In Royal David's City"

Once in royal David's city Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby In a manger for his bed;
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven Who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable, And his cradle was a stall;
With the poor and mean and lowly Lived on earth our Savior holy.

A Reading from Luke 2:1-7

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.

(Please Stand)

Hymn: CW 60 "Silent Night, Holy Night"

(German)

Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht!
Alles schlaeft, einsam wacht,
Nur das heilige Elternpaar.
Das im Stalle zu Bethlehem war,
Bei dem himmlischen Kind, Bei dem himmlischen Kind

(Pronounced)

Shtee-lay nockt, hi-lig-gay nockt!
Ollis shlayft, ine-sum vockt
Nure dos hi-lig-gay el-turn-par
Dos im shtah-lay tzu Bait-le-hem var
Bye dame him-lish-en Kint, Bye dame him-lish-en Kint

Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar;
Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

(Please be Seated)

A Reading from Luke 2:8-14

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."

Hymn: CW 61:1-2 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all you nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With th' angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail th' incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

A Reading from Luke 2:15-20

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.

Hymn: CW 57:1,3 "Go, Tell It On The Mountain"

Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hills, and ev'rywhere;
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.
Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hills, and ev'rywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born.

Down in a lowly manger The humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation That blessed Christmas morn.
Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hills, and ev'rywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born.

Offering

Prayer for Peace and Traditional Lord's Prayer

(Please Stand)

M: When all was still and it was midnight, your eternal Word, O Lord, descended from the almighty throne to dwell among us. May we receive him in the peace of forgiven hearts and proclaim your gracious goodwill to all people on earth, for he is God with us, Emmanuel, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen**

The Lord's Prayer

(To the tune of "It Came Upon A Midnight Clear ")

Our Father, Lord on heav'n's high throne,
most holy be Your name.
Your kingdom come. Your will be done
on earth -in heav'n the same.
Give us this day the food we need;
forgiven may we be;
Into temptation do not lead;
from evil set us free.

Yours is the kingdom; unto You
in grateful love we bow;
And yours the pow'r; Lord, let us view
Your mighty presence now,
The glory yours; Your praise be sung
by angel hosts and men
In ev'ry land, by ev'ry tongue
forevermore! Amen.

Blessing:

M: May he who by his incarnation gathered things earthly and heavenly into one, fill us with such joy that comes with the knowledge of the forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life. And the blessing of God Almighty—the Father, the Son, † and the Holy Spirit—be upon you and remain with you always.

C: **Amen.**

(Please be Seated)

Hymn: CW 62 :1,3-4 "Joy To The World"

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry 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.

No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

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.

Our **Christmas Day Worship** at 9:00am will reflect on the meaning of Jesus birth. Without him we live in darkness – ignorant of God and blind to his saving love. But Jesus is the revelation of all these things. He truly is the light in the darkness. His birth offers us an enduring hope of forgiveness, peace, and eternal life with God.

Thank You!

The Sunday School teachers and Pastor Sullivan wish to thank everyone for their cards, gifts, and encouragement at this holy time of year. These things are greatly appreciated and not soon forgotten!

We thank the Newborn King for the gifts and abilities of the participants in all of our Christmas Worship Services.

Thank you to all who enhanced the Christmas Worship Services with the many Christmas trimmings.

May God fill your heart with the true joy of Christmas, the birth of our Savior and Lord, and may the Christ-Child bless you and yours with many Christmas blessings and many peaceful and happy moments!