

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Congregation of the Church of the Lutheran Confession

450 W. Ohio • Marquette, Michigan

calvary.clclutheran.org



The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

J o h n 1 : 9

Divine Worship. 10am

Andrew A. Schaller, Pastor

Church: (906) 226-9372

Parsonage: (906) 228-3566

CHRISTMAS DAY

December 25, 2020

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP:

Psalm: Bulletin Insert

Prayers: Bulletin Insert

Organist: Mr. Walter Priebe

HYMNS: 647 646 77:1-8 87

PRAYER

OPENING HYMN: 647 -- "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

INVOCATION:

Pastor: "In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

Congregation: [Spoken] "Amen."

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

Pastor: We stand in the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and have deserved only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.

Congregation: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to Your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

Pastor: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. You are His own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will.

Congregation: [Spoken] "Amen."

HAD CHRIST NOT COME

Had Christ not come that Christmas Eve
Himself with man to dwell,
All would be lost, no hope – no light
The darkness to dispel.
No Savior and no sacrifice
To pay the price of sin,
No precious blood to cleanse my heart
And keep me pure within.

No righteousness except my own –
No pardon I could claim,
No avenue of prayer to God
Through Jesus' mighty Name!
No comfort in my deepest need
No lamp to light my way,
No one to understand and care
To keep me day by day.

No hope, no peace, no Advocate
To intercede for me,
And what of Satan's subtle snares –
Would I have victory?
No grace of God, no mercy shown
No love to warm my soul,
No heaven, no crown, no Christ to meet
No purpose and no goal.

O world of misery and woe
What deep and dark despair –
Had God not sent His only Son
Our sin and shame to bear.

But Christ HAS come – O glorious day,
That Babe in swaddling dress
Grew up to be my Savior, Lord,
My Hope and Righteousness!

THE CHRIST CHILD CANDLE

A CHRISTMAS RESPONSORY

**Let the earth now praise the Lord. Who hath truly kept His word
And the sinners' Help and Friend Now at last to us doth send.**

**What the fathers most desired, What the prophets' heart inspired,
What they longed for many a year, Stands fulfilled in glory here.**

(TLH 91:1-2)

Pastor: I will put enmity between you and the woman,

Congregation: and between your offspring and her offspring;

P: He shall bruise your head,

C: And you shall bruise his heel."

(Genesis 3:15, ESV)

**Now are the days fulfilled, God's Son is manifested,
Now His great majesty In human flesh is vested.
Behold the mighty God, By whom all wrath is stilled,
The woman's promised Seed -Now are the days fulfilled.**

(TLH 99:1)

P: God said to Abraham: "I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore."

C: And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

P: Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, "And to offsprings," referring to many,

C: but referring to one, "And to your offspring," who is Christ.

(Genesis 22:17-18, Galatians 3:16, ESV)

**Abrams promised great Reward, Zion's Helper, Jacob's Lord, --
Him of twofold race behold, -- Truly came, as long foretold.**

(TLH 91:3)

P: I see him, but not now;

C: I behold him, but not near:

P: A star shall come out of Jacob,

C: and a scepter shall rise out of Israel;

(Numbers 24:17, ESV)

**Now are the days fulfilled, Lo, Jacob's Star is shining;
The gloomy night has fled Wherein the world lay pining.
Now, Israel, look on Him Who long thy heart hath thrilled;
Hear Zion's watchmen cry: Now are the days fulfilled.**

(TLH 99:2)

P: Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign.

C: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

(Isaiah 7:14, ESV)

**Oh, come, Oh, come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

(TLH 62:1)

P: There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,

C: and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

P: And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him,

C: the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,

P: the Spirit of counsel and might,

C: the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

(Isaiah 11:1-2, ESV)

**Oh, come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save
And give them victory o'er the grave.**

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.

(TLH 62:2)

P: And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest;

C: For you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways,

P: To give knowledge of salvation to His people

C: By the remission of their sins,

P: Through the tender mercy of our God,

C: With which the Dayspring from on high has visited us.

(Luke 1:76-78, NKJV)

HYMN: 77:1-8 – “All My Heart This Night Rejoices”

PRAYER

BENEDICTION: (Spoken): “**AMEN.**”

CLOSING HYMN: 87 -- “Joy to the World, the Lord is Come”

CHRISTMAS THOUGHTS FROM MARTIN LUTHER:

“If Christ had arrived with trumpets and lain in a cradle of gold, his birth would have been a splendid affair. But it would not be a comfort to me. He was rather to lie in the lap of a poor maiden and be thought of little significance in the eyes of the world. Now I can come to him. Now he reveals himself to the miserable in order not to give any impression that he arrives with great power, splendor, wisdom, and aristocratic manners. But upon his return on that Day, when he will oppose the high and the mighty, it will be different. Now he comes to the poor, who need a Savior, but then he will come as a Judge against those who are persecuting him now.”

– A Sermon on the Nativity, 1530

“The inn was full. No one would release a room to this pregnant woman. She had to go to a cow stall and there bring forth the Maker of all creatures because nobody would give way. Shame on you, wretched Bethlehem! The inn ought to have been burned with brimstone, for even though Mary had been a beggar maid or unwed, anybody at such a time would have been glad to give her a hand. There are many of you in this congregation who think to yourselves: “If only I had been there! How quick I would have been to help the baby! I would have washed his linen! How happy I would have been to go with the shepherds to see the Lord lying in the manger!” Yes, you would! You say that because you know how great Christ is, but if you had been there at that time you would have done no better than the people of Bethlehem. Childish and silly thoughts are these! Why don't you do it now? You have Christ in your neighbor. You ought to serve him, for what you do to your neighbor in need you do to the Lord Christ himself.”

-- A Sermon on the Nativity

CONFESSION OF FAITH: THE CHRISTMAS CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
Who sent His Son to be my Savior and the Savior of humankind.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
Born of the Virgin Mary,
Announced by Angels,
Worshipped by the shepherds,
Adored by the Wise Men,
Who lived to suffer, die and rise again,
To free us from sin, death, and the power of the devil.

I believe in the Holy Ghost,
Who has brought me to faith in the Christ of Christmas
And by whose continuous work in my heart I am ever
Led to lay before the feet of Christ the treasures of my love
And live under Him as my King,
Both now and forevermore. Amen.

HYMN: 646 – *“Silent Night! Holy Night”*

A CHRISTMAS HOMILY

THE OFFERTORY (Supplement page 16)

OFFERINGS OF THANKFUL HEARTS

THE OFFERING HYMN:

(TLH 108:1,6,8)

1. We sing, Immanuel, Thy praise, Thou Prince of Life and Fount of grace,
Thou Flower of heaven and Star of morn, Thou Lord of lords, Thou
Virgin-born. Hallelujah!
6. I have the will, the power is weak; Yet, Lord, my humble offering take
And graciously the love receive Which my poor heart to Thee can give.
Hallelujah!
8. Thus will I sing Thy praises here With joyful spirit year by year;
And when we reckon years no more, May I in heaven Thy name
adore! Hallelujah!

PRAYER/THE LORD’S PRAYER

Oh, come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.
(TLH 62:3)

P: And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write,
C: ‘These things says He who is holy, He who is true,

P: “He who has the key of David,
C: He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens”
(Revelation 3:7, NKJV)

Oh, come, Thou Key of David, come
And open wide our heavenly home:
Make safe the way that leads on high
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.
(TLH 62:4)

P: But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former
time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of
Naphtali,

C: but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the
land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

P: The people who walked in darkness

C: have seen a great light;

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

C: on them has light shone.

(Isaiah 9:1-2, ESV)

The people that in darkness sat A glorious light have seen;
The light has shined on them who long
In shades of death have been.

(TLH 106:1)

P: But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise
with healing in its wings.

C: You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall.

(Malachi 4:2, ESV)

**To hail Thee, Sun of Righteousness, The gathering nations come;
They joy as when the reapers bear Their harvest treasures home.**

(TLH 106:2)

P: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;

C: and the government shall be upon his shoulder,

P: and his name shall be called

C: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

P: Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end,

C: on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness

P: from this time forth and forevermore.

C: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

(Isaiah 9:6-7, ESV)

**To us a Child of hope is born, To us a Son is given,
And on His shoulder ever rests All power in earth and heaven.**

**His name shall be the Prince of Peace, The Everlasting Lord,
The Wonderful, the Counselor. The God by all adored.**

**His righteous government and power Shall over all extend;
On judgment and on justice based, His reign shall have no end.**

**Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray, And make us Thine alone,
Who with the Father ever art And Holy Spirit, one.**

(TLH 106:4-7)

THE EPISTLE LESSON:

HEBREWS 1:1-9

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. ³He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

⁵For to which of the angels did God ever say,

“You are my Son, today I have begotten you”?

Or again,

“I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son”?

⁶And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

“Let all God’s angels worship him.”

⁷Of the angels he says,

“He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire.”

⁸But of the Son he says,

“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom. ⁹You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.”

GOSPEL LESSON:

JOHN 1:1-14

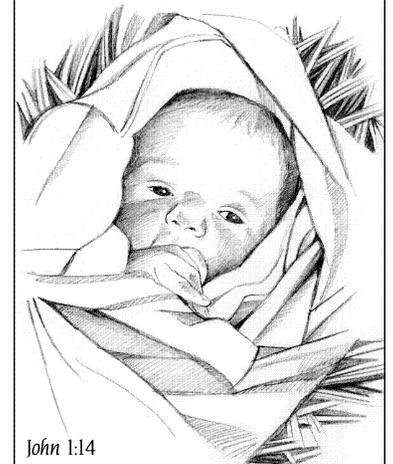
¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the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

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

⁹The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And 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.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.



John 1:14